

Life After High School Case Scenarios

Case 1: Destination Work

Cristina couldn't wait to graduate from high school and work full time in a clothing store. She was promised that when she finished high school, she would be given a full-time manager's position. She found an apartment with a couple of roommates. The store chain where Cristina worked was sold and a new manager was hired. Cristina was frustrated and worried that she would be unable to meet her monthly expenses. In order to deal with the stress of not getting the position, Cristina played sports and worked out. This helped her not only to cope, but also to meet new friends. They gave her great advice in terms of budgeting and lowering her monthly expenses. To earn extra money, Cristina took on a part-time position as a nanny. After a few weeks, Cristina decided that opening a home daycare would be something she would like to explore further.

Case 2: Destination College

Patrick has always loved computers and was thrilled when he was accepted into a Coop program at a local college. When second semester rolled around, he was discouraged because he couldn't find a Coop placement and this could potentially delay his graduation. He went looking for his own Coop placement on a job board at his school.

He discovered that a computer store near his school was looking for a Coop student, although it wasn't in the network field he was pursuing. He gave them his resume, was interviewed and offered the job. He took the placement, since this would allow him to utilize his computer skills and graduate on time.

Case 3: Destination University

Mike had always loved math and science. Although he was accepted to all of the engineering programs he applied to, he decided to attend the engineering program offered by the university in his home community. In order to fully participate in all aspects of "university life", he chose to live in residence.

He knew that he would have more responsibilities, including budgeting, cooking, and other household duties, but he believed having a network of friends and not worrying about transportation would balance things out. To deal with his finances, he applied for OSAP, but he was denied. Although he was initially frustrated, he went to the career counseling office on campus to research other ways of getting financial assistance. As a result, he found a part-time job working on campus.

Case 4: Destination Apprenticeship

Sierra liked working with her hands and didn't like sitting in classes very much. She enjoyed her transportation technology courses in high school, and when she graduated, decided to become a mechanic. Upon graduating, she started her apprenticeship working in a garage. It was a small shop and she was laid off when they didn't have enough work for her. Sierra was concerned that the loss of hours would prevent her from getting her mechanics' license. She asked her supervisor if he knew any other shops that would be interested in hiring her as an apprentice. He had heard from a friend that Canadian Tire was hiring. She updated her resume and went to speak with the manager. He was willing to give her a position, but it would be in another city 45 minutes away. Sierra took the position with the knowledge that she would have to put in long hours, work shifts and would be getting home late.

After reading these case studies, answer the following questions.

1. For two case studies, describe two negative points and two positive points.
2. Which case study do you think would most likely happen to you? Why?
3. Using the case study you picked as a guide, describe specific examples (i.e. school, workplace) that you would like to see happen in your future.