

Source: *Academically Adrift: Limited Learning on College Campuses*

By Richard Arum and Josipa Roksa

[://www.amazon.com/Academically-Adrift-Limited-Learning-Campuses/dp/0226028550](http://www.amazon.com/Academically-Adrift-Limited-Learning-Campuses/dp/0226028550)

Summary: Are college students truly learning? Definitely not, *Academically Adrift* asserts. Surveys, transcripts, and the Collegiate Learning Assessment show that nearly half of the students do not improve in critical thinking, complex reasoning, and writing in their first two years. More than a third do not improve in four years. Students, faculty, administrators, policy makers, and parents all contribute to the problem, disproportionately affecting some racial groups compared to others.

What are the reasons for the current state of affairs? For one, students spend less time studying than in the past. Critics say that socializing and working detract from students' focusing on academics. A shift in curriculum away from the basics, and with less academic rigor, is also to blame. The net effect is that students are simply not learning to read and write properly.