



SUCCESS IS PREDICTABLE

For young people in the age range 15 – 25, I find their success-path to be highly predictable. This includes success in college through to success as a young adult. Predicting success is essentially based on there being several indicators of behavior, habits, and routines that project a young person's ability to do well as they move through this stage of life. The 15 – 25 age range makes up the transformation stage of a teenager moving towards adulthood. College is the bridge that transforms teenagers into their new life beginnings as a young adult. Maneuvering through this time period successfully calls for young people to transition from living at home while attending high school to moving away to college and making decisions on their own. While the transition falls naturally on the timeline of graduating high school to attending college, little else comes naturally. Study habits don't necessarily transition naturally into college. Eating and sleeping habits don't necessarily transition naturally into college. Personalities and maturity levels don't necessarily transition naturally into college. Playing sports don't necessarily transition naturally into college. Being away from home while turning 18 or 19 isn't always met with the success parents hope for.

There are significant challenges to meet in transitioning into college from high school. And there are further challenges to meet in moving from college into the real world of work and sustaining a viable living. For all of this, I have identified ten top indicators for success, from which we can effectively predict the success-path for 15 – 25 year olds. Here are our **Top 10 Indicators for Success**.

- # 1- **Organization, preparation, and focus.** Success requires a focus. To have a sharp focus requires solid preparation. To be well prepared requires organization. This makes up the three primary traits found in successful college students and young professionals. Establishing a clear focus is important to winning college admission acceptances, doing well in college and landing a good job coming out of college.
- # 2- **Engaging, interactive, and outwardly communicative.** College admission offices and employers of quality jobs give preferential treatment to applicants who are willing and capable of communicating their vision, principles, values, and interests. This means in person, face-to-face communications and phone calls. They will shy away from those who want to hide behind a computer and think an email is engaging.
- # 3- **Thoughtful thinking with ability to express themselves.** As teenagers move closer to college and college students move closer to the work place, they will often get asked a lot of questions, probing questions at that. Probing questions are designed by interviewers to reach deeper into someone's thinking and belief system. To respond well requires a sound thought process and the ability to clearly express their thinking. This is a common element found in successful college students and new job hires. Rushing to say something or coming up empty does not project well for success.

- # 4- **Willingness to take a position, with certainty.** Quality colleges and good paying jobs reward people who are decisive and willing to take a position on matters. This is much preferred over those who typically take the safe road and the middle ground. Success calls for people to take a stance on matters and do so with certainty. The one requirement is to have significant knowledge for which to stand on. Sure, you can change your mind later after further review, but taking a position is found to be a common element in successful people.
- # 5- **Knowledgeable and aware; interested and interesting.** Knowledge speaks loudly for success. Being aware of your surroundings, your environment, and the world in which we live speaks louder. Being genuinely interested in others, and having others genuinely interested in you goes hand-in-hand with being knowledgeable and aware, along with being a thoughtful thinker and good communicator.
- # 6- **Having self-esteem, confidence; being sincere and genuine.** It's hard to project success on those without a strong sense for themselves, their talents and abilities, (not to be confused with ego). College staff and career professionals award people who have confidence in themselves with a trend for achievement and performance. When it comes to projecting success, being sincere and genuine reflects well upon your stature.
- # 7- **Desire to take ownership of your life and your situation.** There is often found to be a false sense of security in young people, believing the world is at their fingertips and they can do whatever they want. For those taking ownership of their situation at a young age, there will be great opportunity to succeed. For those hoping and expecting great things to fall into their lap, most will find the path to success a great struggle.
- # 8- **Having a vision for your future.** Having the foresight to intelligently discuss the changing times and the prospect for future opportunity is greatly valued by quality colleges and progressive companies. This originates at the point of having knowledge and awareness, and using that to form a vision for the future; for yourself, for your country, and for the world. There are emerging fields for work that will offer great jobs to college graduates. There are evolving studies in colleges geared specifically to prepare students for the emerging jobs. But it's up to you to form a vision for your future and the role you may have in shaping it. The ability to do so is a key indicator for your success.
- # 9- **Committing to desired outcomes.** Once you have a vision for your future and a sense for how you want to live ten years down the road, then you will become more inclined to commit to those outcomes. Once you commit to desired outcomes, you will better internalize the need to do the necessary things to get you there. Internalizing the need will allow you to accept doing many things that most others are not willing to do. Successful college students and young professionals show a commitment to achieving desired outcomes and are generally driven to higher levels of personal performance than those otherwise.
- # 10- **Being accountable for your own performance and achievement.** Accountability for performance is a leading indicator for success as top colleges and leading companies look for applicants who possess a natural ability to take responsibility for their own performance. Top jobs are being filled with people willing to be evaluated on their performance. Successful people naturally accept and embrace the notion of taking ownership of their situation, having a vision for their future; committing to desired outcomes; being accountable for their own performance and achievement.

In closing, consider this- **success is a mindset that requires accepting and embracing. It's not something you are born with, rather, it's something you adapt to and decide upon.**

"A key to success is found in taking ownership of your situation before circumstances own you." - Hans

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