

MODULE #3: College Selection

Objectives

- Participants will be able to know more about college selection.
- Participants will learn more about college visits.
- Participants will be able to discuss the college search process.

Context



Selecting a college to initiate our post-secondary education is an important decision to make. One of the first steps in selecting a college is for the students to identify a list of important school attributes that fit their criteria. Another step is to visit campuses so that the students can experience and learn as much as they can about college such as majors, admissions, and financial aid.

Handouts & Resources Needed:

Handout 3.1A: Options After High School: Let's Focus On College

Handout 3.1B: College Comparison Worksheet

Handout 3.2: Deciding What You Need From A College

Pen/pencils

Paper

Journals

Activity #1: Options After High School: Let's Focus on College (30 min) (For advanced

Students)

Procedure:

- Icebreaker
- Tell participants that:
 - It is important they identify what criteria they are looking for in a school.
 - After they identify what is important, they can begin research schools that match their criteria.
- Explain the steps in selecting a college (Handout 3.1A) and have participants complete the chart.
- As the facilitator go over the steps, ask participants the following:
 - What are your reasons for attending college?
 - What are the college characteristics that are most important to you?
 - How much can you afford to attend college?
- Provide a "College Comparison Worksheet" (Handout 3.1B) as a homework so the participants can compare different colleges based on location, size, academic, cost, and etc. Suggest that they use the internet.
- Debriefing

Activity #2: Deciding What You Need From a College (30 min) (For advanced Students)

Procedure:

- Icebreaker
- Discuss the homework assignment.
- It is important to search for a school that fits you well academically, socially and culturally. Once you decide what you are looking for in a school, you will be able to explore and compare different schools. Planning and organizing their school search will enable them to learn about different types of academic institutions and determine what qualities they want.
- Introduce the characteristics to consider when choosing a school:
 - Establish your goals and interests.
 - Review school characteristics.
 - Choose the characteristics that are important to you.
- Pass out, “Deciding What You Need From A College” (Handout 3.2).
- Have participants make a list of factors as a way to identify their most important criteria in selecting a school.
- Have participants engage in small groups to share their list of criteria.
- Debriefing

Handout 3.1A

Choices After High School Education

Handout 3.1B Comparing Colleges

Name of College:			
Location:			
Size of campus:			
Admission requirements (test, GPA...)			
Academic programs (Major offered)			
Tuition costs and fees			
Housing costs			
Activities, clubs, organizations, etc.			
Percentage of students who graduate			
Financial aid & scholarships and aid opportunities			
Faculty-Student ratio			
Class size			
(Other)			

Handout 3.2

Deciding What You Need From A College

There are many colleges and universities out there... so, how do you decide which one to go to? You first need to do some serious soul searching to decide what you want to get out of college. Once you have decided you can begin looking at college catalogues in your guidance office or check on the web for particular schools that match your interests. Here are some things you may want to consider when you are soul searching for a college:

What type of place am I looking for:

- Public or Private?
- Specialized or Liberal Arts?
- Coed or Single Sex?
- Historically Black or Hispanic serving institutions? Molis can help at <http://web.fie.com/web/mol/>
- Religious affiliation?
- Community or Residential?
- Two year or Four Year?

Where would I want to be located:

- In close travelling distance to home or farther away?
- In a city or in the country?

What am I looking for in my academic experience?

- Is it an accredited institution?
- Are there academic programs I am interested in?
- What CLEP or AP credits will be accepted?
- Are professors available often for one-on-one meetings?
- Do they provide a writing or tutoring center?
- Are multicultural courses available?
- Where else can I study besides the library if it is closed?
- What are the educational qualifications of the professors?
- Do they have a computer lab?
- Is financial aid available for graduate students?

What do I need in my social life?

- Is the campus be culturally diverse?
- Do they have intramural sports?
- What are the positive and negative experiences of students on the campus?
- What are the social differences in the dorms: single-sex, quiet, cultural, freshman, etc.?
- Are there fraternities and sororities on-campus?
- What organizations are important for me to get involved in?

Once you know what you need, you can use College Board's ExPAN College Information Search (<http://cbweb1.collegeboard.org/csearch/>) to find colleges and universities that meet your requirements for geographic location, majors offered, or size of student body.