

Planning My Future: Choosing a College

1. Question & Research Task

Are there certain classes in school that you like more than others?

Are there certain types of learning activities that you really enjoy ... or NOT?

Everyone learns differently! How do YOU like to learn?
Take this [survey](#) to see what type of student you are.
Then take this [survey](#) to see what your learning style is!

Regardless of the career you decide to pursue after high school, you will need to continue to learn. Finding the right college is important, because you don't want to waste your time and money attending a college that won't prepare you for future career success!

In this Slam Dunk, you will conduct brief, focused research to respond to the inquiry question:

Which college can best meet my educational goals?

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How to Find a College That Fits You



What's the key to finding a college that fits?

Lloyd Thacker, Executive Director, The Education Conservancy

Hear advice on the kinds of questions you should be asking yourself.

[Video Transcript](#)

Image Source: College Board

Select the image to view a video with some tips for choosing a college.

2. Information Sources

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Use the information sources linked here to complete the Student Activity on Slide 3.

College Databases:

[Big Future](#) from College Board

[College Navigator](#) from National Center for Education Statistics

Each database provides links to specific college websites, which will allow you to dig deeper into what each school offers its students.

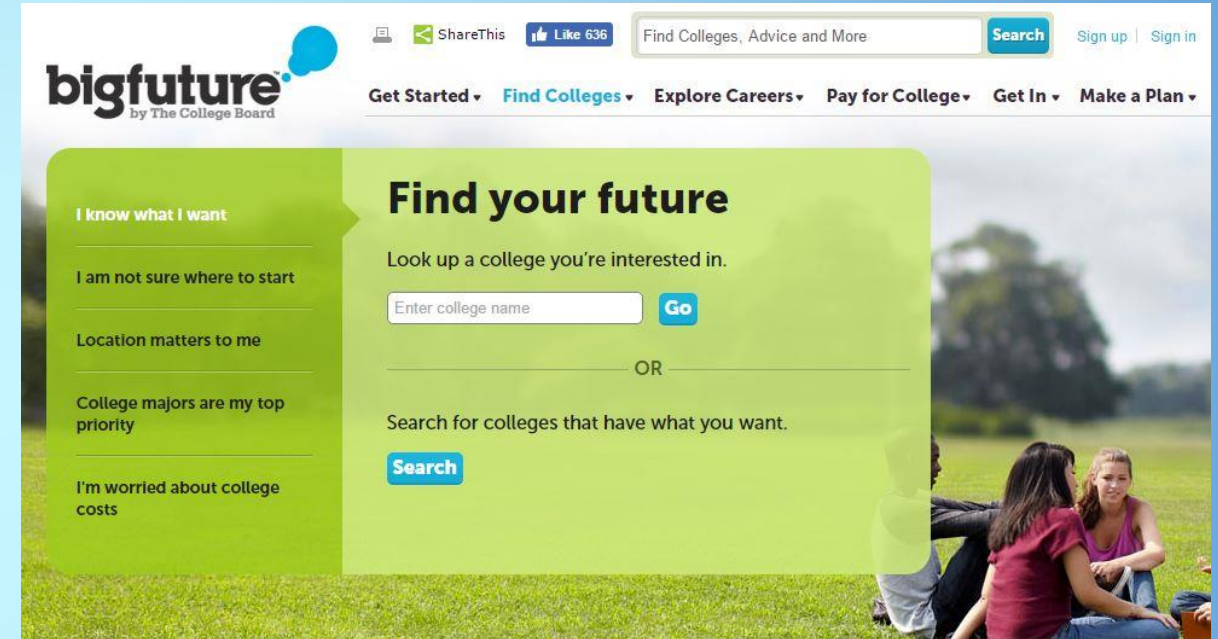


Image Source: Big Future

3. Student Activity

Use the information sources on Slide 2 to research different types of colleges.

Use this chart to help you research specific facts about each college. Keep in mind that you should choose colleges that reflect your goals as a student and your career interests.

Each of the college databases on Slide 2 provide links to official websites for the individual schools listed. For example, see the screenshots on the right for the University of Maryland.

University of Maryland-College Park
College Park, Maryland 20742

General information: (301) 405-1000
Website: www.umd.edu
Type: 4-year, Public
Awards offered: Two but less than 4 years certificate, Bachelor's degree, Postbaccalaureate certificate, Master's degree, Post-master's certificate, Doctor's degree - research/scholarship, Doctor's degree - professional practice

Campus setting: Suburb: Large
Campus housing: Yes
Student population: 37,610 (27,056 undergraduate)
Student-to-faculty ratio: 18 to 1

Expand All | Collapse All

GENERAL INFORMATION

Admissions www.admissions.umd.edu/
Apply Online www.admissions.umd.edu/apply/
Financial Aid www.financialaid.umd.edu/
Net Price Calculator npc.collegeboard.org/student/app/umd
Tuition Policies for Servicemembers and Veterans www.registrar.umd.edu/veteran-benefits.html
Athletic Graduation Rates fs.ncaa.org/Docs/newmedia/public/rates/index.html

Mission Statement www.provost.umd.edu/mission_statement.cfm

University of Maryland: College Park

College Park, MD

+ Add to My College List See if you're on track Compare colleges

At a Glance A large, 4-year, public university. This coed college is located in a large town in a suburban setting and is primarily a commuter campus. It offers certificate, bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees.

Deadlines

Majors & Learning Environment

Campus Life www.maryland.edu

4. Assessment Activity

Which college can best meet my educational goals?

Create a **multimedia presentation** to share your new knowledge with other students who are thinking about college choices. Include details from your chart.

Some presentation tools you could use:

- Discovery Ed Board Builder/Studio
- Wixie
- Google Docs
- Google Slides

Use the **success criteria** on this [rubric](#) to self-evaluate your presentation before sharing it with others.

5. Enrichment Activities

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Image Source: Wikimedia Commons

College costs a lot of money – can you work while you attend classes?

[Working while in college](#)

Are you an athlete? Do you want to play a sport in college?

[Playing Sports in College: Your Options](#)

You might be thinking of attending a college far from home. Who will be there to support you if you need help?

[Campus Services: There is Support When You Need it](#)

6. Teacher Resources

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Grade 6: Effective Learning Habits for College & Career Readiness

Objective: Students will conduct brief, focused research about a college of their choice in order to evaluate how that college can best fit their educational goals.

Time Frame: 2-3 90-minute class periods

Differentiation strategies for this lesson:

- Access BCPS Digital Content in the [Apps Portal](#).
- Refer to [Digital Content Snapshot/Support pages](#) as needed.
- Print out the chart on Slide 3 prior to instruction.

Notes to the teacher:

- Collaborate with your school library media specialist to plan and implement this lesson.
- Teachers may want to give students guidance on how to complete the chart. The “community college” section could be completed either as an example or together as a class.
- Consider [using the Schoology Assignment Apps feature](#) to assign Microsoft and Google documents and files for students to access, edit, and submit through Schoology.
- Students may access Discovery Board Builder through the navigation pane within their Schoology account. Consider modeling how to utilize all digital tools found in the lesson.

Learning Standards Alignment

Common Core State Standards

CCSS.ELA-W2:W2.a – Introduce a topic; organize ideas, concepts, and information, using strategies such as definition, classification, comparison/contrast, and cause/effect; including formatting, graphics, and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.

CCSS.ELA-RI2 – Determine a central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through details; providing a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.

CCSS Anchor Standards:

Reading: 1. Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

Writing: 7. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

AASL Standards for the 21st Century Learner

1.1.6 Read, view, and listen for information presented in any format (e.g., textual, visual, media, digital) in order to make inferences and gather meaning.

2.1.3 Use strategies to draw conclusions from information and apply knowledge to curricular areas, real-world situations, and further investigations.

Last updated: July 2023 Use this [form](#) to report broken links.

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