

Researching Postsecondary Options (11.1)

Goal: Students will use the Career Search Tool on CaliforniaColleges.edu in order to learn about the postsecondary options that align with their career goals.

Recommended Preparation for Students

The recommendation is for students to complete **11th Grade Module 1: Understanding Financial Aid** and **11th Grade Module 2: Finding Your College Costs** before starting this lesson. By learning more in-depth about financial aid before they build their college list, students will be more informed about college costs as they weigh all other factors to determine what college is a good fit for them.

11th Grade Module 1: Understanding Financial Aid

The module consists of two lessons: **How and When to Apply for Financial Aid** and **What It's Like to Apply for Financial Aid**. By completing the lessons students gain an understanding of:

- FAFSA versus CADAA.
- Application timelines and deadlines.
- Eligibility requirements for federal and state aid.
- How to apply for financial aid.
- Kinds of questions to expect and time it takes to complete.

11th Grade Module 2: Finding Your College Costs

The module consists of one lesson: **Net Price Calculators**. By completing the lesson, students gain an understanding of:

- How to compare colleges with an emphasis on Net Price.
- The true cost of going to college for one year.
- How the different kinds of financial aid help pay for college.

Lesson Time Options

This lesson requires one 45-60 minute class period and is recommended to be completed as preparation for 11.2.

Student Materials

- Chromebook/Laptop
- Internet Access
- Worksheet

In This Packet

This packet includes everything you need to complete the lesson.

- Educator Guide
- Student Worksheet

Standards

The literacy skills of Common Core can be broken down into sections – reading, writing, and speaking and listening (language skills are outside of the focus of CaliforniaColleges.edu). In the lesson, students will practice the following skills:

Common Core Skill	Practiced in this Lesson
Reading for Information	CCR-Reading 7
Narrative Writing	CCR-Writing 3, 7,9; Writing 2, 3, 4, 10

21st Century Skills

Students in today’s classrooms are learning not only academic skills and content, but how to be productive members of global communities. There are work habits, experiences, and skills that students need to develop to be ready for higher education and careers.

21 st Century Skill	Practiced in this Lesson
Critical Thinking	X
Digital Skills	X

Researching Postsecondary Options: Educator Guide

Goal: Students will use the Career Search Tool on CaliforniaColleges.edu in order to learn about the postsecondary options that align with their career goals.

Recommended Preparation

- Remind students to complete **11th Grade Module 1: Understanding Financial Aid** and **11th Grade Module 2: Finding Your College Costs** before doing this lesson.
- Review the **Student Worksheet**. The worksheet provides clear instructions for students to complete the lesson. Determine how you will use the worksheet.

Getting Started

- You may print the **Student Worksheet** for students or embed the link in the materials you share with students.

Guiding Question

- What postsecondary options are you considering? How does college fit into your plan?

Bell Work (5 minutes)

- Students will discuss the bell work questions with an elbow partner: What are your priorities after you graduate from high school? Do you know what type of certificate(s) or degree(s) you will need to meet your goals?
- Allow 2-3 timed minutes past the bell.

Activity (30 minutes)

1. Students will sign in to **CaliforniaColleges.edu**.
2. Students will begin by identifying a career, program, or major in which they are interested in order to guide their use of the **Career Search Tool**. Students will sort their preliminary results by **Education Level** in order to see their options. Consider engaging the class in a discussion about certificates, associate degrees, and bachelor's degrees. See **Degrees and Certificates** under **College on CaliforniaColleges.edu**.
3. Students will choose one career to learn more about, ♥ (favorite) the career, and then discuss the career factsheet with an elbow partner. Encourage teams to carefully review each section of the factsheet and make an honest determination about whether or not the career is a good match.
4. Students will then review the programs and majors needed for the career and find colleges to study at. Students are encouraged to use the **Degree Options** filter to narrow their results. Students ♥ (favorite) majors and then ♥ (favorite) 3-5 colleges.
5. Students will read the article **California Colleges Building Your College List** and discuss what they learned with an elbow partner.
6. Finally, students will categorize colleges on their list in their **My College Plan** as match, reach, or safety.

Reflection (5-10 minutes)

- Direct students to **My Journal** to respond to the prompt indicated in the student worksheet (*prompt #08: "What postsecondary option seems the best fit for you? Why? What are your concerns? What are you excited about? What remaining questions do you have?"*). You may also assign an alternative prompt.
- Optional: direct students to upload their completed worksheet to **My Documents**, found under **My Plan**.

Researching Postsecondary Options: Student Worksheet

Goal: You will use the Career Search Tool on CaliforniaColleges.edu in order to learn about the postsecondary options that align with your career goals.

Part I: Introduction – Bell Work

What are your priorities after you graduate from high school? Do you know what type of certificate(s) or degree(s) you will need to meet your goals? Discuss with an elbow partner.

Part II: Activity

1. Sign in to **CaliforniaColleges.edu** and hover on **Career**.
2. Then click on **Career Search Tool**. In the Search by Keyword box, type the name of a career you might want or the name of a major. Sort results by **Education Level**. What education level will you need for those careers? Select one career of interest by clicking on the career name.
3. Review all sections on the career factsheet. Favorite (♥) the career from the top of the page so it saves to your **My Plan**. With an elbow partner, discuss whether or not you think you have the skills, knowledge, and interest needed to perform the responsibilities of the career you selected.
4. As you review each career, go to the **Education Level** section and learn about the different programs and majors associated with the career. Click on **View Colleges** to find colleges where you might be able to study. From your college results list, you may narrow your results by selecting additional filters in the left column. Make sure to ♥ (favorite) colleges to save your favorites to your **My Plan**.
5. Continue researching until you have added 3-5 colleges to your **My Plan**. Next, navigate to the top of the page, click on the search icon, and use the keywords “college list” to access **California Colleges Building Your College List**. Read the article to learn about match, reach, and safety schools; discuss what you learned with an elbow partner. Consider: How realistic is your college list?
6. Hover on **My Plan** at the top of the page and click on **My College Plan**. Review your **College List** and categorize each of your colleges as match, reach, or safety by using the edit feature in the far right column. Finally, revisit your **Major List**. Does it still look accurate? You may hover on **College** at the top of the page and click on **Major Search Tool** to find and ♥ (favorite) more majors as needed.

Part III: Reflect

- Go to **My Plan** and then **My Journal**. In the **College Journal** section, find **prompt #08**:
“What postsecondary option seems the best fit for you? Why? What are your concerns? What are you excited about? What remaining questions do you have?”
- Respond to the above prompt. Follow your teacher’s instructions if they assign a different prompt.