

PROJECT: EDUCATION AND INCOME

The questions are the same for everyone as they approach high school graduation:

- "What are you going to do when you get out of high school?"
- "Are you going to college when you get out of high school?"

Most high school students have given both of these questions some thought. When it comes to college, you may have said or heard:

- "I don't know what I'm going to do."
- "Go to college? Not me; it's too hard!"
- "I can't go to college; it costs too much, and my parents can't help."
- "I'm tired of school!"
- "I'm just gonna work someplace."

The real question you should be answering is, "How can I afford *not* to go to college?" Sure, higher education is very costly. Even undertaking two-year programs that specialize in a particular trade or profession is expensive. However, the benefits of higher education cannot simply be measured in monetary costs.

Planning Ahead

So, have you started to think about going to college, or applying? Now would be a good time to start thinking about these goals for yourself. You may be interested in attending a local community college or university, or even a college out of your state. Either way, there are quite a few requirements for college entrance, and the paperwork can seem daunting. You will want to begin investigating your choice colleges now, so that you can begin to plan and prepare for your college experience.

Identify three colleges that you are interested in attending, and fill out the attached form as you navigate the Web sites. You will most likely go to the "Admissions" icon on the home page. That information will explain to you what it takes for you to be admitted into that college. It may also ask you if you live in-state or out-of-state; this will help you determine the cost of tuition.

Considering the Cost

The cost of college is continually increasing. You will want to think seriously about taking out any loans, because you'll have to pay that money back, with interest. While you are considering the cost of college, you will want to fill out a FAFSA. A FAFSA is the Federal Application for Student Aid. You can complete this application online, although you will need to have a parent or guardian help you, as some tax information will be required. Essentially, because you are a minor, the government will look to your parent or guardian's income to determine your eligibility for financial aid. Officials will

also take other factors into consideration, so it is important that you fill out a FAFSA. By completing your FAFSA, you are not obligated to take any financial aid or assistance, but it is helpful to know what you are qualified for.

Also, considering the cost of college, you can apply for scholarships. There are millions of scholarships available for students; you just have to do the work to apply. Some scholarships provide \$500 to \$10,000 in awards! A great place to find a lot of scholarship opportunities is online. If you simply create an account, the site will send you notifications of what scholarships are available for you to apply for; they do all the work, and the information comes straight to you!

How do you think you will be able to pay for college? Have you considered this, yet? Do not be discouraged by the cost; with some footwork on your part you will be surprised at how much money is out there to be obtained for college students' fees.

Designing a Road Map

By now, you may be a bit overwhelmed at the process and cost of attending college, but, it is a worthwhile goal! More often than not, long-term goals are best achieved by setting short-term goals. Consider what small steps you could take in the next week to begin your college-application process. Then, think about what goal you will need to achieve by next month, and, then, by the end of this semester. By chipping away at the larger goal, you will be amazed at what you can accomplish.

Directions

Fill out the attached worksheets and turn it in to your instructor.

College Investigation Search

Name of 1st College: _____

Location: _____

Cost of in-state tuition: _____/semester

If attending in-state would you live at home or on-campus? _____

Cost of on-campus housing: _____

Cost of out-of-state tuition: _____/semester

Academic Requirements: _____

Do they require the SAT? _____

If so what scores are required? _____

Do they require the ACT? _____

If so what scores are required? _____

What is your area of interest for study? _____

What is the name of the degree you would get if you graduate in this area of study?

Do they offer financial aid? _____

Deadline for application submission? _____

Do they have work-study programs? _____

If so, what are the eligibility requirements? _____

Name of 2nd College: _____

Location: _____

Cost of in-state tuition: _____/semester

If attending in-state would you live at home or on-campus? _____

Cost of on-campus housing: _____

Cost of out-of-state tuition: _____/semester

Academic Requirements: _____

Do they require the SAT? _____

If so what scores are required? _____

Do they require the ACT? _____

If so what scores are required? _____

What is your area of interest for study? _____

What is the name of the degree you would get if you graduate in this area of study?

Do they offer financial aid? _____

Deadline for application submission? _____

Do they have work-study programs? _____

If so, what are the eligibility requirements? _____

Name of 3rd College: _____

Location: _____

Cost of in-state tuition: _____/semester

If attending in-state would you live at home or on-campus? _____

Cost of on-campus housing: _____

Cost of out-of-state tuition: _____/semester

Academic Requirements: _____

Do they require the SAT? _____

If so what scores are required? _____

Do they require the ACT? _____

If so what scores are required? _____

What is your area of interest for study? _____

What is the name of the degree you would get if you graduate in this area of study?

Do they offer financial aid? _____

Deadline for application submission? _____

Do they have work-study programs? _____

If so, what are the eligibility requirements? _____

Roadmap to College

Identify the Long term Goal: _____

Considering the information that you gathered in your college search identify 3 short term goals you can achieve this month:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Now, who can help you achieve those goals?

Next, consider 3 things that you can complete by the end of this semester in order to achieve your Long Term Goal (eg. Take the SAT in April):

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Now, consider the cost of college. What information do you need to begin to gather to consider the cost of college?

List that here: