

Lesson Six: Exploring the World of Post-secondary Education (What's after high school?)

This lesson examines developing human capital, postsecondary education as a key to greater financial well-being, costs and financing options for postsecondary education, budgeting and saving to achieve financial and personal goals, preparing for emergency situations, and using foundational personal finance strategies.

STANDARDS ALIGNMENT

North Carolina Guidance Essential Standards:

- I.C.2.2 Use past experiences and general information to make decisions in a variety of situations.
- I.CR.4.1 Apply decision-making skills when implementing career planning, course selection, and career transition.

North Carolina Career Development Coordinator Standards:

- Standard II.d. Adapt their services to accommodate diverse student populations.

ISTE Standards

- Knowledge Constructor 3.d
Students build knowledge by actively exploring real-world issues and problems, developing ideas and theories and pursuing answers and solutions.

North Carolina Community College System College and Career Ready Adult Basic Education Standards

- T.6 The student will demonstrate an ability to utilize internet and other telecommunication resources.
- R.3 The student will develop and demonstrate knowledge of a variety of comprehension strategies to derive meaning from literacy, functional and informational text.

Workforce Development Standards

- 20 CFR Parts 676, 677, and 678: Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy. Programs are based on eligibility.

STUDENT OBJECTIVES

At the close of the lesson, learners will be able to say... I can

- define post-secondary education.
- evaluate the opportunities and expenses associated with post-secondary education.
- understand and explain the terminology associated with post-secondary education.
- identify post-secondary institutions that offer specific programs of study.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- computer, projector, internet access, YouTube, screen to show video
- “I can” statements on poster board or handout
- Plain white paper for each participant
- Career options are written on individual cards and may include an electrician, a welder, social worker, registered nurse, financial analyst, librarian, physical therapist, high school teacher, accountant, computer programmer, athletic trainer. Prepare enough cards for size of class. Cards are placed in container for random selection by each team.
- Handout - Post-secondary Education Cost Comparison Worksheet. Prepare enough handouts for each student and one for each team.
- Handout - Guide to Continuing Education After High School. Prepare enough handouts for each team.

DELIVERY SUGGESTIONS

The suggested time for the following lesson is 45-60 minutes. Participants need computer access, and room arrangement in groups of two or three. Maximum number of participants is 16-20.

The following lesson is appropriate for:

- ☒ middle school students
- ☒ high school students
- ☒ adult learners

INSTRUCTIONS

1. State and share **I can** statements with learners, so they will know the purpose of the lesson.
2. Show YouTube video entitled Katrina’s Classroom: Lesson 4 on Jamie and how Hurricane Katrina taught her the value of a bank account, controlling finances and how to budget for a post-secondary education.

<https://bit.ly/3Am1RVu>

Continued on next page...

3. As a group, ask participants to describe the lessons learned by Jamie
4. Use the following infographic to show your participants just how important it is for them to develop their human capital. “Why Develop Human Capital?” will help your participants see clearly the strong connection between their education level and their earning potential: <https://bit.ly/3itzu1A>
5. Discuss the infographic and ask participants to give examples of how they would develop their human capital.
6. For the next exercise, pair the participants in groups of 2 but no more than 3. Have each pair randomly select one career option from container, and complete the Post-secondary Education Cost Comparison Worksheet. Give them their university/college option including the local community college, the closest university (e.g. East Carolina University), and allow the team to pick the third university or college. Also ask them to be prepared to discuss what type of degree or credential is needed for the career option (refer to handout entitled Guide to Continuing Education After High School). Allow 20 minutes for this exercise so participants can discuss in their group.
7. Have each team report their findings including something they learned and another factor they would consider in researching their university or college selection.
8. Paying for college is definitely worth the time to do your homework. Ask each participant to individually complete the Post-secondary Education Cost Comparison Worksheet as a homework assignment. Let them know there are a variety of options for paying for college. It is the responsibility of the participant to seek out and apply for these options. Participants and their families should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to learn what they might be eligible for.

Information and the form are available on the website of the Department of Education’s Federal Student Aid office: www.fafsa.ed.gov/.

Participants should also be aware that there are a number of scams related to financial aid. Financial aid scams include paying money for help finding financial aid, as well as identity theft.

9. Return to **I can** statements. Ask participants to give a thumbs up or thumbs down if they agree (or disagree) that the objective was met.
10. You may choose to ask participants to provide formal feedback by accessing the following link: <https://conta.cc/3Cx9sSO>

LESSON CONTRIBUTOR

Pat Harris

NCWorks Outreach Coordinator
Rivers East Workforce Development Board
pharris@mideastcom.org



ADVICE

Guide to Continuing Education After High School: Sorting Through the Options

Once your teen has decided to pursue education after high school, you may have a lot of questions. Here's a guide to all of your options.

Continuing education after high school is a path that many students take. However, what may seem natural for some students may be completely wrong for others. Gone are the days of specific grade-by-grade guidelines of where your student should be in their studies. The options can seem overwhelming. Once your teen has decided to pursue education after high school, you may have a lot of questions. What is right for them? Is there a difference between colleges and universities? How do I know if my teen should pursue an associate or bachelor's degree? And what does technical education even mean? Let's break it down.

Undergraduate Degrees

When continuing education after high school, earning a degree or some sort of certification is widely required in pursuing many careers.

According to our [State of Parenting Poll](#), 86% of parents say children need more than a high school degree to achieve the American Dream. Parents are not the only ones who see value in education after high school. The [Clark University Poll of Emerging Adults](#) found that 80% of adults ages 18 to 29 say that education and/or training past high school “is more important than ever.” Undergraduate degrees are common for students pursuing two and four-year college programs.

An associate degree is a two-year degree, which means it usually takes two years to complete. Generally, an associate degree is 60 credits, which is equivalent to about 20 courses. Associate degrees typically focus on preparing students for entry-level work, basic skills and knowledge in their field of study. Students may complete general education requirements, and then transfer to a four-year degree at a different college or university.

Associate Degree

Lesson 4: Back to School

Part 2: Evaluating Postsecondary Opportunities

Lesson Description

In this lesson, students look at the financial lessons that a teen and her family learned while they were displaced from their home and community following Hurricane Katrina. The lesson content examines postsecondary education as a key to greater financial well-being and the costs associated with a postsecondary education.

The PowerPoint-based lesson is designed for personal finance and other related classes.

Time Required

One 50- to 55-minute class period for entire lesson.

Concepts

Careers, career goals	Postsecondary education
Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)	Scholarships
Grants	Student loans
Human capital	Unemployment rate
Opportunity cost	Work study programs

Objectives

The students will be able to:

- Evaluate the opportunities and expenses associated with postsecondary education.
- Explain and use the vocabulary associated with postsecondary education.
- Identify postsecondary institutions that offer specific programs of study.

Post-secondary Education Cost Comparison Worksheet
Adapted from Katrina's Classroom Lesson 4: Back to School
September 2020

Scenario

You are exploring options for attending college next year to pursue the necessary degree or certificate for a chosen career, as provided by your instructor, which you will receive shortly. Cost is a major factor in your decision. You may have scholarships and your parents will assist with tuition, but you will have to cover half of the total cost of your two or four-year education with student loans. You have already decided that you will attend school in your home state. You have not yet decided whether to live on or off campus so you'll have both options to consider in your living costs.

Directions

As a team, complete the following using the information found on the websites provided for each section or websites provided through earlier lessons like Reality Check and Traitify. Discuss the questions, record your answers and be prepared as a team to report your findings to the class when the activity is complete.

College option: _____

Answer the following questions using the provided information.

1. What does a person in this career do?

2. What college degree is necessary for this job?

3. What does "median annual wage or earnings" mean?

4. What is the median annual wage for this job?

5. What is the entry-level salary for this job?

For this exercise, you will use the US Dept. of Education's College Scorecard because it has the most reliable data on college costs, graduation and post-college earnings. You can find the College Scorecard online at <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov> . Your instructor may provide additional instructions on which college/university to and/or field of study to research for this exercise.

	IN STATE College/University Option 1	IN STATE College/University Option 2	IN STATE College/University Option 3
School name, city, and state			
Average annual cost of tuition, living costs, books and fees minus the average grants and scholarships for federal financial aid recipients			
Estimate of total expenses for the years needed to complete field of study. Hint: multiply the average annual cost against number of years to complete.			
What is the median earnings after completion of the field of study			
Is your field of study available at this school?			
What degree or certificate will you earn?			