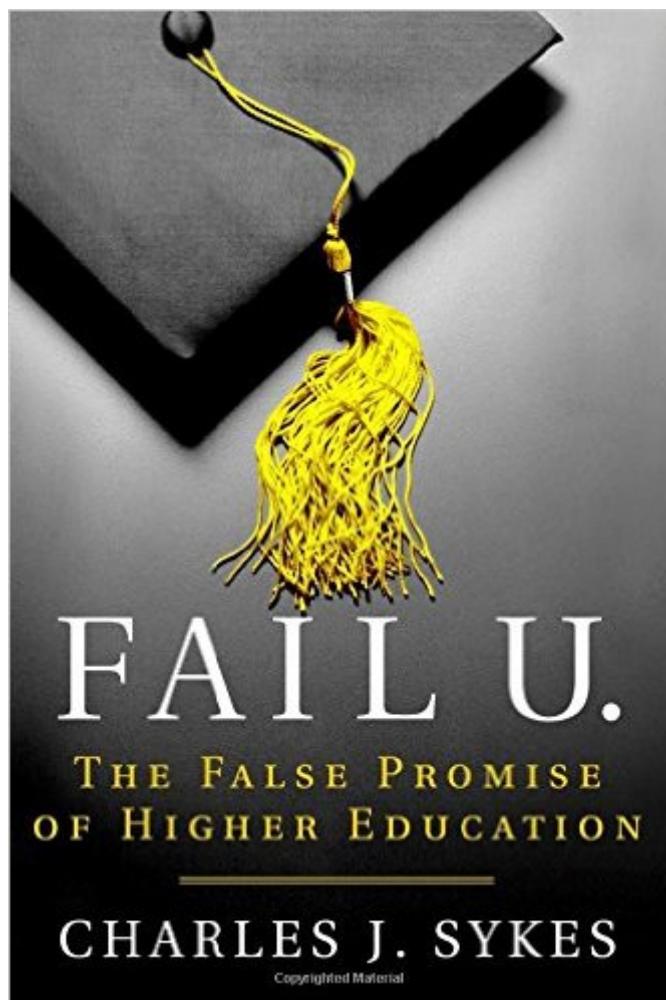


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Fail U.: The False Promise Of Higher Education



Synopsis

The cost of a college degree has increased by 1,125% since 1978—four times the rate of inflation. Total student debt has surpassed \$1.3 trillion. Nearly two thirds of all college students must borrow to study, and the average student graduates with more than \$30,000 in debt. Many college graduates under twenty-five years old are unemployed or underemployed. And professors—remember them?—rarely teach undergraduates at many major universities, instead handing off their lecture halls to cheaper teaching assistants. So, is it worth it? That's the question Charles J. Sykes attempts to answer in *Fail U.*, exploring the staggering costs of a college education, the sharp decline in tenured faculty and teaching loads, the explosion of administrative jobs, the grandiose building plans, and the utter lack of preparedness for the real world that many now graduates face. *Fail U.* offers a different vision of higher education; one that is affordable, more productive, and better-suited to meet the needs of a diverse range of students—and one that will actually be useful in their future careers and lives.

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Customer Reviews

The cost of a college degree has soared by 1,125% since 1978, four times the rate of inflation, while the value of that degree has become increasingly questionable. Spending on instruction has remained flat, while spending administration, buildings, promotions, athletics, and non-instructional student services has exploded. Between 1975 and 2005, the number of full-time faculty rose 51%, bureaucrats by 85%, and 'other professionals' 240% - all floated on expanding student debt (\$1.3 trillion, and rising fast - quintupling since 2004, and now exceeding our total credit card and auto

loan debts). While average student debt load rose 24% in the last decade, average wages for graduates aged 25 - 34 fell by 15%; in 2011, 53% of college graduates under 25 were unemployed or underemployed. A Gallup-Purdue Index survey of 30,000 alumni found only 38% of 2006-2015 graduates 'strongly agreed' that their degree was worth the cost. Only 34% of students entering 4-year institutions earn a B.A. in four years, 64% finish within six years. Student loans cannot be discharged in bankruptcy. Colleges and universities rarely, if ever, gather and publish information about how much undergraduates learn during their academic careers. The Collegiate Learning Assessment Plus test (2013 and 2014) of 32,000 students found that four in ten U.S. college students graduate without the complex reasoning skills to manage white-collar work. On average, students make strides in their ability to reason, but because so many begin with a deficit, many graduate without the ability to read a scatterplot, construct a cohesive argument, or identify a logical fallacy. Problems at for-profit schools are even worse (graduation rates are poor and student loan defaults often 2X the levels at other institutions).

This could be considered an up-date of ProfScam and it is very good. FAIL U. says it all. At my school what do you call the person with the lowest GPA? You call that person a Doctor. All medical schools have 25 new students in two semesters a year. Therefore each school has 50 graduates a year. No one drops out nor fails. Suicide is the only way you drop out. My school had an innovative approach, In their third year they had three Trimesters, and a fourth in the summer. My class was treated differently. We had so much interest and so many applicants, 100 extra students were added. Therefore we graduated 200 students. That put our president in deep trouble because the schools that "Think" they are Elite would have a little less influence. Eventually they did not allow a doctor to graduate for a full year. "Games" are played among schools about everything. In Academia power is their prize. All of us had 40 hours of class a week. In a regular college class credit and hours are 13.5 hours per week. I think we can say regular is fairly easy. At graduation everyone said we were not ready. None of us felt we had learned enough, even though we had evening and week-end seminars every week. We soon learned we all learn ONLY by doing. That is why we call it a "practice". I was stunned to be voted Outstanding Graduate of my large class. To this day I don't know why I was honored. The point is we are merely pawns. Universities are ALL about the professors and their ego. If you can't do it, you teach it. The average teacher teaches 6 hours a week. They do not prepare. It is the same class every year. We are not in the top half among all nations. 1/3 of all college graduates work at jobs that DO NOT need a college degree.

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