

On Campus

# A Matter of Degrees

Take a quiz on some of Columbia's famous dropouts

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**Before he left school to play professional baseball, Lou Gehrig was Columbia's most celebrated athlete, excelling in baseball and what other sport?**

- a. basketball
- b. wrestling
- c. football

**Lauryn Hill entered Columbia in 1993 and spent about a year in college before becoming a superstar with the rap group the Fugees. Her 1998 solo album The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill made Hill the first woman to do what?**

- a. be sole writer, producer, and recording artist on a best-selling album
- b. win five Grammy Awards in one night
- c. win a Grammy for best album of the year

**When future US president Theodore Roosevelt '1899HON attended Columbia's law school in the early 1880s, before leaving for the New York State Assembly, he was writing what would become a major historical work. What was the subject?**

- a. corporate monopolies
- b. naval battles
- c. the Federalist Party

**This singer-songwriter signed with Columbia Records at fifteen and was accepted to Columbia University at sixteen. She spent four weeks at Columbia before leaving to pursue a career that resulted in fifteen Grammys. Who is she?**

- a. Alicia Keys
- b. Alanis Morissette
- c. Alison Krauss

**The poet Langston Hughes spent two semesters at Columbia before becoming one of the leading lights of the Harlem Renaissance. What did he study?**

- a. English literature
- b. engineering
- c. sociology

**In 1943, Franklin D. Roosevelt '08HON, who studied law at Columbia from 1905 to 1907, became the first sitting US president to do what?**

- a. visit survivors of a mine explosion
- b. fly in an airplane
- c. introduce frozen foods to the White House

**Actor Ben Platt had to leave Columbia in 2012 to fulfill his contractual obligation to what Broadway musical?**

- a. Jersey Boys
- b. Billy Elliot: The Musical
- c. The Book of Mormon

**In 1928, Columbia premed dropout Amelia Earhart became the first woman to complete a transatlantic flight. What was the name of her plane?**

- a. Columbia
- b. Friendship
- c. Kitty Hawk

**Actor and dancer James Cagney left Columbia as a freshman in 1918 due to what event?**

- a. the death of his father in the Spanish-flu pandemic
- b. fracturing his hip during a tap-dance rehearsal
- c. a fire at his family's home on New York's Lower East Side

**Prominent Columbia non-graduates Jack Kerouac and Alexander Hamilton both had a lot to say. Which of them said which?**

- a. "A national debt, if it is not excessive, will be to us a national blessing."
- b. "I had nothing to offer anybody except my own confusion."
- c. "A nation which can prefer disgrace to danger is prepared for a master, and deserves one."
- d. "My witness is the empty sky."

*ANSWERS 1C, 2B, 3B, 4A, 5B, 6B, 7C, 8B, 9A, 10 HAMILTON—A, C; KEROUAC—B, D*



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