I have always considered a college education to be a coming of age experience. Increased knowledge and intellectual growth is important, but equally as important is personal growth & the ability to apply all the lessons learned to both work and everyday life. My undergraduate experience at Metropolitan University encompasses all of these aspects which have greatly prepared me for life after college. By engaging in internships, classroom discussions, and participating in study abroad programs, I believe that my college education has provided me the opportunity to become a well-rounded individual.

Unlike some trade schools, the mission of Metropolitan university was not to provide students with just a specific skill set. Instead it was to expose students to a wide range of ideas in order to encourage them to formulate their own opinions. This was accomplished by requiring students to take classes concurrently that were different, but inter-related (i.e. economics & history). In some cases, students were also given the opportunity to create their own major through the scholars program. This knowledge could then be applied to the workplace as students participated in internships. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to participate in numerous internships ranging from tasting the literacy of underprivileged students to working closely w/ a retail buyer in the apparel industry. Although I was able to apply a lot of the knowledge learned from the classroom to my internships, I also realized that personal growth also affected my ability to succeed in the workplace.

Personal growth for me was a big advantage of attending college. It provided me the opportunity to better understand myself as well as people around me. For example, when I left for college was the first time I left home. This taught me about independence and providing for myself. It also taught me about time management & working under pressure. In addition, I was also able to study abroad which allowed me to learn about different cultures as well as my own. While traveling, I was able to visit my parents country of birth. Through this experience, I was able to better understand my by parents by understanding their past and struggle as refugees. Thus, better understand them as individuals and have an improved relationship w/ them because of it. This time away from home also helped with my confidence as I matured by gaining a better understanding of myself and my abilities to do things on my own.

On a visit to a corporation while in school, an executive once told me to take advantage of all the opportunities possible while I was still a student. People are more inclined to help students because they remember being students themselves. Once you join the workforce, you then become the competition and people are less inclined to help. I have remembered this lesson since and thus whole-heartedly believe that the mission of a college education should be to provide students with as much work-related skills and knowledge as personal and intellectual growth. Once in the workforce, students will need to fend for themselves and thus must have as much confidence and ability to dissect situations as skill based knowledge. By not providing students with as many opportunities for personal and intellectual growth, as knowledge based skills, colleges would be doing a disservice to its students as students would not be prepared for all aspects of life after college.