

Planning for California Community College Bound Students (12.3)

Goal

Students will reflect on their career aspirations and explore California Community Colleges and Associate Degrees for Transfer in order to apply to the California Community College that best aligns with their goals.

Recommended Preparation for Students

The recommendation is for students to complete **Module 2: Launch and Submit the FAFSA or CADAA** before this lesson. It helps students:

- Launch their FAFSA/CADAA so they can keep track of their status. They'll be taken to the FAFSA or CADAA website to complete the application.
- Get guidance on how to complete their application.
- Get in contact with a financial aid expert.

Lesson Time Options

This lesson requires at least two hours (likely more) to complete from start to finish. The extended time ensures students submit their FAFSA/CADAA (if they have not done so already), add community colleges to their FAFSA/CADAA, gain the most comprehensive knowledge, and complete the steps to submit a California Community College application.

Students learn about applying for financial aid. Students who need to submit their application are encouraged to complete **Module 2: Launch and Submit the FAFSA or CADAA**.

Student Materials

- Chromebook/Laptop
- Internet Access
- Worksheet

In This Packet

This packet includes everything you need to complete the lesson.

- Educator Guide
- Student Worksheet

Planning for California Community College Bound Students: Educator Guide

Goal

Students will reflect on their career aspirations and explore California Community Colleges and Associate Degrees for Transfer in order to apply to the California Community College that best aligns with their goals.

Recommended Preparation

- Remind students to complete **Module 2: Launch and Submit the FAFSA or CADAA** before doing this lesson. Students will find this module by signing into **CaliforniaColleges.edu**, hovering over **My Plan**, clicking on **Lessons**, and selecting the **Financial Aid** tab.
- **Review the Student Worksheet.** The worksheet guides students through a series of steps to learn, research, and reflect on planning for a California Community College. It requires students to take the time to thoughtfully and thoroughly navigate **CaliforniaColleges.edu** and then solidify their understanding.

Getting Started

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

Guiding Question

- How can we prepare California Community College bound students for success in the research, application and enrollment processes?

Bell Work (10 minutes)

- Students respond to reflection questions: What are your career aspirations? How can attending a California Community College help you meet your goals? Do you intend to get a certificate, an associate degree, and/or transfer to a four-year institution in order to complete a bachelor's degree? Why? Do you know which California Community College offers you the best option based on what you hope to study and the certificate or degree you are hoping to pursue?
- Students will write their responses in the space provided on their worksheets; you may also elect to have students discuss their responses.

Part II: Associate Degree for Transfer (15 minutes)

Students will conduct research on **CaliforniaColleges.edu** to learn about the associate degree for transfer (ADT) options. Students will solidify their understanding by completing a chart to define key words. The correct definitions for the key can be found within content pages (noted on the student worksheet) on **CaliforniaColleges.edu**. Consider the following recommendations for this activity:

- Students complete the chart entirely on their own or in pairs followed by a class discussion to assess comprehension.
- Students complete the chart independently and then share responses with a partner to compare and contrast understanding of terms.

- If you have a former student who is in the process of or has completed an ADT, meet with him or her ahead of time to gain insight and tips to share with the class. You may also consider seeing if the student is willing to be available as a resource to your current students.

Part III: Finding the Right College Search (15 minutes)

Students will find and favorite (♥) careers as the starting point to find California Community Colleges that offer programs to match their career aspirations. Once they find California Community Colleges that meet their needs, they will favorite (♥) colleges that are located in areas they may be able to live. Consider the following recommendations for this activity:

- This activity is best done independently; however, educators are encouraged to scan the room and help individual students as needed.
- The approach in this activity is for students to consider career aspirations as the primary factor ahead of location. In some cases, students may only have one California Community College option; however, others may have multiple campuses to select from. When students have options, encourage them to select the campus that offers programs to meet their career goals.
- Many times students do not think of college research as part of the process of selecting a community college; however, this activity encourages students to conduct a robust search so they know their options.

Part IV: CCCApply (30 minutes)

- Students complete **CCCApply** by initiating the application from within their account on **CaliforniaColleges.edu**. The approximate time needed is based on the submission of a single application.

Part V: Paying for Community College (20-50 minutes)

Students are reminded to submit their financial aid application. Students who have not submitted a FAFSA/CADAA are instructed to complete **Module 2: Launch and Submit the FAFSA or CADAA**. Then, students will read content specifically for California Community College bound students that focuses on Cal Grant, the California College Promise Grant (formerly known as the BOG fee waiver), and Student Success Completion Grant.

Part VI: Priority Registration (20 minutes)

Students are introduced to priority registration. As you may know, California Community Colleges offer priority registration, which allows students to register for courses early so that they can get into those courses before they fill up. It is an important process for students to fully understand so they can take advantage of its benefits. The correct answers to the questions for students can be found within content pages (noted on the student worksheet) on **CaliforniaColleges.edu**. Consider the following recommendation for this activity: After students independently answer the questions, lead a large group report back to ensure that all students hear the correct answers.

Reflection (10 minutes)

- Direct students to **My Journal** to respond to the prompt identified in the student worksheet (*prompt #12: "When you enroll at a California Community College, you will have a lot of choices; however, you will be required to have an educational plan completed and on file by the time you complete 15 units. Your plan will include foundational English and Mathematics courses and other courses of your choice. Does the college you are interested in have clear pathways or sets of courses that will help you to achieve your goal? If there isn't a clear pathway, what counseling resources can you take advantage of at the college to help you define a plan?"*). You may also assign an alternative prompt.
- Optional: direct students to upload their completed worksheet to **My Documents**, found under **My Documents**.

Planning for California Community College Bound Students: Student Worksheet

Goal

You will reflect on your career aspirations and explore California Community Colleges and Associate Degrees for Transfer in order to apply to the California Community College that best aligns with your goals.

Part I: Bell Work

What are your career aspirations? How can attending a California Community College help you meet your goals? Respond below.

Do you intend to get a certificate, an associate degree, and/or transfer to a four-year institution in order to complete a bachelor's degree? Explain below.

Do you know which California Community College offers you the best option based on what you hope to study and the certificate or degree you are hoping to pursue? Check your response: Yes No

If yes, which one? _____

Part II: Associate Degree for Transfer

Sign in to **CaliforniaColleges.edu**. Type "ADT" in the search box on the top right side of the page and find the article titled **California Colleges Associate Degree for Transfer**. Read the article and complete the table below.

Question	Your Response
What is ADT?	
How can an ADT help you?	
What can you do now to pursue an ADT?	

Part III: Finding the Right College

You likely have several options for a California Community College that can help you to reach your career goals. Find the college(s) with the best program for you.

1. Hover on **Career** and click on **Career Search Tool**. Using **Search by Keyword**, type the name of the career you are interested in pursuing and click **Search**.
2. Review the results list and favorite (♥) careers that interest you. Click on the name of one of those careers.
3. Navigate to the **Education** section of the factsheet. Write down the names of the **programs** and **majors** that stand out to you.
4. Highlight two programs/majors above that you think might be a good match. When you find one you think might be a match, click on **View Colleges** next to the name of the program/major. Be sure to (♥) the names of the colleges; write the names of colleges below:
5. Repeat steps #3-4 as needed to explore different programs and majors of interest.
6. You are now in the **College Search Tool**. Select "**California Only**" under the **Location** filter, then click on **California Community College** in the **California College Type** filter. Click **Search**. If your search does not yield any results, it is likely because the program/major is not offered at a California Community College. Conduct another search as needed.
7. The colleges listed have the program or major(s) that you have indicated you are interested in pursuing. Favorite (♥) colleges that are located in areas that make sense for you and write them below. For example, you can favorite colleges near your current home. If you have family you can live with near another college, you may choose to favorite that college, too. Conduct more thorough research on all the colleges that you favorite (♥) by clicking on the name of the college(s). Review the factsheets, visit the college's website, and consider emailing or calling the college to learn more. Finally, you will need to determine which college is the best fit for your needs, so that you can submit your application.

Part IV: CCCApply

Now that you have favorited (♥) one or more California Community Colleges, it is time to submit your application! You will start your application(s) on **CaliforniaColleges.edu**.

Follow these steps to start your application:

- Log in to **CaliforniaColleges.edu**.
- Hover or click on **College**.
- Under the **Apply to College** section click on **California Community Colleges Application**.
- Type the name of the college or select it from the dropdown list.
- Click on the blue **Launch** button.

The date and time of the application submission will be recorded in the **College Applications** section of **My Plan**.

Tips:

- Talk with your counselor, family, and mentors about your options. Consider not just your immediate plans after high school but also opportunities to build upon an initial certificate program or transfer to a four-year institution.
- Submit your CCCApply application(s) early so you can become eligible for priority registration.

Part V: Paying for Community College

Each California Community College has a slightly different process for financial aid. Complete the FAFSA or the CADAA. Talk to your counselor about application deadlines for these programs.

What if I have not submitted my FAFSA/CADAA?

Complete **Module 2: Launch and Submit the FAFSA or CADAA**. Open the first lesson. It helps you:

- Launch your FAFSA/CADAA so you can keep track of your status. You'll be taken to the FAFSA or CADAA website to complete your application.
- Get guidance on how to complete your application.
- Get in contact with a financial aid expert.

The FAFSA and CADAA open the door to free money worth thousands of dollars — sometimes tens of thousands. Submit your FAFSA/CADAA by **March 2** because you don't want to miss out on the Cal Grant money! The Cal Grant is a state grant that helps cover your college tuition and fees.

What if I already submitted my FAFSA/CADAA?

Note: Make sure you add your community colleges to your FAFSA/CADAA.

After submitting your FAFSA/CADAA, you'll get a report. From **My Plan**, select **Lessons** and then navigate to **Financial Aid** in order to complete **Module 3: Review Your FAFSA or CADAA and Cal Grant GPA**. This module shows you how to review your report and make corrections if something is missing.

Follow these steps to conduct research on important terms and processes for you to become familiar with to ensure you can pay for a California Community College. Record your notes in the chart below.

1. At the top of the page, hover over **Financial Aid** and look under **Your Financial Aid Eligibility for Financial Aid for Community College Students**. Read the entire page carefully.
2. Hover over **Financial Aid** and look under **Other Applications for Cal Grant**. Read the entire page carefully.
3. Hover over **Financial Aid** and look under **Other Applications for California College Promise Grant**. Read the entire page carefully.
4. Go to the top of the page and click on the search icon. Type "student success" in the search bar and select **California Colleges Student Success Completion Grant**. Read the entire page carefully.

Term	Notes and Next Steps
California College Promise Grant (formerly known as the BOG Fee Waiver)	
Cal Grant A	
Cal Grant B	

Cal Grant C	
CCCSE Osher Scholarship	
Student Success Completion Grant	
Pell Grant	
General Notes	

Part VI: Priority Registration

California Community Colleges offer priority registration, which allows students to register for courses early so that they can get into those courses before they fill up. It is important for you to understand priority registration so you can take advantage of its benefits.

Each college may have different requirements and processes related to priority registration. Therefore, after you conduct your general research, it is critical that you contact the college you plan to attend to learn about that college's specific requirements.

1. Go to the top of the page and click on the search icon; type **community college** in the search box. Find the article called **California Colleges Benefits of California Community Colleges**.
2. Read the entire page carefully. Pay particular attention to **Priority Registration**, linked at the bottom of the page under "**After you apply**." Take notes below.

3. Finally, complete the chart below based on what you have just learned about priority registration.

Question	Your Response
What is priority registration?	
How can priority registration help you?	
What steps must you take to be eligible for priority registration?	

Part VII: Reflect

- Go to **My Plan** and then **My Journal**. In the **College Journal** section, find **prompt #12**:
“When you enroll at a California Community College, you will have a lot of choices; however, you will be required to have an educational plan completed and on file by the time you complete 15 units. Your plan will include foundational English and Mathematics courses and other courses of your choice. Does the college you are interested in have clear pathways or sets of courses that will help you to achieve your goal? If there isn’t a clear pathway, what counseling resources can you take advantage of at the college to help you define a plan?”
- Respond to the above prompt. Follow your teacher’s instructions if they assign a different prompt.