

How Kishwaukee College Changed My Life

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Kishwaukee College has changed my life for the better, and in quite an unusual way. Kishwaukee has made it possible for me to travel to 13 countries, start my dream business, and save thousands of dollars before the age of 22. Let me tell you how!

I took my first dual-credit math class from Kishwaukee College as a senior in high school, hoping to get college credit down the line and save money. I decided to graduate from Sycamore High School a semester early, having completed my required classes and in desperate need of a change. I registered for a gap year program and took off for a 3-month adventure to the Bahamas where I volunteered for a marine conservation organization.

Upon returning from the Bahamas, I received my college acceptance letters from UW Madison, University of Illinois, Marquette, and more. Fortunately for me, I knew none of these options felt right. I couldn't justify the price tag and the lifestyle when all I wanted was to have new experiences. I wanted to get my degree, but I needed to find an unconventional way. I registered for ASU online to get my degree in marketing and began traveling. I visited England, Germany, Norway, France, and Luxembourg and was having incredible adventures.

ASU was working great for me; I was disciplined with my online classes and my schedule, but the cost became too high. It was time to prioritize; I had to choose between travel or college. I was searching for a solution, and Kish was right there. I discovered Kishwaukee College had a long list of online courses, many of the same

ones offered at ASU. I scheduled an appointment with my advisor and was thrilled when she told me all of my classes would transfer.

I scheduled my classes for the next semester through Kishwaukee, using their easy schedule planner from my computer. This one semester alone saved me thousands of dollars and I was able to book my next trip to Bali, Indonesia. I moved there for a few months and completed my courses from my poolside chair halfway across the world. Then I visited Belize, Honduras, and Mexico.

In 2020 when COVID-19 happened, I couldn't travel anymore. At this time my mom lost her job for a year, and Kishwaukee College became the reason I didn't have to delay my degree. The flexibility of online classes has allowed me to work for the past 4 years, and my affordable tuition has made it possible for me to save enough money to start a business this year.

I only have 500 words, and my story is so much more complex, but I'm grateful to Kishwaukee for making this possible. Our society puts so much pressure on going straight from high school into a four-year degree program, where we spend hundreds of thousands of dollars trying to guess at what we want. Thanks to Kishwaukee College, I was able to take a different route and live out my dream!