TRANSITION SKILLS

LESSON 11-18 ▲ AN INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE

**LEARNING GOALS/OUTCOMES**

* Students will describe the benefits of a postsecondary education for their career goals.
* Students will define key college admission terms.

**MATERIALS NEEDED**

* **Student Handouts:**
* An Investment in the Future Worksheet
* Postsecondary Definitions

**CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES**

1. **Discuss students’ postsecondary goals.** Ask students to join a small group based on what they think they might do after graduation: four-year college, two-year college, technical certificate or apprenticeship, military, or job with no postsecondary education. While they are in their small groups, ask them to share their plans for life after graduation. Most students should have definite ideas, but some may not know. Ask for a volunteer from each group to share their plans with the whole class. Discuss what students think it will take them to achieve their plans. Discuss how they will get the postsecondary education they will need for their career goals.
2. **Review reasons to attend college.** After the small group discussions, ask for a show of hands: how many students think their career goals will require some type of education or training after high school? Explain that nearly every career requires some type of postsecondary education. Distribute the *An Investment in the Future Worksheet* and review the information on the first page. Are these reasons compelling to students?
3. **Review postsecondary definitions.** Students will soon begin the college application process (if they haven’t already) and so it’s essential that they understand the terminology of postsecondary admissions. Distribute the *Postsecondary Definitions* and ask students to complete their handouts using the definitions. Add other definitions you and your students think of together.

**STUDENT PRODUCTS**

* **Completed *An Investment in the Future Worksheet***

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND OTHER INFORMATION**

Your school might wish to hold a College Night for students and their families, where they could hear from school guidance counselors, graduates of your high school, or admissions officers from local colleges. In addition, you may wish to share the following resources to help students and their families learn more about preparing for, applying to, attending, and paying for college.

**College Admission Requirements**

* **Washington Student Achievement Council**

<http://www.wsac.wa.gov/college-admissions>

Overview of college admissions information for WA State

<http://www.wsac.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2015.CADRs.Appendix.pdf>

College Academic Distribution Requirements (CADR) for four-year colleges

* **Washington State Board of Community and Technical Colleges**

<http://www.sbctc.edu/>

Home page

<http://www.sbctc.edu/becoming-a-student/counselor/default.aspx>

Counselor’s Guide to Community College Resources

**Career and College Planning**

* **Washington Career Bridge**

<http://www.careerbridge.wa.gov/>

Helps students in Washington State find the education and training they need for the job they want via career interest exploration, job trend and education information.

* **College Board**

[https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/explore-careers#](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/explore-careers)

College Board’s Big Future

* **Washington Career Pathways**

<http://washingtoncareerpathways.org/>

* **NCES**

<http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

College Navigator

* **Know How 2 Go**

[www.knowhow2go.org](http://www.knowhow2go.org)

College planning resources

* **First in the Family**

[www.firstinthefamily.org](http://www.firstinthefamily.org)

College planning resources

* **Check Out a College**

[www.checkoutacollege.com](http://www.checkoutacollege.com)

College planning information

**Financial Aid Resources**

* **Washington Student Achievement Council**

[www.wsac.wa.gov/sfa-overview](http://www.wsac.wa.gov/sfa-overview)

Overview of financial aid in WA State

* **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**

[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

Official site for information and FAFSA application.

* **Ready, Set, Grad’s Washington Application for State Financial Aid**

[readysetgrad.org/WASFA](http://readysetgrad.org/WASFA?_ga=1.168581670.603567252.1432686586)

WASFA – Financial Aid for undocumented students

* **FAFSA Information for Counselors and Mentors**

[financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/resources/2017-18-fafsa-updates-counselors.pdf](https://financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/resources/2017-18-fafsa-updates-counselors.pdf)

New financial aid timeline for Seniors

TRANSITION SKILLS

LESSON 11-18 STUDENT HANDOUT

AN INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE WORKSHEET

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

A recent poll showed that most high school students want to go to college. Why is that?

**TO PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE**

* Fifty years ago, you could do without college: most jobs in the U.S. required only a high school education or less.
* But today, very few jobs accept people without education or training after high school.
* In the future, college will be even more important: nearly all of the fastest growing occupations require postsecondary education.

**TO EARN A GOOD LIVING**

* A person with a college degree has higher earning potential than someone with only a high school diploma.
* Someone with a college degree is also much less likely to be unemployed.

**MAKING YOUR MOVE**

So, how do you get started? You’ll need to follow these steps during junior and senior years.

* Research postsecondary institutions that offer your program of interest.
* Visit to narrow down a list of colleges you’d like to attend. Make sure that at least one is a financial and academic “safety,” meaning that you can afford to attend and are likely to be admitted.
* Take the needed entrance exams (such as the SAT, ACT, ACCUPLACER, or ASVAB).
* Apply for financial aid by completing a FAFSA ([www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)) after January 1 of senior year in high school. If required, complete a CSS PROFILE (<https://profileonline.collegeboard.com>) by the deadline during your senior year.
* Apply for scholarships to supplement your financial aid. Check The WashBoard ([www.thewashboard.org](http://www.thewashboard.org)) to find scholarship opportunities.
* Complete all application forms required by your colleges, either on paper or online.
* Once you’ve been admitted, work with a counselor to plan your course of study.

**LEARN THE TERMS**

To make the most of junior and senior years, it pays to know the terms colleges use. Refer to the Postsecondary Definitions handout to answer the questions below:

|  |
| --- |
| **Explain the differences between AA, AS, and AAS degrees.** |
|  |
| **What is the purpose of the ACCUPLACER test?** |
|  |
| **What is a direct transfer degree?** |
|  |
| **What term describes the practice of admitting all students who apply?** |
|  |
| **Explain how an unsubsidized loan differs from a subsidized loan.** |
|  |
| **In order for a transcript to be considered “official”, what must occur?** |
|  |
| **What document serves as a guide for admission, degrees, services, and course selections?** |
|  |
| **What individual components are added together to determine the cost of attendance?** |
| **When you receive your financial aid package, what will be included?** |

TRANSITION SKILLS

LESSON 11-18 STUDENT HANDOUT

POSTSECONDARY DEFINITIONS

**Accreditation:** Recognition of a college or university by an outside agency indicating that the institution has been judged to meet established standards of quality

**ACT:** College entrance exam that tests proficiency in English, Math, Science, Reading, and Writing. The ACT is usually taken during junior year or fall of senior year.

**ACCUPLACER:** Placement exam used by many community colleges as part of the entrance process.

**AP (Advanced Placement):** Advanced courses taken in high school using a national curriculum. AP courses end with a nationally-administered exam that is scored from 1 (low) to 5 (high). Students with high scores (typically 4 or 5) on AP exams may be awarded college credit by their college.

**Associate Degree:** A college degree that is typically earned in two years and typically requires a minimum of 90 credits. There are two types: Associate in Arts (AA) or Associate in Sciences (AS). They are often referred to as the “Transfer Degree” as they allow students to complete a program of study similar to the first two years of a four-year college.

**Associate in Applied Sciences (AAS):** College degree awarded upon completion of a technical program. Generally not all of the 90 credits will transfer to a four-year college.

**Bachelor Degree (Baccalaureate):** College degree granted after completing a course of study normally requiring four or five years. A student may earn a BA (Bachelor of Arts) or BS (Bachelor of Science) Degree.

**College:** Institution that only offers associate and bachelor degrees or a subdivision of a university that offers both bachelor and advanced degrees.

**College Catalog:** Book or online listing published by a postsecondary institution describing requirements for admission, degrees, services, and course offerings.

**Common App (Common Application):** An online college application form that is used by more than 400 private colleges and universities.

**Community College:** Two-year postsecondary institution offering instruction adapted in content, level, and schedule to meet the needs of the community in which it is located. Offerings include transfer and occupational curriculum. Most community colleges use “Open Admission,” though most require a placement test before admission.

**Cost of Attendance:** Total amount needed for tuition, books and supplies, room and board (meals), transportation, and personal expenses at a postsecondary institution.**Degree:** Titles given to college graduates upon completion of the program. Two-year degree (Associate), four-year degree (Bachelor), as well as advanced degrees (Master or Doctoral).

**Direct Transfer:** A type of associate degree given in Washington State that enables students to transfer to a state university with all or most of the basic requirements completed.

**EFC (Expected Family Contribution):** The number resulting from financial information provided in the FAFSA application. The EFC typically indicates the minimum the student’s family will be expected to pay, based on financial need

**FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid):** Online application form used to determine a college student’s eligibility for financial aid.

**Financial Aid Package:** Amount and type of financial aid awards, along with any conditions attached to the award.

**Gift Aid:** Scholarships and grants that do not require repayment.

**Liberal Arts:** Course of study intended to expose a student to a broad sampling of academic studies. Reasoning, writing, and speaking skills are stressed.

**Lower Division Student:** Freshman or sophomore in college (usually defined as being under a certain number of credits).

**Major:** Subject area in which a student specializes.

**Open Admission:** Policy of admitting all applicants regardless of high school grades or admission test scores.

**Private College/Independent University:** A college that is not supported by public tax dollars.

**Profile (CSS Profile):** Online application form used by some private colleges to determine financial aid eligibility. It is typically used in addition to the FAFSA.

**Registrar:** Person who maintains the academic records. Your high school and each college has a registrar’s office.

**SAR (Student Aid Report):** Personalized report from the FAFSA regarding financial aid status.

**SAT:** College entrance exam that tests proficiency in math, critical reading, and writing.

**Self-Help Aid:** Financial aid that includes work and loans needing to be repaid.

**Subsidized Loans:** Loans that have interest paid by the government while the student is attending college. Repayment is deferred until after graduation.

**Transcript:** Chronological listing of all subjects taken and grades received (in either high school or college). High school transcripts are required to be submitted as part of the college admission process. Colleges only accept transcripts that are official. To be official, a transcript must bear the high school seal and be in a sealed envelope, or be submitted by the high school through a secure electronic portal.

**Tuition:** Amount of money charged by an institution for its instructional services.

**Undergraduate Student:** College student who has not yet received a bachelor degree.

**University:** Postsecondary institution composed of one or more bachelor programs together with graduate and professional programs.

**Unsubsidized Loans:** Loans that are obtained by a student or parents that are not subsidized by the federal government. Interest is charged from the time the loan is disbursed.

**Upper Division Courses:** Courses designed for the junior and senior years of college.

**View Book:** Short colorful booklets (printed or online) that colleges distribute to highlight their programs, services, and activities.