

In the U.S., more students drop out of college than graduate—
yet six out of every 10 jobs require a postsecondary education.

What causes so many
students to squander
their future?

Why We Quit

By Yvonne Raley

In her 20s, Diana dreamed of becoming a scientific
illustrator. She had not yet attended college, so she
was thrilled when she received an acceptance letter
from an undergraduate graphic arts program in
New York City. But her excitement gave way to anx-
iety during the first days and weeks at her new
school. Fretting about her performance, Diana
sought out her professors for comfort and advice.
She found them aloof and difficult to contact, how-
ever, because none of them posted office hours.
When Diana reached out to the chair of the art de-
partment, he either was unavailable or expressed
little interest in her concerns.

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