

Examining Colleges that Offer Your Chosen Major and Are Close to Home

Module 2, Lesson 8

Continued from Lesson 7

Estimated Class Time:

45 minutes in a computer lab

Learning Objective:

Students will further develop their online research skills as well as refining their critical thinking and decision-making skills while finding colleges that offer their majors and are close to home.

Presentation Suggestions:

It's important for students to remember that choosing a major and choosing a college go hand in hand. Choosing college or post-secondary training options that best suit the career paths they've chosen and the majors they want to pursue can accelerate their paths to post-secondary completion or graduation. Often when students use their time in college to explore and identify a career path, they end up changing majors several times which usually lengthens the path to completion. Avoiding this sort of pattern can save extra expense for your students if they are receiving student loans!

While researching majors and colleges, they should keep this important process in mind:

1. First, identify a career path that is **informed** and **matches your lifestyle goals and personality**.
2. Then narrow the career field to a **specific career** (this will be your starting point in declaring a major).
3. Research the majors that will best prepare you to enter your **chosen career**.
4. Finally, determine which post-secondary educational institution(s) will meet your needs.

In addition, carefully planning their high school courses to get the skills needed for college success can reduce or eliminate the need for remedial classes when they *matriculate*. This careful planning and work will put them on a path to finishing a *baccalaureate degree* within four years (or an *associate degree* or *certificate* in less). If they change their major after they are in college, they may be adding one to two additional years to their college timeline. That is costly in both time and money.

What kind of degree, certification, or training will they need?

From their work in Module 1, each student should have an idea of whether their **current chosen career** will require an associate's, bachelor's, or master's degree or a career technical education (CTE) certificate or specialized training program (like firefighter or EMT). If any student changed their career, they'll want to review the process described in Lessons 10, 11, and 12 of Module 1.

One strategy for those requiring a bachelor's degree or higher:

If students know that they will need a bachelor's degree or higher, they will need to take all of the *general education* courses required **before** they take most of the courses in their major field. Make all students realize that community colleges offer an excellent general education at a lower cost and many of these colleges have *guaranteed transfer agreements* with certain universities.

Activity:

See the worksheets on the following pages. Students will first explore the benefits of community colleges, then look more generally at all schools within commuting distance that offer their chosen major.

English Common Core Standards

RI.11-12.7. Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words in order to address a question or solve a problem.

W.11-12.7. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject under investigation.

W.11-12.8. Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the strengths and limitations of each source in terms of the task, purpose, and audience; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and overreliance on any one source and following a standard format for citation.

W.11-12.9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.