

Four-Year Programs

The **BIG** Idea

- What can a four-year college offer me, and how should I choose one?

AGENDA

Approx. 45 minutes

- I. Warm Up: My Choices (10 minutes)
- II. Some Options (5 minutes)
- III. Colleges for Me: CFWV.com (25 minutes)
- IV. Wrap Up (5 minutes)

MATERIALS

PORTFOLIO PAGES:

- Portfolio page 28, CFWV.com School Finder Results
- Portfolio page 29, Your Search Criteria

STUDENT HANDBOOK PAGES:

- Student Handbook page 65, My Choices

FACILITATOR PAGES:

- Facilitator Resource 1, School Finder Print Version

OBJECTIVES

During this lesson, the student(s) will:

- Learn about various types of four-year colleges.
- Develop a list of preferences that might guide their postsecondary choices.
- Use these preferences to create a list of postsecondary options.

OVERVIEW

Students fill out a questionnaire about their four-year college interests and discuss their answers with a partner. As a class, they brainstorm the factors to consider when choosing a college to attend. They talk about different types of four-year college options, then visit the CFWV.com website to find colleges that match their current interests.

PREPARATION

- List the day's **BIG IDEA** and activities on the board.
- Write the day's vocabulary words and definitions on the board.
- The following handouts need to be made into overhead transparencies or copied onto chart paper:
 - **Portfolio page 28, CFWV.com School Finder Results**
 - **Portfolio page 29, Your Search Criteria**
- Make arrangements for the class to use the computer lab, and make sure the CFWV.com website is accessible from students' computers.
- If computer access is a problem at your school: Before you teach this lesson, make a class set of **Facilitator Resource 1, School Finder Print Version**. You will need to input each student's answers into the CFWV.com School Finder and print their list of resulting matches.

VOCABULARY

Tuition: fees paid for instruction, especially for postsecondary education.

Undergraduate: a student in a university or college who has not received his/her Bachelor's degree.

Private College or University: school that receives only a small amount of ongoing government support, tuition is usually higher, but so is the aid that is offered.

Public College or University: school partially funded by a state or local government, often called a state school or city college/university.

Specialized College: a public or private school that prepares you for a career in a specific field. Examples include art, music, teaching, engineering, business, health science, and religion.

Financial Aid: scholarships, grants, loans, and other assistance programs offered to students to help pay for tuition and other expenses while attending college.

IMPLEMENTATION OPTIONS

In **Activity III, Colleges for Me: CFWV.com**, after discussing the questions/topics highlighted in the lesson, you may choose to allow your students to complete their School Finder independently. Once students have finished their survey, have them record their results on **Portfolio page 28, CFWV.com School Finder Results** and **Portfolio page 29, Your Search Criteria**. Then continue with the **Wrap Up** as written.

Note: In the **Activity III** discussion, WV, NY, and PA colleges are provided as examples. Facilitators working in other locations will need to reference colleges familiar to their students.

ACTIVITY STEPS

I. Warm Up: My Choices (10 minutes)

1. **SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** True or False: All four-year colleges are pretty much the same, so it doesn't really matter which one you choose. [Students respond.]

There are all kinds of four-year colleges to choose from and every one is different. Today we'll find out about some of those differences and what your own personal preferences might be.

2. [Have students turn to **Student Handbook page 65, My Choices**. Ask them to fill out the questionnaire. For the first question, which includes the choices "students very similar to me" and "different types of students," you may want to describe ways in which students could be similar (e.g., gender, race, socioeconomic group, personal interests and style).]
3. [After students have had a few minutes to fill out the worksheet, call time. Pair off students and have partners discuss their answers. Make sure they give reasons for each answer, touching on questions like: What personal experiences influenced your response? Did you have a specific college in mind? Was the question easy or hard to answer and why?]

II. Some Options (5 minutes)

1. **SAY SOMETHING LIKE: Postsecondary education** has a vocabulary all its own, so here are a few terms you should know.

Every state has its own university system, sometimes with a few colleges and universities. The state gives these schools a lot of funding, so if you live there or one of your parents does, the costs are fairly low. (If you live in New York City, there are city colleges and universities that receive government funding.) These are known as **public schools**.

You can also go to a state university outside your home state, but you'll have to pay higher prices that are more like the costs for a private school.

Private schools receive much less government support, so they have much higher **tuition**. But you shouldn't rule them out just because of the price tag. These schools often offer

scholarships and different kinds of **financial aid**, which can help you pay the bills.

There are also **specialized colleges**, which can be public or private. A specialized college is a school that prepares you for a career in a specific field. Can anyone name one? (*agriculture, art, music, teaching, engineering, business, health science, and religion*)

So if you know what you want to do with your life, a specialized college might be the way to go.

III. Colleges for Me: CFWV.com (15 minutes)

1. **SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** CFWV.com is a great place to find colleges and universities that match your interests. Using the **School Finder** feature, you can answer a few questions on the site, and it'll give you a list of schools with the things you're looking for. So let's log on. [Note that students don't need to rule out a school they're interested in, just because it doesn't appear on their list.]
2. [Have students log on to www.cfwv.com.]

[Ask them to click on the **College Planning Tab** at the top of the page and then on the **Explore Schools** area. They should then click on the the **School Finder** button, and then on **School Type**, which is listed under Key Facts on the left side of the screen. Students should check off Bachelor's degree programs and Associate's degree programs before proceeding to the next section.]

Students can now select additional characteristics from the list of choices along the left side of the screen. As a class, walk the students through the list of characteristics one-by-one to be sure that they know what each characteristic means. Discuss the following questions below before students select their answers:

- **LOCATION:** Tell students that they should consider the travel involved in going to schools far away from home. If students want to be able to go home for weekends, or for family members' birthdays, they may prefer to stay within their region. This does not mean that students should be discouraged from looking at colleges outside of their state or region, but students need to think about the pros and cons of a school's location. (Example: a student from New York City who wants to stay closer to home should check off the Northeast Region.)
- **SCHOOL SETTING:** Discuss the following vocabulary words below and explain each corresponding example.
 - **Major City:** major cities and towns are referred to as urban areas, or areas with a population of 300,000 or more. New York City is an example of an urban setting. *New York University* (NYU) is located in Manhattan so it would be considered an urban campus. *University of Pittsburgh* (PA) is another example of an urban campus. Urban schools generally do not have a lot of lawns or outdoor space, but they are closer to more shops and restaurants.

- **Small/Medium city:** These cities and towns have a population of 75,000 to 299,999 within the metropolitan area. The area is approximately 15-25 miles in radius. Marshall University in Huntington, WV would be an example of a college within a small or medium city. These campuses are generally close to restaurants and shops, but still have campuses with green lawns and sports fields.
- **Large Town:** These towns have a population of 25,000 to 74,999 within a ten mile radius of the town. Fairmont State University in Fairmont, WV is an example of a school in a large town.
- **Small Town:** These towns have a population of 5,000-24,999 within a 5-mile radius of the town. Potomac State College of West Virginia University in Keyser, West Virginia is an example of a school in a small town.
- **Rural community:** an area far away from a city or large town and have a population under 5,000. This area is generally thought of as a country setting. Glenville State College (WV) and Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania (PA) are both examples of rural campuses. Rural campuses are generally what students may think of when they envision a typical four-year college. Often you will find green lawns with plenty of space to toss a Frisbee or a football around. However, these schools are often very far from major cities, so students who are used to living in a big city may feel isolated at these schools.
- **SCHOOL SIZE:** To give the students a frame of reference between a very large, a large, and a medium school, discuss each examples for your region:
 - **Extra Small:**
 1. Glenville State College (WV): 1,392 students
 2. Bryn Mawr College (PA): 1,300 students
 - **Small:**
 1. Marymount Manhattan College (NY): 2,000 students
 - **Medium:**
 1. Fairmont State University (WV): 7,450 students
 2. Carnegie Mellon University (PA): 5,758 students
 3. State University of New York (New Paltz, NY): 8,250 students
 - **Large:** (10,000-15,000 students - N/A for West Virginia)
 - **Extra Large:**
 1. University at Albany (NY): 17,750 students
 - **Super-sized:**
 1. West Virginia University: 28,840 students
 2. Penn State (University Park, PA): 43,272 students
- **ENTRANCE DIFFICULTY:** Students do not need to understand the specific difference between each level of admissions difficulty, but some examples may be helpful. A school like Harvard or Princeton would be considered a “most selective” school. They are very competitive and generally only take students with extremely high grades. A school with a strong academic reputation like West Virginia University, University of Pittsburgh, or SUNY Albany would be considered a “Selective” school. If students seem unclear about which level to pick,

tell them to leave all options blank.

- **TUITION:** Explain that financial aid can sometimes make an expensive school affordable, so for now, students don't need to make a choice about tuition costs.
- **PROGRAMS/MAJORS OFFERED:** If the students already know their favorite career cluster, they should click "Show Programs" next to the appropriate cluster. They can then choose the major that they are interested in. If students choose multiple majors, they can use the options at the bottom of the page to search for "Any" or "All" of the programs or majors that they have selected. If a student is undecided about what major they want to study, tell them to skip it.
- **SPECIAL ACADEMIC PROGRAMS:** Tell the students to skip this question unless they are familiar and interested in one of the options. For example, if a student knows that he wants to be in the ROTC: Air Force, then he should check that option off.
- **GENDER BALANCE:** Explain to the students that coeducational schools have both female and male students.
- **INTERCOLLEGIATE SPORTS:** Tell students that if they play a particular sport for a school or club team they should use the drop down boxes to select that sport and their gender. They can skip selecting a Division and Scholarships Available. They do not need to select sports they enjoy watching.
- **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:** Tell the students to skip this question unless they are familiar with and interested in one of the options. If a student is active in their theater department and wants to keep performing throughout high school and college, she should check off the Drama/Theater Group box.

NOTE: If you are having your students complete the School Finder independently, tell them not to spend too much time on any question: They can always go back another time and revise their answers. Students can also choose to add any of the other characteristics listed, if time allows.

[When students have finished entering their criteria, ask them to click on **See Your Matching Schools**. This button appears near the bottom of all of the criteria selection pages.]

[Show students how the following functions can be used.]

- If you have no (or not enough) exact matches, click on the button labeled See All Schools. This button is located below your list of schools or, if you have no schools on your list, below your search criteria. This will include schools that are not in West Virginia.
- To help remember what influences your choices, you can review your search criteria at the top of the page.
- To see how closely a school matches your criteria, click "Compare Your Selections" to the right of the school name.
- If a school that you hoped to see did not appear on the list, type the name of the school into the search box in the upper right corner of the list.

IV. Wrap Up (5 minutes)

1. [Review the benefits of attending a four-year college as discussed in the previous lesson (campus experience, more varied and full education, path to a professional de-

gree, preparation for a wider range of careers).]

2. **SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** If you wanted to find out more about the schools on your list, what could you do? (*go to the school websites, talk to your school counselor about the school, plan a visit, talk to adults you know who may have attended the school(s) your interested in*)
3. [Give them about 10 minutes to review and complete the questions. Once they have a list of schools, ask them to print them out or record them on **Portfolio page 28, CFWV.com School Finder Results**. Instruct the students to then look at their list of search criteria at the top of the page and ask them to print them out or record their search criteria on **Portfolio page 29, Your Search Criteria**. Students can print the search criteria and list of schools by clicking **Print** This in the upper right corner of the page. Note that the type of school will be two-year or four-year.]
4. [Tell students to save this search by scrolling down the page to the bottom of the list of search criteria. They should enter a name for their search (for example, Local Nursing Programs or Large, Public Schools in West Virginia) and then click **Save Your Current Search As**. They can review this search in the future by logging into the CFWV.com account and returning to the school finder page.]

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Encourage students to talk to a variety of adults they know (teachers, relatives, friends) about the four-year schools they attended. Explain that finding out what people liked and disliked most about their college experience is a great way to continue to learn about the options available.

Name: _____

Period: _____

School Finder

Directions: Circle your responses to the questions below. Answer each question thoughtfully. I will enter your answers on CFWV.com and you will get the results next week in class.

LOCATION

1. Where would you like to go for college?

(You can either underline the names of the states where you would like to attend school or CIRCLE the name of a region that interests you. **DEFINITION** of Region: an area of the country made up of several states.)

- a. **West** [Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming]
- b. **Midwest** [Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Wisconsin]
- c. **Northeast** [Vermont, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Maine, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut]
- d. **Southeast** [Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia]
- e. American Protectorates [Guam, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands]

SCHOOL TYPE

2. What type of college would you prefer?
- a. 2-year
 - b. 4-year
 - c. Does not matter

PUBLIC OR PRIVATE

3. Would you prefer to go to a public or private college?
- a. Public
 - b. Private
 - c. No preference

SCHOOL SETTING

4. What type of environment would you like to live in?
- a. Major City (major cities and towns)
 - b. Small/Medium City

- c. Large Town
- d. Small Town
- e. Rural Community (an area far away from a city or large town)
- e. Does not matter

SCHOOL SIZE

5. What size school would you like to attend?
- a. Extra Small (Under 25,000 students)
 - b. Small (2,500 - 5,000)
 - c. Medium (5,000 - 10,000)
 - d. Large (10,000 -15,000)
 - e. Extra Large (15,000-20,000)
 - f. Super-sized (Over 20,000 students)
 - e. Does not matter

ENTRANCE DIFFICULTY

6. What level of selectivity are you looking for? (Selectivity covers the class rank, GPA, SAT scores and ACT scores of the incoming freshmen as well as the percentage of applicants who were accepted)
- a. Least Selective: virtually all applicants are accepted regardless of high school rank or test scores.
 - b. Less Selective: most freshmen were not in the top 50% of their high school class. Up to 95% of applicants accepted.
 - c. Selective: more than 75% of freshmen were in the top 50% of their high school class. 85% or fewer applicants accepted.
 - d. More Selective: more than 50% of all freshmen were in the top 10% of their high school class. 60% or fewer applicants accepted.
 - e. Most Selective: more than 75% of freshmen were in the top 10% of their high school class. Less than 30% of applicants accepted.
 - f. Does not matter

TUITION

7. How much are you planning to spend in tuition? Just choose tuition for now, don't include room and board. Circle your answer.
- a. Less than \$2,500 per year
 - b. \$2,500 - \$5,000 per year
 - c. \$5,000 - \$7,500 per year
 - d. \$7,500 - \$10,000 per year
 - e. \$10,000-\$15,000 per year
 - f. \$15,000-\$20,000 per year
 - g. Over \$20,000

h. Does Not Matter

RESIDENCY

8. What is your state of residence? _____

PROGRAMS/MAJORS OFFERED

9. In the space below, write down the major you think you might be interested in studying at college. (Ex: biology, English, photography, accounting, carpentry, etc.)
If you are unsure, write Undecided.

SPECIAL ACADEMIC PROGRAM OPTIONS

10. Which of the following special program options are important to you? (Circle all that interest you. If you are unfamiliar with all of the programs listed, skip this question.

NOTE: Additional options are on the next page.)

- a. Study Abroad
- b. Self Designed Majors
- c. Double Majors
- d. Dual Degrees
- e. Independent Study
- f. Accelerated Study
- g. Honors Program
- h. Phi Beta Kappa
- i. Pass/Fail Grading Option
- j. Internships
- k. Week-end College
- l. Distance Learning
- m. External Degree Program
- n. Washington Semester (American University)
- o. UN Semester
- p. Sea Semester
- q. American Studies Program
- r. Air Force ROTC
- s. Navy ROTC
- t. Army ROTC
- u. Does not matter

GENDER BALANCE

11. Would you prefer a student population that is...
- a. Coeducational (both men and women)

SOURCE: www.cfwv.com

- b. Woman's College
- c. Men's College
- d. Primarily Women
- e. Primarily Men

INTERCOLLEGIATE SPORTS

12. Circle the sport(s) that you currently play and would like to play in college.

Alpine Skiing	Men's	Women's
Archery	Men's	Women's
Badminton	Men's	Women's
Baseball	Men's	Women's
Basketball	Men's	Women's
Bowling	Men's	Women's
Boxing	Men's	Women's
Canoe and Kayak	Men's	Women's
Cheerleading	Men's	Women's
Crew	Men's	Women's
Cricket	Men's	Women's
Cross-Country Running	Men's	Women's
Curling	Men's	Women's
Cycling	Men's	Women's
Diving	Men's	Women's
Equestrian Sports	Men's	Women's
Fencing	Men's	Women's
Field Hockey	Men's	Women's
Figure Skating	Men's	Women's
Football	Men's	Women's
Golf	Men's	Women's
Gymnastics	Men's	Women's
Handball	Men's	Women's
Ice Hockey	Men's	Women's
Lacrosse	Men's	Women's
Lightweight Football	Men's	Women's
Martial Arts	Men's	Women's
Nordic Skiing	Men's	Women's
Polo	Men's	Women's
Racquetball	Men's	Women's
Riflery	Men's	Women's

Rodeo	Men's	Women's
Rugby	Men's	Women's
Sailing	Men's	Women's
Soccer	Men's	Women's
Softball	Men's	Women's
Squash	Men's	Women's
Swimming	Men's	Women's
Tennis	Men's	Women's
Track and Field	Men's	Women's
Ultimate Frisbee	Men's	Women's
Volleyball	Men's	Women's
Water Polo	Men's	Women's
Water Skiing	Men's	Women's
Weight Lifting	Men's	Women's
Wheelchair Basketball	Men's	Women's
Wrestling	Men's	Women's

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

13. Which of the following do you want to be available on campus?
 (Circle all that interest you.)
- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| a. Student Government | h. Student Newspaper |
| b. Literary Magazine | i. Yearbook |
| c. Radio Station | j. Television Station |
| d. Honor Societies | k. Social Fraternities |
| e. Social Sororities | l. Campus Based Religious Organization |
| f. Minority Student Organizations | m. International Student Organizations |
| n. Does not matter | |

STUDENT HOUSING

14. If you want to live on campus, what kind of housing are you interested in?
- | | |
|--|---|
| a. Coed dorms available(men and women) | f. Single-student apartments |
| b. Women's dorms available | g. Married-student apartments |
| c. Men's dorms available | h. Special Housing for Disabled Students |
| d. Sorority housing available | i. Special Housing for International Students |
| e. Fraternity housing available | j. Cooperative Housing Available |

SOURCE: www.cfww.com

My Choices

For each sentence, circle the choice that best describes your college preferences.

1. I would like to attend a college with:

students very similar to me

different types of students

2. I would like to go to college where I can:

live close to home

see new places

3. I would like to go to college in a:

small town

big city

4. In my studies, I'd like to:

specialize in one thing

learn about a variety of things

5. A school where you get a lot of personal attention in smaller classes is:

very important to me

not very important to me

6. A school known for its sports teams is:

very important to me

not at all important to me

What kind of colleges interest you? Use CFWV.com to begin your search.



CFWV.com School Finder Results

Use the CFWV.com “School Finder” to find the Undergraduate Schools (2- and 4-year colleges) that meet your needs. On each page, check the kinds of things you prefer – public or private school, big or small. The School Finder will create a list of possible schools.

Print out your list and put it in your Portfolio, or copy your top choices here. An example has been done for you.

List **5 Schools** that were **exact** or **close to exact** matches:

Name of School	Type of School	City/State
<i>Fairmont State University</i>	<i>4-year</i>	<i>Fairmont, WV</i>
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____

List additional schools that interest you. You may include schools that were not on your list.

(Do not include any schools listed above.)

6. _____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____
8. _____	_____	_____
9. _____	_____	_____
10. _____	_____	_____

THE SCHOOL I AM RESEARCHING IS: _____

Your Search Criteria

To help you remember what influenced your choices, review your search criteria listed above your list of schools. Print out your list by clicking **Print This** in the upper right corner of the page and put it in your Portfolio, or copy your criteria below.

1. Location: (If you remember the region you selected, record just that name below.)

2. School Type: _____

3. Public or Private: _____

4. Setting: _____

5. School Size: _____

6. Entrance Difficulty: _____

7. Tuition: _____

8. Special Academic Programs: _____

9. Gender Balance: _____

10. Extracurricular Activities: _____

11. Student Housing: _____