

Planning for 4-Year Bound Students (12.4)

Goal

Students will reflect on the college application process, define key terms, and review important post-application tasks in order to prepare for the next steps in their college plans.

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 60 minutes; to be most effective, allot more time for this lesson.

Student Materials

- Chromebook/Laptop
- Internet Access
- Worksheet
- College materials (emails, mail, etc.)

In This Packet

This packet includes everything you need to complete the lesson.

- Educator Guide
- Student Worksheet

Planning for 4-Year Bound Students: Educator Guide

Goal

Students will reflect on the college application process, define key terms, and review important post-application tasks in order to prepare for the next steps in their college plans.

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.
- If possible, students should have all emails and mail received from their college of choice. If they are still unsure of where they are going, students should bring documentation for the institutions they are still considering.
- 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 knowledge can we give our students to ease their transition to college?

Bell Work (5 minutes)

- Students will answer the bell work question: You have successfully applied to college. Congratulations! How are you feeling about waiting to hear back on admissions decisions?
- Allow 2-3 timed minutes past the bell.
- You may elect to have students discuss their responses either with an elbow partner or with the whole class.

Activity (45+ minutes)

The activity is broken up into three sections.

1. The Waiting Game

- Students will review **The Waiting Game** page on **CaliforniaColleges.edu** to become familiar with the next steps they need to take after applying to college.

2. Completing Key Tasks

- Students will use the **Task List** on **CaliforniaColleges.edu** to ensure they are on track to meet key deadlines. Students will begin by reviewing the default tasks in **My Tasks**.
- Students will review the emails and mail they have received from their college and enter additional tasks as needed.
- 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**.

3. Match Those Terms

- Students will use the **Vocabulary List** on **CaliforniaColleges.edu** to become familiar with key terms that will help them seamlessly navigate the transition to college.

Reflection (5-10 minutes)

- Direct students to **My Journal** to respond to the prompt indicated in the student worksheet (*prompt #10: "What questions do you still have about the logistics of transitioning to college? Who can you talk with to gain clarity? Figure out what your next steps are, including who you should talk to, and create a plan to gather the remaining information you need."*). You may also assign an alternative prompt.
- Optional: direct students to upload their completed worksheet to **My Documents**, found under **My Plan**.

Planning for 4-Year Bound Students: Student Worksheet

Goal

You will reflect on the college application process, define key terms, and review important post-application tasks in order to prepare for the next steps in your college plan.

Part I: Bell Work

You have successfully applied to college. Congratulations! How are you feeling about waiting to hear back on admissions decisions? Respond below.


Part II: The Waiting Game

There's a period between applying and going to college — it's called the waiting game. However, there is still some work to do after submitting your college applications; for example, it's important to check your emails and create your college portals because that's how colleges will let you know if they need more paperwork from you to make an admissions decision.

- Go to **CaliforniaColleges.edu** and sign in.
- At the top of the page, hover over **College** and look under **After You Apply for The Waiting Game**. This will take you to a page about keeping track of the admission process.
- Review this page and take notes below. If you have questions, ask your counselor.

Part III: Completing Key Tasks

You may have already received emails or mail from your college requesting that you take specific action steps. Once you are admitted to colleges, they may ask you to take a placement exam or begin to plan for housing. If possible, gather all the emails and mail you have received from your college and have those resources handy to complete this activity.

1. From within your account on **CaliforniaColleges.edu**, click on the **My Tasks** icon  in the upper right-hand corner of your homepage.
2. Click on **Current Tasks**.
3. Go through each item; for those tasks that you have completed and that apply to you, check the box in the **Mark When Completed** column.
4. Review the emails and mail you have received from your college and enter additional tasks that are specific to you by clicking on **Add Task**.
5. For those tasks that you need to complete at a later time, set a reminder to sign back in to **CaliforniaColleges.edu** to review your incomplete tasks. For example, there are two tasks for final transcripts:
 - Confirm with your high school the process to request final transcripts (in May).
 - Send the final transcript to your college (in June).

Financial Aid Application

Applying for aid is free and safe for you and your family. You can receive grants and scholarships to help pay for tuition and other college costs. It's important to remember that you will only get financial aid if you apply for it.

What if I have not submitted my FAFSA/CADAA?

Complete **Module 2: Launch and Submit the FAFSA or CADAA**. To find this module, sign in to **CaliforniaColleges.edu**, hover over **My Plan**, click on **Lessons**, and select the **Financial Aid** tab. 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.
- Seek 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?

After submitting your FAFSA/CADAA, you'll get a report. 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.

Part IV: Match Those Terms

As you transition to college and when you get to college, you will hear a lot of new terms that are important to understand clearly.

- Click on **College** at the top of the page and then navigate to **Vocabulary** (under **Important Links** on the right side of your screen).
- Search for each of the words in the chart below and summarize their definitions in your own words.

TERM	DEFINITION
College Costs	
Degree	
Disbursement	
Intent to Register (also called Intent to Enroll or Statement of Intent to Register or SIR)	
On-campus Housing (also called campus housing or dorms)	
Orientation	
Registration	
Residency	
Room and Board	

Syllabus	
Textbooks (also known as Books or Texts) and Supplies	
Transcript	
Tuition	
Waitlist	

Part V: Reflect

- Go to **My Plan** and then **My Journal**. In the **College Journal** section, find **prompt #10**:
“What questions do you still have about the logistics of transitioning to college? Who can you talk with to gain clarity? Figure out what your next steps are, including who you should talk to, and create a plan to gather the remaining information you need.”
- Respond to the above prompt. Follow your teacher’s instructions if they assign a different prompt.