

Foreword

COLLEGE CAN BE a wonderful and a dangerous place. We've seen some of our peers flourish and find their identity at school, and we've seen others completely lose their way—or even self-destruct. Is the college experience inherently bipolar, good for some and unavoidably bad for others? Or is there another possibility: that each outcome is a path we can choose to take? In this terrific book, former college student and current college professor Alex Chediak says the answer to that last question is “Yes!”—and we wholeheartedly agree.

For most high school graduates today, going to college is the default. As a result, a lot of teens end up drifting from high school into college without any clear plan in mind. Maybe you are going to make your parents happy or to get away from somewhere or someone, or maybe college just sounds like a fun, new experience. Whatever your motivation, entering college without a sense of purpose is dangerous.

Why? Because for most young adults, college provides at once more freedom and more responsibility than you've ever

had before. Whether you choose to focus on the freedom or the responsibilities of college will determine whether you thrive—or just survive. At college there are no parents to make you read your Bible, do your homework, get sleep, eat well, or do laundry. At college—even at Christian universities—there are “friends” who are willing to support whatever lifestyle you choose to engage in: from bookworm to party animal.

So college is both a crisis and an opportunity. A crisis, because while embracing the *freedom* of campus life can lead to temporary fun, the end result can be a lifetime of regret. An opportunity, because embracing the *responsibility* of college can result in incredible intellectual, spiritual, social, emotional, and physical growth.

The student who thrives at college—the student who glorifies God with his or her college years—is the one who sees it as a great opportunity that requires great responsibility. Alex Chediak understands this better than most, with the experience and heart to help students reach their full God-given potential. *Thriving at College* will help you navigate the common pitfalls relating to faith, relationships, academics, and extracurricular activities.

There is no better guide to college than this.

—*Alex and Brett Harris, Patrick Henry College,
cofounders of TheRebellion.com and coauthors
of Do Hard Things and Start Here*