

Solidifying the College List (12.1)

Goal

Students will finalize their college list in order to prepare for college applications.

Lesson Time Options

This lesson requires one 45-60 minute class period for students who already have realistic college lists. For all others, extended time is recommended. Counselors are encouraged to lead this lesson.

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 1, 4
Argument Writing	CCR-Writing 2, 7, 9; Writing 3, 7, 9

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
Determining Eligibility	X

Solidifying the College List: Educator Guide

Goal

Students will finalize their college list in order to prepare for college applications.

Recommended Preparation

- Review the **Student Worksheet**. The worksheet provides clear instructions for students to complete the lesson. Determine how you will use the worksheet.
- This particular lesson requires students to navigate **CaliforniaColleges.edu** with confidence – the length of time needed to complete the lesson is based on where students are in the development of their college list. Counselors and teachers will benefit from a closer than normal review of the student worksheet.
- Consider blocking off more time to thoughtfully complete this lesson with students.

Getting Started

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

Guiding Question

Is your college list realistic?

Bell Work (5 minutes)

- Students will answer the bell work question: Pretend you are explaining to a sophomore how to apply to college. Based on your prior knowledge, go through the steps involved.
- Allow 2-3 timed minutes past the bell.
- Ask students to tell you one step involved with applying to college. Allow 2-3 minutes of call-out answers, then instruct students to look at the worksheet. Given what students just heard they should try to articulate an answer, including any steps they did not hear but suspect might be involved. Encourage students to include as many details as possible.

Introduction (10+ minutes)

- Students in a CCGI partner district will review their **CSU Eligibility** and **UC Eligibility** tabs. Those not in partner districts are encouraged to talk with their counselor to determine their eligibility.
- Students will read articles about eligibility and discuss with an elbow partner.

Activity (35+ minutes)

- Based on the information available to them, students will conduct a self-analysis of their academic readiness for the three public institutions in California.
- Students will read an article titled **California Colleges Building Your College List** on **CaliforniaColleges.edu** and discuss with an elbow partner. Consider a large group share-out.
- Students will review their existing **College List** in **My College Plan** and narrow or expand their list (those without college lists must conduct a college search to add colleges).
- Students will add information for each college in their **College List** in **My College Plan** and then review and update the **College Applications** tab. Depending on time, you may assign the final parts of this activity as homework.

Reflection (10 minutes)

- Direct students to **My Journal** to respond to the prompt indicated in the student worksheet (*prompt #03: "How will you manage all of the different components of college applications? Name at least 3 consequences of not planning ahead and leaving everything for the last minute."*). You may also assign an alternative prompt.
- Optional: direct students to upload their completed worksheet to **My Documents**, found under **My Plan**.

Solidifying the College List: Student Worksheet

Goal

You will finalize your college list in order to prepare for college applications.

Part I: Bell Work

Pretend you are explaining to a sophomore how to apply to college. Based on your prior knowledge, write the steps involved below. If you need guidance, go to **CaliforniaColleges.edu** and type “college checklist” in the search box. Read the article called **California Colleges College Application Checklist**.

Part II: Introduction

- Sign in to **CaliforniaColleges.edu**, hover on **My Plan**, and then click on **Academic Planner**. If you go to school in a CCGI partner district, review the **CSU Eligibility** and **UC Eligibility** tabs to assess your academic readiness to apply to California State University (CSU) and/or University of California (UC). If you do not go to school in a CCGI partner district, work with your counselor to determine your eligibility.
- Learn more about CSU and UC eligibility requirements by typing “eligibility requirements” in the search box at the top of the page and reading the relevant articles. Discuss with an elbow partner.

Part III: Activity

1. Based on the information available to you, do a quick self-analysis for each public institution of higher education in California. If you are not sure how to respond to any of the questions, refer back to the articles you just read or ask your counselor.

California Community College (CCC)	
Will you be 18 by the time you plan to attend college?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are you on track to graduate high school or earn your GED?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If you answered “yes” to one of the questions above, you may consider a CCC. Earning a high school diploma or GED helps with your ability to receive financial aid at a CCC. Once at a CCC, you can consider transfer opportunities to a CSU, UC, or private, not-for-profit or independent college.	

California State University (CSU)	
Do you meet the minimum GPA requirement?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are you on track to successfully complete the required “a-g” course sequence?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If you answered “yes” to <i>both</i> questions above, you may consider a CSU. If you answered “no” to one or more of the questions above, talk with your counselor about other pathways to a CSU.	

University of California (UC)	
Do you meet the minimum GPA requirement?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are you on track to successfully complete the required “a-g” course sequence?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If you answered “yes” to <i>both</i> questions above, you may consider a UC. If you answered “no” to one or more of the questions above, talk with your counselor about other pathways to a UC.	

2. If you have previously added colleges (via a ♥) to **My College Plan**, skip to #3. If you have not previously added colleges to **My College Plan**, hover on **College** at the top of the page and then click on **College Search Tool**.
 - Use the tool to find colleges you plan to apply to.
 - Either from a results list or from within a college factsheet ♥ (favorite) colleges. This will add them to **My College Plan**.
3. Narrow or expand your list to no more than ten colleges (unless your counselor guides you otherwise). To begin, type “college list” in the search box in the top-right side of the page. Find the article titled **California Colleges Building Your College List**. Discuss your thoughts with an elbow partner.
4. Hover on **My Plan** at the top of the page and then click on **My College Plan**. To decide which colleges to keep, click on the name of a college and review the college factsheet. Review each tab carefully and decide if you think the college should stay on your list. Consider your academic progress, interests, location and size preferences, etc. After reviewing each college, return to your **College List** in **My College Plan** and either delete or add information to all fields.
 - To delete a college, click on the ♥ and follow the instructions.
 - To add information to the additional fields for a college, click on the 🗑️ and add the appropriate information for each column, including a match, reach, or safety designation.
5. Repeat #4 for all colleges in your **College List**. Use the **College Search Tool** to add any new colleges.
6. Once you have your college list, go back to **My College Plan** and click on the **College Applications** tab. Either enter the appropriate information for each college now or follow the directions of your counselor or teacher for when to complete.

Part III: Reflect

- Go to **My Plan** and then **My Journal**. In the **College Journal** section, find **prompt #03**:
“How will you manage all of the different components of college applications? Name at least 3 consequences of not planning ahead and leaving everything for the last minute.”
- Respond to the above prompt. Follow your teacher’s instructions if they assign a different prompt.