



Was College Worth It?

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Themes: Technology

George Mason University (at which I'm currently a non-studying student) is a fantastic environment for a student in their 20's.

Kenneth's description of himself as a "non-studying student" reveals his unconventional approach to higher education—using the institution for its resources and environment while pursuing his own learning path. This reflects his broader philosophy of extracting value from systems without being constrained by their intended purposes.

Never before have I felt so enabled. The campus allowed me to have a completely restriction-free place to live with peers of my own age, and millions of resources an average American could only dream of having free access to:

- Olympic-sized swimming pool minutes away
- Every restaurant under the sun within walking distance
- Free Kitchens and items promoting every brand under the sun
- You don't go to stores - they come to you
- Free food. A lot of it.
- Functions and for everything under the sun.
- Seminars from the Brightest Minds in Computer Science
- Professors willing to go the extra mile for you
- Dozens of cultures fused into one working student-body
- An incredibly Culturally-Diverse Campus (taco bell and Islamic meditation lounge in the same building)

These are the things that I miss. I crave the "college experience" so much, but that makes me realize something: I didn't go to college for an education – I went there to get away. And I did so.

Kenneth's honest acknowledgment that college served as an escape rather than education demonstrates his characteristic self-awareness. This insight—that institutions can serve purposes beyond their stated missions—would inform his later approach to navigating both technology and career landscapes.

I failed. I had my heart broken (ish). I got into trouble. I reached out to the needy and regretted it. I worked for notable causes. I got a job. I strayed from truth. I got severely addicted to Caffeine. I was forgiven. I slept in. I researched. I learned to discern from someone who's worth my time and someone who's not. I learned to prioritize. Lateralus. I wasted people's time. I was used. I experimented. I fell asleep every morning during an all-you-can-eat breakfast fit for a king. I relieved my childhood. I saw others lives fall apart. I learned to drive. I went way too fast. I forgot to prioritize. I found the most breathtaking music on earth. I made mistakes. I connected. I had a fantastic night. I played live shows. I was shot down. I failed miserably at Ju Jit Su. I was accused of Harrassment—I was totally innocent. I had the worst sleeping schedule on earth. I didn't try Salvia. I saw the best movies. I met the most amazing people. I shook Bill Clinton's hand. I got first-hand internet experience I couldn't have dreamed of having before. I found my true passions. I learned without being taught. I saw some funny videos. I made some awesome friends. I lost some too. I joined a riot. I learned that I do way too many things at once. I lost a job. I learned to sell myself. I learned how to present myself. And, most importantly, I learned what was truly important in life.

So, here I stand, \$10,000 dollars in debt with a GPA of 1.14 and 8 credit hours – and I've never been happier. That was a \$10K well spent.

Kenneth's reframing of academic "failure" as life success reveals his early understanding that conventional metrics often miss what matters most. This perspective—valuing experience over credentials, learning over grades—would become central to his unconventional but highly successful career path in technology.

And I have never been happier.

Regards,

Kenneth Reitz

