

The Gap-Year Advantage

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Helping Your Child Benefit from
Time Off Before or During College



- Strategies for researching program options
- Pointers on how to develop a plan that incorporates the college-application process
- Tips on handling logistics — money, travel, insurance, and more
- Information on 100+ programs and other resources

Karl Haigler and Rae Nelson

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"I'm not ready for college yet..." Those words need not cause panic and fear for parents. Taking time off before or during college is no longer the road less traveled for many students in the United States. A gap year offers students the opportunity to gain focus and discipline, learn to set realistic goals, get real-world experience, and ultimately get the most out of a college education. A complete resource, "The Gap-Year Advantage" provides parents with all the advice, tips, and information they need to help students develop and implement a gap-year strategy. With answers to commonly asked questions such as "What do colleges think of gap years?" and "Can I be certain my child will go or return to college after taking time off?", education experts and gap-year parents Karl Haigler and Rae Nelson also offer guidance on researching program options, creating a gap-year timeline that complements the college-application process, communicating with students about their goals, and handling logistics such as travel, health insurance, and money. With anecdotes from students and parents across the country who have taken gap years, this valuable guide also provides extensive information on program options in the United States and abroad that include volunteering, travel, interning, and specialized study.

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