

Four Summer Jobs That Won't Rot Your Brain

May 30, 2013 By Lori Johnston [Leave a Comment](#)

Summer jobs can offer a brief hiatus from the rigorous of college studies, but you don't have to completely put your mind on cruise control.

These five summer jobs can give you cash for college, but the work also could help you in school this fall, and even identify potential career paths and associate's and bachelor's degree programs.



1. Lifeguard: One of my college friends recently used the life-saving lessons she learned as a lifeguard as the basis for her admissions essay to law school. She not only loved her lifeguard experience, but she got in!

2. Camp counselor: Spending days, weeks, or entire months with kids as a camp counselor requires a ton of energy and can be exhausting. The rewards could be mentoring kids and seeing them develop strong character traits at a young age. You also may discover if a career path as an educator, counselor, or coach is something you want to pursue in college by earning an associate's or bachelor's degree.

3. Charitable work/mission work: Volunteerism is a huge way to spend the summer, and it's great to see students assisting nonprofits and/or religious organizations in the U.S. and in other countries. Assisting those in need can pay off big for you, too. You may grow more appreciative of what you have as well as gain a first-hand look at societal issues that can impact your associate's or bachelor's degree studies in political science, humanities, sociology, health and nutrition, the arts, journalism, and beyond.

4. Amusement park worker: Working at major theme parks such as Walt Disney World, Disneyland, and Universal Studios or regional or local amusement parks can help you play a part in creating awesome vacation experiences for kids, teens, and adults, and much more. Being in charge of rides may pique your interest in the engineering field. The park's themes and scenery may point you into a career in landscape design and interior design. Scanning entry tickets every minute of your shift or ringing up items in a store may have you getting ideas for a career in graphic design, fashion, or other creative industries.

In these and other jobs, having an education-focused mindset as you work part-time or full-time during the summer can be beneficial even when the vacation season is

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