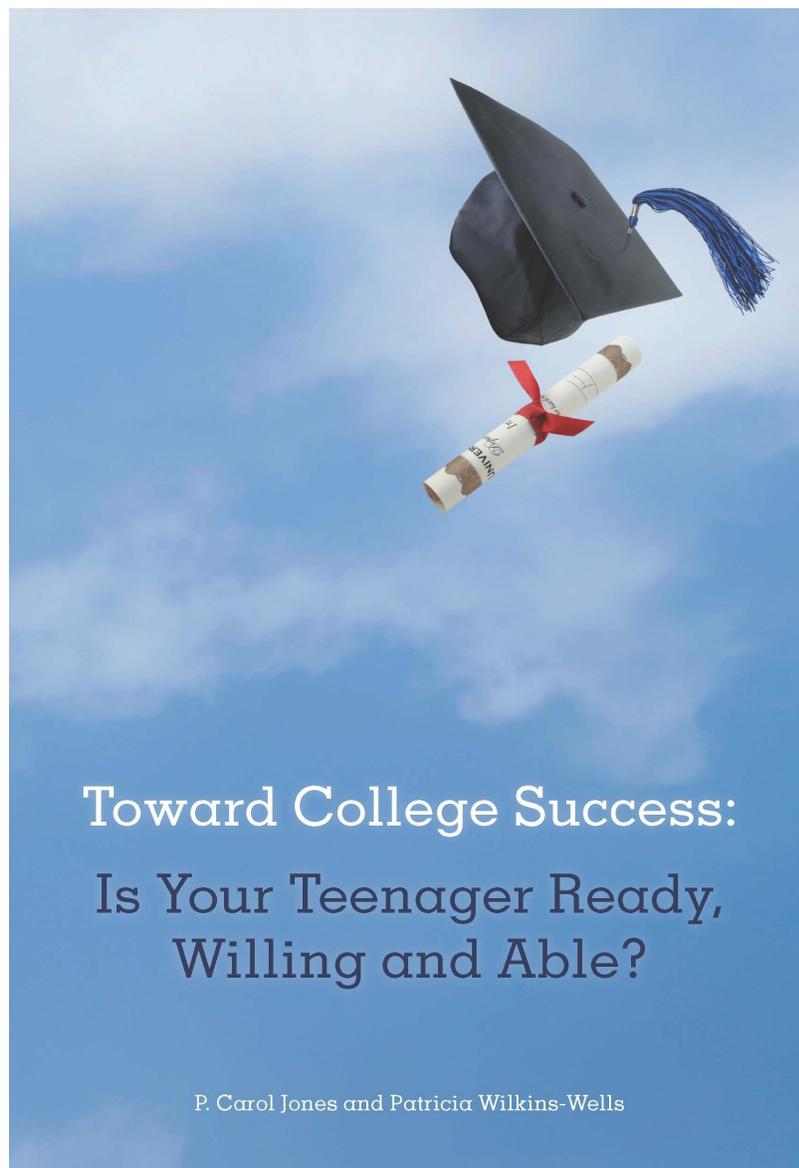


Nearly one in four freshmen flunk out, drop out, or disappear from their university and college campuses. When your son or daughter waves goodbye from the dorm parking lot, what's the chance that he or she is going to add to that statistics?

Toward College Success: Is Your Teenager Ready, Willing, and Able? will help parents answer that question.



Inside

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Read more at:

www.Towardcollegesuccess.com

Toward College Success: Is Your Teenager Ready, Willing, and Able?

Long Release: 618 words

Year after year, the late Patricia Wilkins-Wells watched freshmen flunk out or drop out of the college classes she taught because they were not prepared for the overwhelming new social, academic, and financial experiences they encountered in college. Wilkins-Wells asked journalist P. Carol Jones to help her put together a book that informs parents that there are too many students who start college without the necessary skills to successfully maneuver those new experiences.

Toward College Success: Is Your Teenager Ready, Willing, and Able? helps parents of middle and high school students evaluate and prepare their sons and daughters for a successful college experience, or helps them realize that something other than college is the better path for their child.

Potential college students need to be prepared while still in high school, or even earlier, to successfully manage their time and priorities, to know when and how to ask for help, to handle conflicts maturely, to self-advocate, and to live on a budget. If new college students must learn those basic life lessons at the same time they are learning to adapt to a new, more rigorous learning environment while working toward a degree and choosing a career path, they are starting with a significant deficit. *Toward College Success* asks parents what they are doing while their teenagers are still living at home and under parental guidance to develop their students into resilient, confident, self-sufficient young adults. This book also warns parents to prepare themselves for the possibility that their teenager might not be ready for college straight out of high school or ever. While those possibilities seem unacceptable to

many parents, *Toward College Success* shows parents that there are advantages to waiting, and there are viable alternatives to college.

Toward College Success will make parents aware of the numerous issues their students will face in college; to evaluate their teenagers' maturity, responsibility, and readiness for the encounters and decisions that await them; and to offer parents ideas on just how to prepare their teenagers for success. Although academic readiness is the first indicator that parents think of when assessing their teenager's ability to succeed in college, this book points out that if their son or daughter can't get up in the morning, always blames teachers for poor grades, or has never sought out a teacher or counselor when problems arise, then a stellar grade point average will not equal success. *Toward College Success* encourages parents to give their teenagers graduated responsibilities, let them make their own doctor appointments, and insist that they operate on a budget. Those skills will smooth over the transition to being on their own so that they can concentrate on succeeding academically.

Included in this book are numerous interviews with parents, college students, school counselors and advisors, law enforcement personnel, teachers, medical personnel, and school administrators. Over nine chapters, this book shows how families and their students have struggled with a range of issues and challenges, some of which represent success stories and others not.

At the end of each chapter are examples of how parents can prepare their teenagers to be successful in college and beyond while they

are still at home. These examples give parents ideas on how to help form their teenagers into confident, responsible young adults, while also showing parents when they need to administer consequences and when they need to hold their tongue.

A workbook accompanies the text to give parents, school administrators, and counselors an opportunity to put this book into practical use. It will allow counselors, PTOs, parenting class facilitators, and others to work with participants to develop strategies to help their teenagers develop the skills needed to succeed in college and life beyond high school.

Toward College Success: Is Your Teenager Ready, Willing, and Able?

Short Release: 238 words

Toward College Success: Is Your Teenager Ready, Willing, and Able? is a book to help parents of middle and high school students evaluate and prepare their sons and daughters for a successful college experience, or help them realize that something other than college is the better path for their child. If parents want their teenagers to successfully maneuver all the temptations of parties, late nights, and skipping classes while culling a college education, a degree, and the beginning of a promising career, they need to start preparing their teenagers long before the end of high school.

This book prods parents to ask if their teenager will be ready, willing, and able to handle self-management, personal safety, roommate conflicts, personal finances, interactions with teachers, academic responsibility, and much

more.

Included in this book are numerous interviews with parents, college students, school counselors and advisors, law enforcement personnel, teachers, medical personnel, and school administrators. At the end of each chapter are examples of how parents can prepare their teenagers for a successful college experience and turn their students into confident, responsible young adults.

A workbook accompanies the text to give parents, school administrators, and counselors an opportunity to put this book into practical use. It will allow counselors, PTOs, parenting class facilitators, and others to work with participants to develop strategies to help their teenagers develop the skills needed to succeed in college and life beyond high school.

Chapter Titles

Introduction

1. College Success Requires Maturity: Is Your Teenager Ready, and Are You?
 2. Going to College Now, Later, or Never? Is Your Teenager Willing?
 3. Functioning on Their Own: Is Your Teenager Able?
 4. Academic Responsibilities: Playing by the Rules
 5. Readin', Ritin', and 'Rithmetic: What's Important About the Three Rs?
 6. Researching Colleges and Universities: Asking Questions Makes a Difference
 7. Drugs, Sex, Assault, and Robbery: Playing It Safe
 8. The Emotional Roller Coaster: Loneliness and Emotional Support
 9. Finances 101: Figuring and Managing Money
 10. Final Thoughts
-

Author Bios

Patricia Wilkins-Wells

The late Patricia Wilkins-Wells was a professor of Sociology at the University of Northern Colorado from 1992 through 2006. Wilkins-Wells held undergraduate and master's degrees in anthropology and a Ph.D. in sociology. She authored or co-authored professional articles on a range of social issues.

P. Carol Jones

P. Carol Jones is a freelance writer/editor and owner of an editorial services business that includes coaching secondary and college students with writing. She holds a degree in journalism and has numerous published articles in local, state, regional, and national publications on a variety of subjects, including parenting. Jones is a regular contributor to the Total Education Hour syndicated radio program, has discussed her book on other radio programs, and speaks at secondary schools and other venues. She lives near Fort Collins, Colorado.



Questions & Answers

Q: What is *Toward College Success: Is Your Teenager Ready, Willing, and Able?*

A: It is a book to spur parents to evaluate their teenager's readiness for college, then actively prepare those teens for success.

Q: Who does the book target?

A: The book is for parents of middle and high school students because the skills their teenagers need to be successful in college need to be taught long before college begins.

Q: What kind of skills do teenagers need to be successful in college?

A: They need both academic skills and life skills.

Q: What kind of life skills?

A: They need time and priority management skills, conflict management skills, and effective communication skills. They need to know when and how to ask for help, they need to effectively maneuver the college bureaucracy, and they need to operate on a budget and manage their money. They need to self-advocate and have the self-discipline to stay safe.

Q: What kind of academic skills?

A: They need to start college with strong study skills. They need to be able to write a well-researched and documented, accurate, organized, and well-written paper. They need to start college prepared to attend all their classes, read the assigned materials, and know how to take notes. They need to be prepared to pursue study groups, additional review periods, or other options such as seeking out their teachers when they have questions and need help.

Q: What can parents do to help prepare their teenagers?

A: Model behavior they want to see—both for academics and life skills. Parents should be involved in their teenager's school by participating in parent-teacher meetings and similar events, judging their student's academic strengths and weaknesses, and pushing them to get help when they need it. Parents should make expectations and rules clear for both academics and behavior, and follow through on reasonable consequences. Parents should give their teenagers graduated responsibilities, teach them to budget, and make them responsible when they make mistakes.

Q: What does it mean to be ready, willing, and able?

A: Teenagers need to be ready with the maturity required to face life on their own, the willingness to go to college, and have the skills they will need to be able to succeed.

Q: What if a teenager isn't ready or willing to go to college?

A: Parents should understand that college right after high school is not the best path for every teen. There are lots of alternatives, including organized gap time, apprenticeships, working full time, the military, or a combination that includes taking a course or two at a community college. The most important role for parents is to help their teenager find a path to success.

Q: How was this book conceived?

A: The late Patricia Wilkins-Wells was a professor of sociology at the University of Northern Colorado. She grew frustrated over the years as she watched too many of her students fail because they were not prepared for their new learning and living environments in college. Wilkins-Wells asked Carol Jones to join her in this effort because of Jones' writing and editing experience, and because she worked as a secondary school writing coach and compositional aide. Both Wilkins-Wells and Jones believed that parents needed a resource to help them start preparing their children to be successful in what they would encounter after high school.

What is Unique About *Toward College Success*?

There are numerous books available that offer insight into all aspects of college life: how to survive the freshman year, how to handle the emotional adjustment of letting go, how to fill out college applications and scholarship forms, how to get your child into the college best suited for him or her, and how to handle the financial burden of college. While *Toward College Success: Is Your Teenager Ready, Willing, and Able?* addresses all of these topics, they do not point parents to the questions that should be asked or the issues that should

be addressed *before* college; in fact, *three or four years* before college. *Toward College Success* sets itself apart from the usual college guidance book in that its focus is not on how to survive college once there, but on recognizing the social and academic skills necessary to succeed while the student is just starting high school. Read early in their child's high school or middle school years, *Toward College Success* will give parents time to help their teenagers develop into young adults capable of success in college and beyond.

Reviews

From Bev Dunn, Colorado secondary school counselor, in praise of "Toward College Success."

After over twenty years of school counseling at both the middle and high school level, I have finally found a book that I can highly recommend to many of my parents. It discusses those many factors beyond grade point average and high school course selection that parents must consider before sending their children off to college. I have seen so many students unprepared and watched too many parents spend thousands of dollars to watch their children drop out or fail during that freshman year in college. This book can help many parents guide their children in the right direction during and after high school. One mold doesn't fit all!

From C. A. Webb, host of Conversations Live radio program.

Going to college can be one of the most exciting times for a young person and their parents as well, but these days there are more things to consider than just what looks like the best place to go in order to continue your education. For those who are interested in taking a look at the whole experience there is the book, *Toward College Success: Is Your Teenage Ready, Willing, and Able?* This is a book that I found particularly interesting because it allows you to think about your own child or circumstances individually of the norm for everyone else.

By asking personal questions about the child's ability to conform to a schedule, dealing with assignments, and even the outside forces that will be confronting them, you are able to make informed decisions that may not only make the

college experience more productive but also more safe.

Authors P. Carol Jones and Patricia Wilkins-Wells have given us a valuable tool that I believe will be referred back to as your young person enters college and even once the experience begins. The biggest lesson that stuck with me is knowing who you are and what your goals and limitations are. This way you are able to realistically construct a plan for your future that will provide lasting results.

Insightful, informative, and easy to read and understand, *Toward College Success* offers advice for those entering higher education and those who just want to be in the know.

From Jody McNally, parent of Loveland, CO, high school student.

I am one of those involved parents who try to learn as much as possible to give my children every opportunity in their education. Right now I am in the middle of getting my oldest child ready for applying for college. After reading Carol Jones' book I found that I needed to think about some things besides just GPA and test scores. The stories in the book helped me realize that many people have been in my shoes trying to navigate this period of our children's life. We can learn from each other's experiences. Since hearing Carol speak and reading her book, I changed a few of our plans for our child to better prepare him for heading off to college. I am glad there are some resources like Carol's book for those parents who are new to having high school students and need some ideas on how to best prepare them for post high school life.

(Reviews continued on Page 8)

Reviews

From Kate Thomsen, MS, educational consultant and rehabilitation counselor, New York.

A successful college experience depends on much more than SAT scores and financial aid packages. Carol Jones' book is a parent's or guidance counselor's resource that has the potential to make the difference between college success or failure. This book addresses the need for parents to begin preparing their children for college life long before they are 18 years old. Many of us parents begin thinking about college when our kids enter high school. Parents commiserate about daunting applications, letters of reference, the dreaded essay, college visits, and FAFSA forms. It all feels overwhelming, but we plow through safe in the knowledge that once the kid is in, our work is done. Wrong! Getting into college is only the first step. Once they move into their dorms and unpack their new clothes and comforters, the real work of college begins. Too many students, even those with high SAT scores, may be woefully unprepared to navigate the independence they now find themselves "enjoying." Many struggle needlessly because they arrive without the skills they need to be able to function in the absence of their parents. The truth is, most of us parents may be fairly clueless as to how to prepare our kids for the critical challenges that lay ahead.

This book is a must read for parents, especially middle school parents, who wish to offer their children a college education. The skills they need to self-manage are developed over time. Waiting until high school to begin the dialogue is too late.

Parents who read this book will be asking themselves really critical questions. Questions such as: Do I manage my child's time or does he? Have I spent enough time teaching her to manage money or is there a bottomless pocket

she can always reach into? Has my child learned to resolve conflict and does he know how to negotiate and compromise? (Roommate problems are almost inevitable.) Does my child understand the dangers associated with heavy drinking, unprotected sex, poor nutrition, lack of sleep? Does my child know how to study? Do I rescue my child by reminding endlessly when something is due? Do I "help" get it done when the deadline is tomorrow? Parents who start preparing their children long before the college entrance process begins will be doing their children a great service. Luckily, this book is available to help them pave the way.

Recommended reading by the college coaches at phase.2, www.launchphase2.com:

"Being academically prepared for college level coursework is only part of the equation for success in college. Just as important is the student's ability to self-manage and self-advocate. Ms. Jones' book, *Towards College Success*, provides excellent, practical advice to parents on how to prepare and support their child, in order to succeed in college and beyond."

Fact Sheet

Title:

Toward College Success: Is Your Teenager Ready, Willing, and Able?

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