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Go to school for twelve years, continue for four more, maybe even grad school, then get the career you've dreamed of. At least that's the idea that millions are sold.. Then why are over half of college graduates working jobs that don't require a degree? According to a study from the Burning Glass Institute and the Strada Education Foundation, 52% of recent college graduates currently work jobs that don't actually require a college diploma. We are following the instructions given to us, but are not getting the final product we desired and promised, yet we are told to believe this is just simply part of the process.

When entering adulthood in your early 20s after graduating, disillusionment is prominent. You go from having to turn in assignments on time to scrolling on LinkedIn, wondering why your degree seems like a waste rather than a pathway to success. Experience is a prerequisite for gaining experience. You still don't deserve the job you want, even after four extra years of studying and tens of thousands of dollars spent on an education. In our current generation and many future generations, attending college feels like crossing off a box on a resume, and doesn't get you very far. Our concept of success is not turning out to be what we may have anticipated.

Instead of our early 20s being filled with excitement, we're being filled with confusion. Am I behind? Should I have a career I always wanted by now? We were born to be ambitious, but now

we're learning to balance our ambition and desires with limitations. It's time to stop labeling young people as lazy for not being able to thrive in a system that does not set us up for success.

Employers need to stop taking advantage of the system and stop keeping job opportunities behind unrealistic expectations. Schools should be better preparing their students for the world of employment, for as it is, not as it was. And we, as young adults, need to stop being so hard on ourselves for not having our lives entirely figured out in our early 20s. We are still learning and growing as individuals, and are allowed to change directions on the road we decide to take. We are not lost, but figuring out the route to get to our destination.

Sources

<https://www.linkedin.com/news/story/grads-arent-using-their-degrees-6634762/>