

### PREPARING FOR COLLEGE VISITS

**Purpose:** This lesson encourages students to visit college campuses in order to become familiar with the atmosphere and learn first-hand some aspects of college life.

**Time Required for Lesson:** 50 minutes

**Grade Level:** 11

**Missouri Comprehensive Guidance Program:**

**Strand:** Career Development

**Big Idea:** CD.8. Knowing Where And How To Obtain Information About The World Of Work And Post-Secondary Training/Education.

**Concept:** CD.8.A. Career Decision Making

**ASCA Standards:**

**Domain:** Career Development:

C. Students will understand the relationship between training and the world of work.

**Materials:** "Sample Questions to Ask during College Visits" student handout

**Comprehensive Guidance Program Curriculum Unit/Lesson links**

**Grade 11**

**Unit:** Life-Long Learning

**Concept:** CD.8.A



**Show Me Standards: Performance Goals (check one or more that apply)**

X	Goal 1: gather, analyze and apply information and ideas 1. Develop questions and ideas to initiate and refine research 2. Conduct research to answer questions and evaluate information and ideas
X	Goal 2: communicate effectively within and beyond the classroom 3. Exchange information, questions and ideas while recognizing the perspectives of others
X	Goal 3: recognize and solve problems 1. Identify problems and define their scope and elements 2. Develop and apply strategies based on ways others have prevented or solved problems
X	Goal 4: make decisions and act as responsible members of society 3. Analyze the duties and responsibilities of individuals in societies 6. Identify tasks that require a coordinated effort and work with others to complete those tasks 8. Explore, prepare for and seek educational and job opportunities

**This lesson supports the development of skills in the following academic content areas.**

Academic Content Area(s)	Specific Skill(s)
X	Communication Arts
	6. Participating in formal and informal presentations and discussions of issues and ideas
	Mathematics
X	Social Studies
	6. Relationships of the individual and groups to institutions and cultural traditions.
	Science
	Health/Physical Education
	Fine Arts

**Enduring Life Skill(s)**

X	Perseverance		Integrity	X	Problem Solving
	Courage		Compassion		Tolerance
	Respect	X	Goal Setting		

**Lesson Assessment (acceptable evidence of what learners will know and be able to do as a result of this lesson):**

Students answer questions on *Sample Questions to Ask as You Explore College* handout during college visitations.

**Lesson Preparation**

**Essential Questions:** What is the college environment like?

**Engagement (Hook):** What would your ideal college look like to?

**Procedures**

<i>Professional School Counselor Procedures:</i>	<i>Student Involvement:</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Explain to students that visiting college campuses are part of the decision making process of selecting an appropriate campus.</li> <li>2. Ask students to make arrangement with a college admission office to visit the campus within the next two months. The visit should include: a) a tour of the campus, b) an information session with an admissions counselor and, c) an opportunity for students to ask admissions personnel and college students' questions.</li> <li>3. Encourage students to write individual and/or personal questions on the handout. Point out specific aspects visible on the college campus such as, attitudes of students on campus or quantity/quality of food in cafeteria.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Students listen</li> <li>2. Students make arrangements to visit a college campus within two months and arrange for a tour of the campus, information session with an admissions counselor, and an opportunity to ask admission personnel and current college students' questions.</li> <li>3. Students write individual and/or personal questions on the handout. During college visitations, students observe attitudes of current college students, quantity/quality of food in cafeteria, etc.</li> </ol>

## ***Sample Questions to Ask on Visits to College Campuses***

The purpose of these questions is to help you organize your college exploration. Remember, there is no one college for you: there are many where you can meet your educational goals and be happy! Look for learning climates that you feel will challenge you and fit your style. Be sure to talk to students and admissions personnel. Answers to the following questions may be found in college handbooks.

### ***The Academic Environment***

1. Which areas of study are emphasized, and how do they fit your field of interest and ability? Is the college strong in science, fine arts, the humanities, your areas? How many students are in your areas of interest, and how does this number compare with other fields?
2. Which courses are included in a typical freshman program? What are the sizes of these classes? Do students select all their courses or are there core requirements?
3. How many students do not return after the freshman year?
4. How intense is the academic atmosphere (average hours spent studying, library full on weekends, average SAT I, ACT scores, etc.)?
5. What are the library's hours? Would you want to study there? Where do most students study?
6. Are members of the faculty and administration easily accessible to students?
7. Do many students study abroad? What percentage continues on to graduate school?
8. Would high school credits in some advanced courses qualify you for advanced placement? What scores are needed for credit? Do they vary in departments?

### ***The Students***

1. What are some initial reactions of freshman when they first came to the campus? What do juniors say are the strengths and weaknesses of the college?
2. Which special interest group (clubs, publications, teams) in your field are active on campus?
3. What is the ethnic, religious, racial makeup of the student body? Where is the location of a church/synagogue of your choice?
4. What social and academic benefits would you receive from membership in a fraternity or sorority? What percentage of students belongs to a fraternity or a sorority?
5. What percentage of students is from other states or countries?
6. How is the advising system organized and who are the advisors?

### ***The Campus***

1. Is the college a part of the surrounding community or set apart from it as a self-contained unit? If this is a rural area, how far is it to the nearest town and how do students get there?
2. What method of transportation would you use to get around campus? Walking? Car? Bus? Bike?

### ***Housing***

1. What percentage of students lives in dorms? Do all freshmen live in dorms?
2. How are roommates assigned? How many are assigned to a room?
3. Is it possible to have a phone in your room?
4. Are computers available? Are dorm rooms wired for computers? Is wireless internet available?
5. Can you choose to live in a coed or single sex dorm?
6. What are the dorm's restrictions?

### ***Food***

1. Is there a meal plan?
2. How many meals are served each week?
3. Are refrigerators available?
4. Is cooking (microwave ovens) allowed in rooms?

### ***Your Individual Questions***

1. Sports, activities, travel, work programs, summer programs, etc.

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2. Security: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Work Study \_\_\_\_\_

4. Housing \_\_\_\_\_

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