

# National Issues in Higher Education

October 17, 2011

Anne D. Neal, President  
*American Council of Trustees and Alumni*



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AMERICAN COUNCIL OF  
TRUSTEES AND ALUMNI

# An Extraordinary Heritage

- Thomas Jefferson (UVA, William and Mary)
- James Madison (Hampden-Sydney)
- Patrick Henry (Hampden-Sydney)
- James Monroe (William and Mary)
- John Marshall (William and Mary)
- George C. Marshall (VMI)
- Annie Dillard (Hollins College)
- Seven Recipients Medal of Honor (VA Tech)
- Thirty-One Governors (William and Mary)



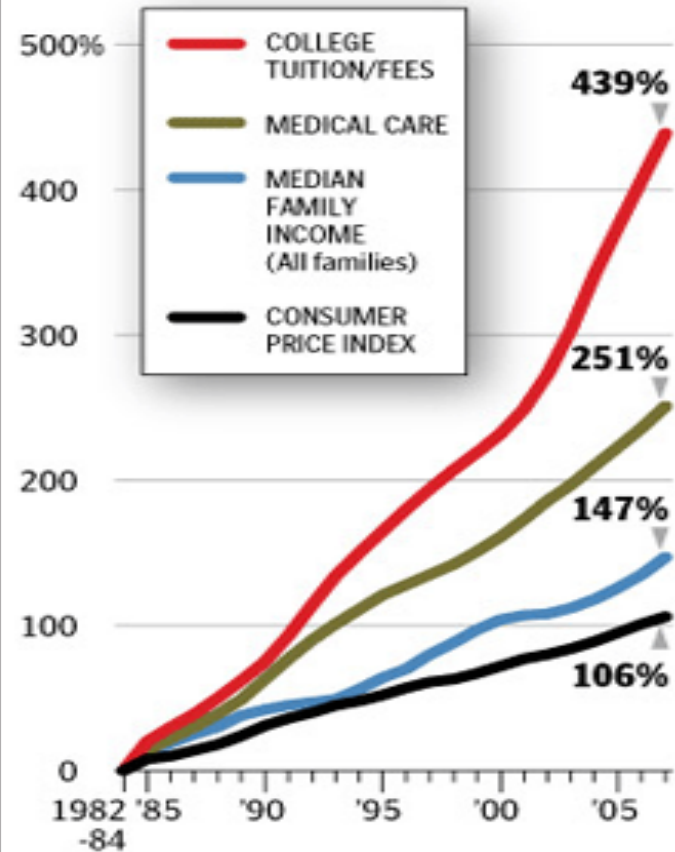
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# Rising Tuition and Fees

## Tuition on the Rise

Cost is one of the major barriers to higher education.

**Growth rate of tuition, as compared with other expenses**  
In percent



NOTE: Growth rate is calculated from a baseline average of 1982, 1983 and 1984.

Source: National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education

By Tobey — The Washington Post



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# The View Of Employers

- 23.9% find graduates overall preparation “excellent.”
- 64.5% say “adequate.”
- 26.2% find their writing skills “deficient.”

Linda Barrington and Jill Casner-Lotto, *Are They Really Ready to Work? Employers' Perspectives on the Basic Knowledge and Applied Skills of New Entrants to the 21st Century U.S. Workforce* (The Conference Board, Corporate Voices for Working Families, The Partnership for 21st Century Skills and the Society for Human Resource Management, 2006)

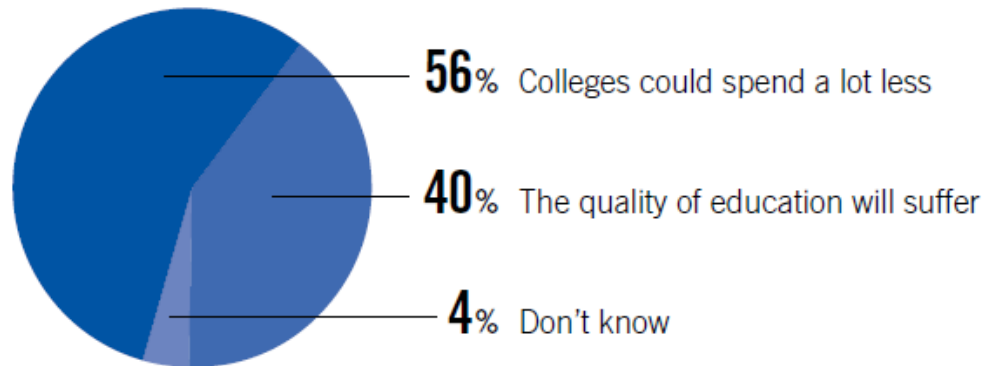


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# The View Of the Public

## 9C But over half say colleges could spend less money and still maintain quality

Do you believe that if colleges cut budgets too much to lower tuition, the quality of an education will suffer, or do you believe that colleges could spend a lot less and still maintain a high quality of education?



John Immerwahr and Jean Johnson, *Squeeze Play: How Parents and the Public Look at Higher Education Today*, a report prepared by Public Agenda for The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education (Washington, DC: 2007)



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# WHAT will they LEARN?

A guide to what college rankings don't tell you.

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DEAN'S LETTER

FAQ

COMPARE SCHOOLS

RATING CRITERIA

"A" LIST

\$30,000+ CLUB

ABOUT US

IN THE NEWS



The search for the right college can be overwhelming. So many guides, so many rankings. There is one thing none of them will tell you; which universities are making sure their students learn what they need to know.

This free resource does just that, focusing on seven key areas of knowledge. It's designed to help you decide whether the colleges you're considering prepare their graduates to succeed after graduation.

To locate a school, choose a state from the map on the left or use the form below.

## FIND A SCHOOL






[Advanced Search](#) | [View All Schools](#)

## SEE WHICH COLLEGES REQUIRE THESE CORE SUBJECTS



COMPOSITION



LITERATURE



FOREIGN LANGUAGE



U.S. HISTORY



ECONOMICS



MATHEMATICS



SCIENCE

# ACTA'S Study of the Core Curriculum, What Will They Learn? <sup>TM</sup>

## **1007 Colleges and Universities:**

- 5% Require an Introduction to Economics
- 20% Require Foundational Study of American History or Government
- 60% Have Three or Fewer General Education Requirements

# How do VA schools do when it comes to core subjects?

Institution	COMP	LIT	LANG	HIST	ECON	MATH	SCI	Grad Rate
Christopher Newport University	√		√			√	√	60%
College of William and Mary			√			√	√	90%
George Mason University	√	√				√	√	63%
James Madison University	√	√		√		√	√	82%
Longwood University	√	√	√					59%
Norfolk State University	√						√	34%
Old Dominion University	√	√	√				√	50%
Radford University	√						√	57%
University of Mary Washington			√				√	75%
University of Virginia at Charlottesville			√				√	93%
University of Virginia at Wise	√	√				√	√	48%
Virginia Commonwealth University	√					√	√	50%
Virginia Military Institute	√					√	√	70%
Virginia Polytechnic Institute	√					√	√	80%
Virginia State University	√	√				√	√	41%

# Perspectives on Historical Illiteracy

## ACTA, Losing America's Memory (February 2000)

*Survey of 556 college seniors at the Top 25 National Universities  
and the Top 25 National Liberal Arts Colleges.*

- Beavis and Butthead 99%
- Snoop Doggy Dog 98%
- George Washington as general at Yorktown 34%
- James Madison as Father of the Constitution 23%
- Abraham Lincoln as author of the words:  
“Government of the people, by the people,  
for the people” 22%



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*CSRA: The Center for Survey  
Research and Analysis at the  
University of Connecticut  
December 1999*

# Faculty Research on Student Learning



Two Years:

45% showed  
Minimal Improvement

Four Years:

36% showed  
Minimal  
Improvement

Richard Arum and Josipa Roksa, *Academically Adrift. Limited Learning on College Campuses* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2011)

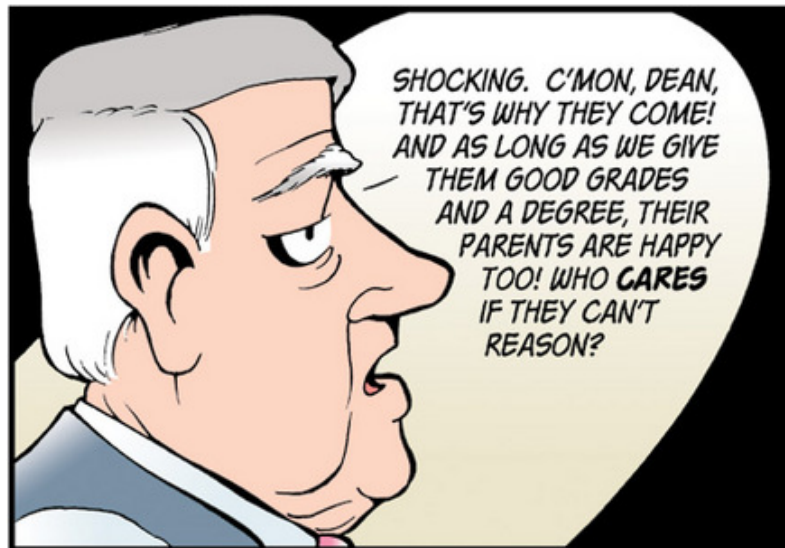
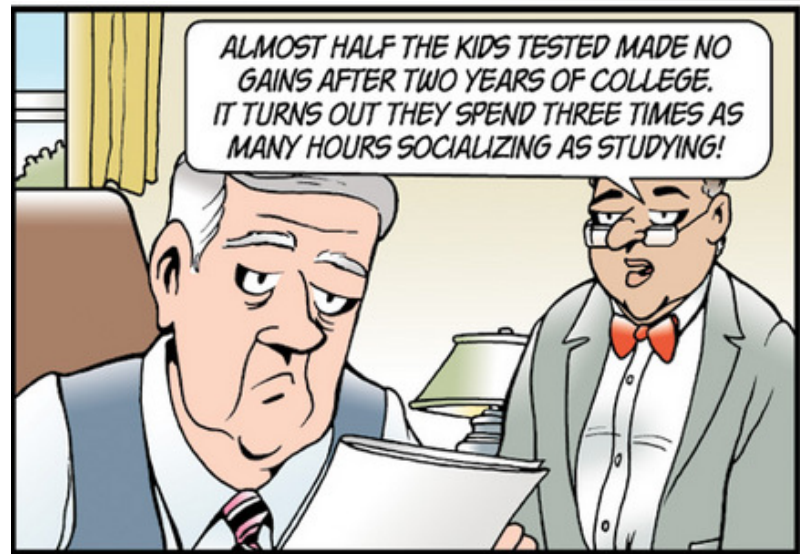
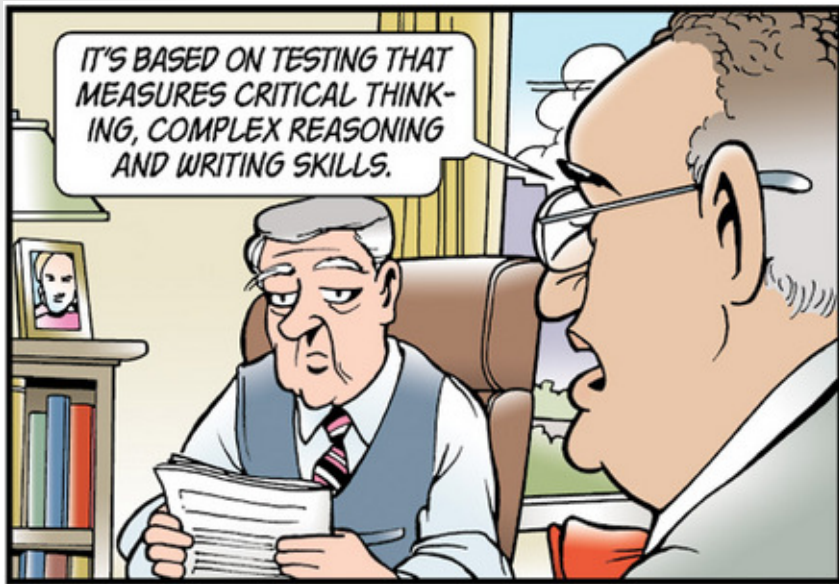
# NSSE 2010 and Student Learning

Hours spent preparing for class (studying, reading, writing, doing homework or lab work, analyzing data, rehearsing, and other academic activities)

	First-Year Students	Seniors
1-5 Hours	14%	15%
6-10 Hours	24%	24%
11-15 Hours	22%	20%
16-20 Hours	18%	17%
21-25 Hours	10%	10%



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# How do VA schools do when it comes to graduation rates?

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George Mason University	√	√				√	√	63%
James Madison University	√	√		√		√	√	82%
Longwood University	√	√	√					59%
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University of Virginia at Wise	√	√				√	√	48%
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Virginia Military Institute	√					√	√	70%
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Virginia State University	√	√				√	√	41%

# Three Instruments for Measuring Student Learning

- Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA): Council on Aid to Education
- Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP): ACT, Inc.
- Proficiency Profile (former Measurement of Academic Progress and Proficiency): Education Testing Service

# Trustees as Fiduciaries

“Change in institutional strategy can only come from trustees. ... Reviewing an institution’s academic strategy and deciding whether change is called for is a trustee’s most important responsibility.”

**Benno C. Schmidt**

**Chair, CUNY Board of Trustees**

**President, Yale University 1986-1992**



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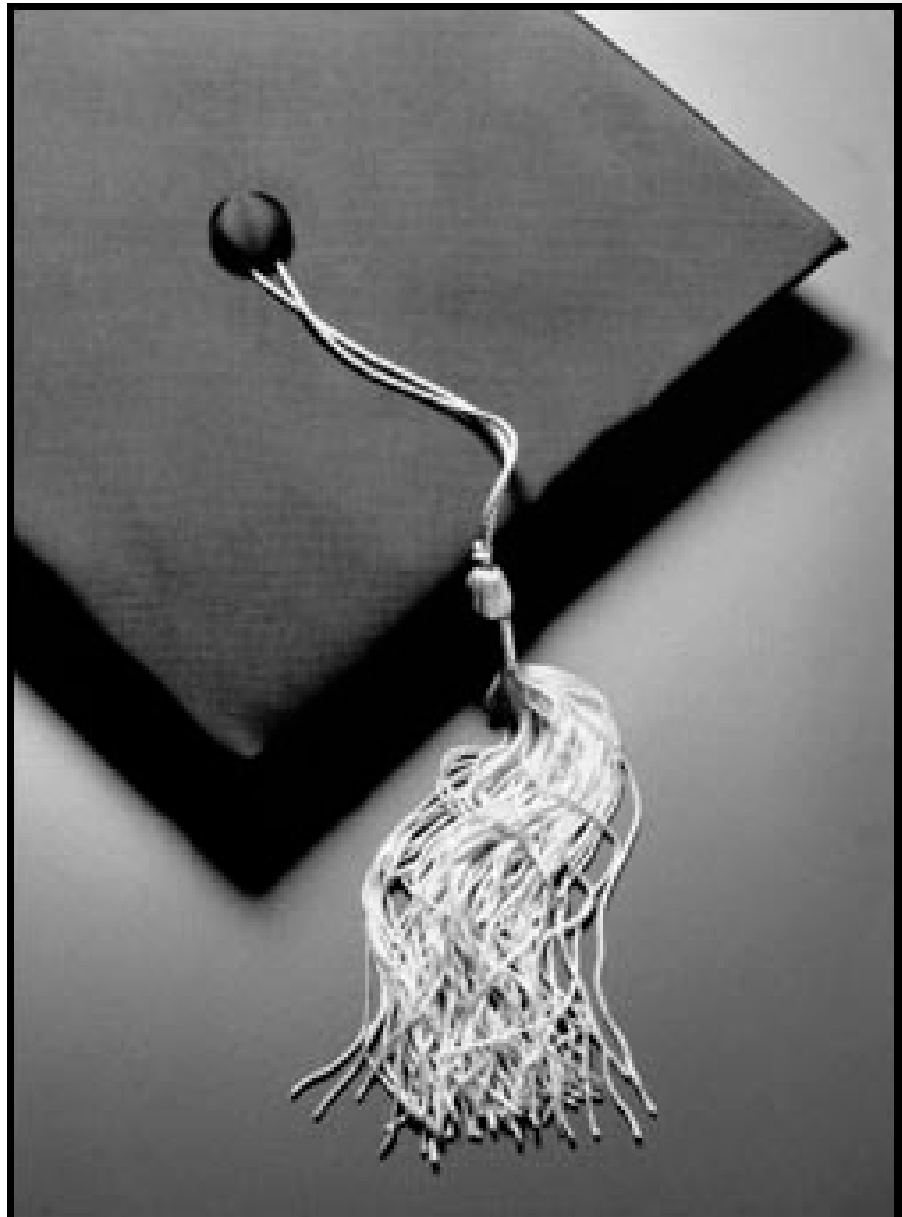
# Epilogue: James Madison 1822

Learned Institutions ought to be favorite objects with every free people. They throw that light over the public mind which is the best security against crafty & dangerous encroachments on the public liberty. ...

What spectacle can be more edifying or more seasonable, than that of Liberty & Learning, each leaning on the other for their mutual & surest support?



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