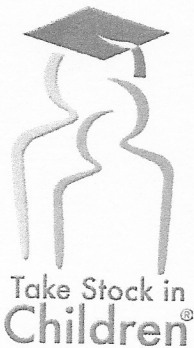


# MENTOR TOOLKIT



Take Stock in  
Children®



## Section 4

### COLLEGE READINESS

## activities 32-39

» Your student should begin to plan for college in high school. *Your goal as a mentor* will be to use the following activities to assist your student in monitoring their progress toward post-secondary enrollment. The activities are designed to help your student become familiar with the many aspects of the college transition process.

» **preparing for college,** Activities 32-37

This group of activities focuses on the college transition process, from becoming familiar with college terminology to admissions procedures to understanding the importance of a post-secondary education. These activities will be valuable to your student as they begin to compare and contrast college data when selecting a post-secondary institution.



**financial aid,** Activities 38-39

Understanding the different forms of funding for college can be daunting. The activities in this section provide information and websites that will inform your student about obtaining the various financial aid opportunities available.

## » Resource List:

The following websites may help you continue to explore college readiness with your student:

**<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/estimate>** Allows younger students to use FAFSA4Caster calculator to estimate what financial aid they're eligible for based on current family income.

**<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa>** Source for FAFSA preparation and filing

**[navigatingyourfinancialfuture.org](http://navigatingyourfinancialfuture.org)** Information about FAFSA completion assistance at locations across Florida

**[fastweb.com](http://fastweb.com)** Free scholarship search

**<https://knowhow2go.acenet.edu/>**

Offers numerous resources for college-bound high school students, including the 4 Steps to College and success stories of students who have achieved post-secondary goals.

**[floridashines.org](http://floridashines.org)** Self-directed college and career search





**Learning Objective:**

The student will gain an understanding of the importance of a post-secondary education.



**Materials Needed:**

Copy of "Why College?" activity sheet, pen/pencil, Internet access



**Instructions:**

Ask your student to complete the statement in the space provided below. Then review the benefits of attaining a post-secondary education with them.

I think a post-secondary education is important/not important because.....

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**Why College?**

**Money Talks**

College graduates earn more than those who do not attain a post-secondary education. Every bit of education you get after high school increases your income potential. Average mean annual earnings based on education levels are as follows:

High School Dropout	\$27,040
High School Diploma	\$37,024
Some College, No Diploma	\$40,248
Associate's Degree	\$43,472
Bachelor's Degree	\$60,996
Master's Degree	\$72,852
Doctoral Degree	\$90,636

This information can be viewed in graph form at

<https://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2018/data-on-display/education-pays.htm>

**Job Security**

The more education you get, the more likely it is you will always be employed. According to one estimate, by the year 2028, there will be 19 million more jobs for college educated workers than there will be qualified people to fill them. Visit [www.careeronestop.org](http://www.careeronestop.org) for in-depth salary comparison.

**Impress the Boss**

Continuing education after high school is much more important for your generation than it was for your parents' generation. Today, most good jobs require more than a high school diploma. Businesses want to hire people who know how to think and solve problems.

**New Experiences**

Education beyond high school provides you with many benefits, including meeting new people, taking part in different opportunities to explore your interests, and experiencing success.

Discuss with your student their various career choices and the education required for them.

*\*Adapted from KnowHow2Go.org*



**Learning Objective:**

The student will learn the value and meaning of the various post-secondary academic degrees.

**Materials Needed:**

Copy of "Know Your Degrees" activity sheet

**Instructions:**

It is important for your student to know the value and meaning of the various post-secondary academic degrees. The specific degree awarded may depend on the school and the area of study. Familiarize your student with the different degrees below.

*Doctoral Degree* - the highest college degree awarded. It takes approximately five years to complete and requires completing a course of study, original research, and a written publishable thesis.

*Master's Degree* - awarded for successfully completing a graduate curriculum at a four-year college or university. Admission normally requires holding a Bachelor's degree, although relevant work experience may be considered.

*Bachelor's Degree* - awarded for successfully completing an undergraduate curriculum at a four-year college or university. It requires completing 120 college credit hours, meeting the College Level Academic Skills Test (CLAST) or the alternative, and completing any other degree program requirements. Degrees include:

- » Bachelor of Arts (BA)
- » Bachelor of Science (BS)
- » Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS)
- » Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA)

*Associate's Degree* - awarded for successfully completing a course of study at a two-year college. It is designed to prepare students for progress toward a Bachelor's degree or entry into the workforce. They include:

- » Associate in Arts (AA)
- » Associate in Science (AS)
- » Associate in Applied Science (AAS)

*Certificate Programs* - not considered college-level degree programs. They relate to a specific employment area and usually take one year or less to complete. They include:

- » Career and Technical Certificate (CTC)
- » College Credit Certificate (CCC)



Keep in mind that the degrees listed above may not be offered at every college or university. Therefore, being familiar with the different degrees will influence your student's decision when selecting a college.



**Learning Objective:**

The student will become familiar with questions to ask an admissions counselor in order to make an informed decision in their college selection process.



**Materials Needed:**

Copy of "Ask the Admissions Counselor" activity sheet, pen/pencil



**Instructions:**

Admissions counselors have answers to the many questions a student may have about college. The questions below are common questions students ask. Allow them to call the admissions office at the institution of their choice and get answers for their questions.

**What your student should ask:**

**Answer:**

1. Are there any special requirements and deadlines for admissions?
2. What tests and what minimum scores does the school require?
3. Is there an admission interview?
4. How do I prepare for the interview?
5. How much does it cost to attend school for one year, including tuition, room and board, and books?
6. What types of financial assistance can I expect?
7. How selective is the school?
8. Where can I find information on the different scholarships available?
9. What is the ratio of faculty to students in most classes?
10. What is the ratio of men to women?
11. What sort of advisement and counseling may I expect?
12. Are most students entering directly from high school, junior college, or returning to complete their education?
13. What are the school's strongest majors and areas of specialization?
14. How many students attend the school?
15. What resources are available to students?
16. What extracurricular activities are available?



Your student may have a special interest or talent for which they need to prepare additional questions.



### Learning Objective:

The student will gain an understanding of the college application process.



### Materials Needed:

Copy of "Do's and Dont's for College Applications" activity sheet, blank college application, pen/pencil



### Instructions:

Review the "Do's and Dont's for College Applications" with your student. Help your student become familiarized with a college application using one from the college they wish to attend.

#### Do....

- » Read all directions carefully.
- » Apply online, if possible, so you are less likely to make careless errors.
- » Have someone read and proofread all parts of your application to avoid typos.
- » Use your essay as a chance to show admission officers your unique interests and qualities beyond academic skills.
- » Include anything that makes you stand out from the crowd, such as honors, awards, or special talents.
- » Review your high school transcript before you send it to colleges, making sure that it accurately reflects your courses, activities, awards, and grades.
- » Find out if the college accepts special materials, such as a sample of your artwork.
- » Make copies of everything you send.
- » Submit application and supporting documents prior to due date/deadline.
- » Keep track of when and where you send material (i.e. transcripts, application, essay)
- » Call colleges to see if your application is complete and they have received all of your documents.

#### Don't....

- » Procrastinate.
- » Lie or exaggerate with any information you provide.
- » Leave out important details. For example, if you play in the school band, include what instrument you play.
- » Submit a sloppy application.
- » Borrow ideas for your essays, whether from a friend or a website.
- » Go over the college's length limit for an essay. Admissions officers have limited time and many essays to review.
- » Forget to follow up once your application is sent. Write "thank you" letters to counselors, teachers, friends, or family who provided you with letters of recommendation.



To get additional tips and resources visit <http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org> and follow the "Get In" link to the "Applying 101" section.



**Learning Objective:**

The student will gain an understanding of the basic information required to complete a college application.



**Materials Needed:**

Copy of "College Application" activity sheet



**Instructions:** Applying to college can be an overwhelming process for students. Below is a list of what a college application generally includes. Review this with your student and help ease their concerns about the application process.

**What You Will Need to Apply:**

Students can apply to college in writing or online. Many college websites have easy-to-understand application instructions.

**Application Forms:**

A college application fee is approximately \$30. Some colleges charge up to \$60 and others do not have any application fees. This fee is usually non-refundable, even if you are not accepted. Many colleges offer fee waivers for applicants who demonstrate financial need. If you need a fee waiver, see your guidance counselor or your *Take Stock in Children* College Success Coach.

**High School Transcript:**

This form is filled out by an official of your high school and can be sent in both paper form or electronically. If it comes with your admissions materials, you should give it to the guidance office to complete as early as possible. Some colleges send this form directly to your school after receiving your application.

**Admission Test Scores:**

Many colleges require you to submit SAT or ACT test scores because they are a standard way of measuring a student's ability to do college work. When you complete your applications for the SAT and/or ACT, you can select the institutions to where you would like your results sent.

**Letters of Recommendation:**

Many private colleges ask you to submit one or more letters of recommendation from a teacher, counselor, or other adults who know you well. When asking someone to write such a letter, be sure to do so well before the college's application deadline, as it may take some time for those you asked to write their letters.



Encourage your student to research what the specific requirements are at the schools they are considering to attend.





**Learning Objectives:**

The student will compare and contrast college data to make an informed decision when selecting a college to attend.



**Materials Needed:**

Copy of "Choosing the Right College" activity sheet, Internet access, pen/pencil



**Instructions:**

Ask your student to identify their top three college choices. Log on to **Floridashines.org** and click "Go To College." Ask your student to compare and contrast data of the different schools they chose.

	Choice #1:	Choice #2:	Choice #3:
	college name	college name	college name
<b>Type</b> (State College, 4 year university, Technical)			
<b>Size</b> Enrollment (# of students attending) • Size of Campus			
<b>Environment</b> • Urban, Rural, Suburban • Co-ed, Male, Female • Religious Affiliation			
<b>Admission Requirements</b> • Deadline • Tests Required • Average Test Scores • Average GPA • Average Rank of Student • Special Requirements • Notification			
<b>Academics</b> • Majors Offered • Special Requirements • Accreditation • Student-Faculty Ratio • Typical Class Size			
<b>Expenses</b> • Tuition • Room and Board • Estimated Total Budget • Application Fee			
<b>Financial Aid</b> • Deadline • Required Forms • % Receiving Aid • Scholarships			
<b>Housing</b> • Availability • Costs • Meal Plan • Types			
<b>Facilities</b> • Dormitories • Student Union • Religious • Parking			
<b>Activities</b> • Clubs • Greek Life • Other			



Upon finishing the worksheet, ask your student to share with you what they liked most about each school.



**Learning Objective:**

The student will become familiar with the costs of going to college.



**Materials Needed:**

Copy of "The Costs of College" activity sheet, Internet access, pen/pencil



**Instructions:**

Have your student visit the website for the college they are interested in and research the cost of attending. Help them complete the budget form below.

» Tuition	\$ _____
» Dorm/Housing	\$ _____
» Utilities	\$ _____
» Telephone	\$ _____
» Meal plan/Groceries	\$ _____
» Books	\$ _____
» Fees (parking fees, class fees, etc.)	\$ _____
» School supplies	\$ _____
» Computer expenses	\$ _____
» Other (car, gas, insurance, etc.)	\$ _____
» Total cost for one semester of college	\$ _____



Using the information you and your student have found, stress the importance of obtaining as many other scholarships as possible. While the cost of college can add up, their **Take Stock in Children** scholarship gives them a head start. It is important for them to start focusing on their goal of graduating from high school and going to college.

**Learning Objective:**

The student will gain a basic understanding of the different forms of funding for college.

**Materials Needed:**

Copy of "The Basics of Financial Aid" activity sheet, Internet access, pen/pencil

**Instructions:**

Review the information on funding for college with your student.

As a **Take Stock in Children** scholar, you have a Florida Prepaid Tuition Scholarship upon graduation. Whether your scholarship is for 2 years or a 2+2, it will only cover tuition and will not fund the additional costs of attending college, like fees, supplies, dormitories, etc. It is important for you to educate yourself on other forms of funding for college in order to maximize your financial aid dollars.

**The Basics**

**Grants** - A grant is money awarded to a student that does not have to be repaid. It is usually based on financial need.

**Scholarships** - Scholarship money can be awarded because of academic achievement, outstanding talent or skill, and/or financial need. This money does not have to be repaid.

**College Work-Study** - If you plan to work while in college, it is wise to explore work-study because any money earned will not count against you on your FAFSA application the following year.

**Loans** - Loan monies are awarded to students on the condition that they are repaid within a specific amount of time.

**Local Awards** - High schools, churches, local businesses, and civic groups often sponsor financial programs that target talented students with demonstrated financial need from schools in their areas. Ask your guidance counselor about any local scholarship opportunities.

**Detailed Information on Types of Funding for College**

» Log on to [studentaid.ed.gov](http://studentaid.ed.gov) for detailed information on grants, scholarships, and more.

» Click on "Federal Student Aid Programs" on the left-hand navigation bar.

Links include:

- » Grants
- » Stafford Loans
- » Campus-Based Aid
- » Plus Loans (Parent Loans)
- » PLUS Loans for Graduate and Professional Degree Students

**Remember:** Make sure that you know the deadlines for financial aid on your applications!

Learn more about funding for college by visiting [floridashines.org](http://floridashines.org) and selecting "Go to College" and then "Pay for College." You can also visit [knowhow2go.org](http://knowhow2go.org) or [fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafsa.ed.gov) for more information on financial aid and the FAFSA.

