



Part 1, Module 2: Understanding the Costs of College

Lesson Overview:

Module 2 in Part 1 of this course offers many opportunities for students to research the costs of college while working through the module. The in-class activity designed for this module relates to a key contributor to the cost of college, which is graduating as close to “on-time” as possible. This activity will ask students to start evaluating their future career plans and the education required to help them achieve that.

As a result of this lesson, students will:

- Gain an understanding of the importance of planning ahead and selecting the right academic major/field of interest for them.
- Evaluate what their interests are and possible career fields they may go into upon graduation
- Have an opportunity to speak with a graduate about the process they went through to select their career path.

Preparation to teach this lesson:

Evaluate the decisions you made in selecting your career. Think back to when you were in high school or college and the steps you took to gain employment or set up internships. Reflect on any changes you experienced during this time and how your career path was affected.

Materials you will need to teach this lesson include:

- Discussion Question Worksheets printed for each student in the class

Students will need:

- A pen or pencil

Instructions:

Instructor: Share your story about how you decided what career field you wanted to go into, and what the education requirements were for you. Discuss the lessons you learned throughout this process as you were deciding upon a future career. Did you change majors? Did it set you back? What tips would you give students pursuing higher education?

Students: break up into small groups based on future career plans.

Instructor: Use the following guidelines to group students together. Adapt groups as needed.

- Medical/Health Sciences: Nursing, CAN/CMA, etc.
- Social Sciences: Psychology, Sociology, Gerontology, etc.
- Math/Science: Engineering, Physics, Chemistry, etc.
- Education: Early Childcare, Paraeducators, etc.



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- Business: Accounting, Administration, Marketing, etc.
- Communications: Public Relations, HR, Journalism, Broadcasting, etc.
- Political Science: History, Law, etc.
- Technology: Computer Science, Technical Training, etc.
- Event Preparation/Planning: Culinary School, Wedding Planner, Hotel Management, etc.
- Arts: Music, Dance, Theatre, Graphic Design, etc.
- Physical Education: Personal Training, Sports Management, etc.

Once students are in groups based on their future career paths, ask them to complete the Discussion Questions Worksheet individually. Let the students know that they will have about 10 minutes to complete it. Once students have completed number 1 and 2 on the worksheet, have them share with one another their answers. Encourage students to give each other feedback and check in on the groups to see if they need additional guidance. Have students take notes on feedback they receive from their peers on number 3 on the worksheet.

Variations on this lesson:

An optional homework assignment could be to have students research 3 jobs of interest to them. Students would be required to submit average salaries for each, as well as the education and degrees required to for each position.



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Discussion Questions:

1. List 5 things that you are good at. If you have trouble thinking of 5 things, ask friends for help in coming up with your list. Include things like your favorite school subject, extracurricular activities, hobbies, etc.
2. Based on what things you think you are good at, brainstorm some future possible careers that would be a good match for your skills. List 5 possible careers below.
3. After discussing possible future careers of interest with your classmates, what feedback did you get? Did you learn anything about yourself?