

Finding the Right College 11th Grade Advisement Activity Estimated time: 20-30 Minutes

Georgia Teachers-As-Advisors Framework:

Goals 11-1.1 – Create, manage, and enhance the GACollege 411 Portfolio.

b. Continue to expand information in one's Portfolio

Goal 11-1/2 Choose and utilize sound processes of decision-making, recognizing them as key components of educational and career planning

a. Apply learned decision-making skills as critical decisions are being made regarding course taking, postsecondary education routes, potential part-time employment sites, etc.

b. Recognize that decision making sometimes involves compromise, developing alternative plans, and accepting a variety of individual options

Objectives:

- Students will revisit the postsecondary admissions requirements including the Freshman Index
- Students will learn strategies for becoming a better standardized test taker in order to prepare for post-secondary opportunities
- Students will be better prepared for the GSFC "Apply to College Week" if the respective high school participates

Materials: Chalk/white board or flip chart; Handout, "Finding the Right College"; on the back "Choose a School Carefully" (a federal government publication); school may consider as a supplement, printing brochures at <http://cte.ed.gov/acrn/parents/documents/rightcollege.pdf> to distribute

Activity:

1. *Greet Students:* Welcome to advisement. Today we will revisit information regarding your postsecondary education. I will assume that all of you have begun to look at continuing your education. If you do not plan to continue in the traditional way, please participate in this discussion. The facts prove that the more education and/or training you can get, the more income potential you will have and the less likely you will be unemployed. Therefore, finding the right postsecondary program that "fits" you will become very important to you and your family.
2. *Say:* Let's make a list on the board (or flip chart) of the things that will be important to you when selecting a college: Program of Study, In-State or Out-of State, Public or Private, School Size and Class Size, Student Activities, Location, Physical Surroundings, Housing Options, Cost
3. Let students discuss each of the above criteria for clarification:
 - a. Postsecondary schools do not offer **ALL programs of study**. You will need to be very sure the college you select will offer the training you will need to meet your career goal.
 - b. **In-state or out-of-state:** In-state tuition is less expensive than out-of-state. HOPE Program is for schools in Georgia.
 - c. **Public or Private:** Public schools generally have less restrictive admission requirements and cost less than private schools. Publicly funded state schools are generally more accessible than private school. Private schools, however, often offer smaller class sizes and more personalized education.
 - d. **School Size and Class Size:** At large universities, you may be in classes range from 25-500 students. At small colleges, classes usually range from five to 100 people.
 - e. **Student Activities:** You should determine if the colleges and universities you are considering offer activities with which you would to get involved (Division I athletic team, coral music, band, radio station, religious affiliations, sororities/fraternities)
 - f. **Location:** This can be an important consideration when it comes to housing, transportation and access to off-campus activities.
 - g. **Physical Surroundings:** Does the environment focus on politics, school spirit and tradition. Visit colleges to get a feel for the atmosphere.
 - h. **Housing Options:** Check the off-campus housing. Will transportation be a problem? Is dorm living for you?
4. *Distribute the handout.* Allow students time to take the short assessment. *Say:* Use this handout to help you get started--go to GACollege411 to continue your search under the COLLEGE PLANNING tab. Spend the rest of our time reading the handout. If you have questions, let me know. Happy hunting. See you next time.

Finding the Right College w/ GACollege411

Use this short assessment to help you begin to narrow choices:

The program of study (training program like Nursing)

This training is available at the following types of schools:

- Technical Colleges
- Private Career School (Special Purpose; Vocational)
- 2-Year Schools
- 4-Year Schools
- Private/Independent School

Check what applies to you:

- In-state school
- Out-of-state school
- In a small town like Cleveland, GA
- In a mid-size city like Albany, GA
- In a large city like Savannah, GA

What size school would you like to attend:

- Small-Georgia Highland College in Rome, GA
- Medium- Georgia Southern in Statesboro, GA
- Large-University of Georgia in Athens, GA

List the activities you would prefer at your selected schools:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

Make a list of “target” schools:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Use GACollege411 to assist you with this process. Don't leave this decision up to chance. Take the time to explore and find the right college for you!

Go to the COLLEGE PLANNING tab, use the College Matching Assistance to help you narrow your search.

Record your findings in your 411 PORTFOLIO!

Tips:

- ✓ **Talk to your high school counselor**
- ✓ **Visit a variety of schools**
- ✓ **Do not be afraid to ask questions.**
- ✓ **Check the cost**



Choose a School Carefully

Going to school is a lifetime investment

Statistics show that getting training after high school will help you get a better-paying job doing work you like. But going to school is a big investment. You're investing your time. Chances are you'll also have to invest your own money or take out a student loan to go to school. So you need to be sure that you're choosing the right school.

1. Visit our Web site

Go to www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov/choosing. You'll find a tool that lets you search for a school based on its location, size, degree offerings, and other factors. Just enter your choices, and the search tool will tell you which schools fit your preferences.

2. Talk to your counselor

Counselors can help you focus on your needs and goals, and they have information about different types of schools. Your counselor also can help you collect or prepare application materials.

3. Shop around

Contact more than one school. If your area has a community college, check the school's Web site or call the admissions office

to find out what kinds of training the college offers. If you're looking for vocational training, check the Internet—or the Yellow Pages under "Schools"—to find options. You also should check the Better Business Bureau (www.bbb.com), your state higher education agency, or the consumer-protection division of your state attorney general's office to find out whether there have been any complaints about the school.

4. Visit the school

Contact the school and schedule a visit, preferably while classes are being taught. Get a feel for the school; make sure you're comfortable with the facilities, the equipment, the teachers, and the students.

5. Don't be afraid to ask!

A good school will be happy to answer your questions about its programs. Ask the school about its students: How many graduate? How many get jobs because of the training they received? What kind of job placement services does the school offer?

6. Check the cost

Make sure the school gives you a clear statement of its tuition and fees. Remember that any financial aid you get will be applied first to paying the school's tuition and fees. If there's any money left over, the school will give it to you to help you pay for things such as food and rent. Call the U.S. Department of Education's Federal Student Aid Information Center's toll-free number (1-800-4-FED-AID) if you have any questions about your financial aid at the school.

Copied from Federal Student Aid/government site.