

Paying for Postsecondary Education Using GAcollege411
8th Grade Advisement Activity
Estimated time: 30 Minutes

Georgia Teachers-As-Advisors Framework

Goal 8-1.3 - Use accurate, current, and unbiased career information from the local, state, and national levels during the career exploration and planning process.

a. Locate and utilize career information that includes occupational, education and training, employment, and economic information.

Objectives:

- Students will learn strategies for paying for college

Materials:

- Handout #1: How Can I Pay for College

Activity: NOTE TO ADVISORS: Please use the terminology “postsecondary education” as rather than “college”. Students should discover the many options available for continuing their education and realize that in many cases where they attend school after high school will be dependent upon the level of education needed for their career choice.

1. *Say:* Good morning, students. Welcome to advisement. Today we are going to talk about something near and dear to your hearts. Any ideas? *Give students clues:* It’s green but it doesn’t grow on trees; It doesn’t know your size but it fits you perfectly; Your dad says he is not made of it; Jerry McGuire’s agent yells, “Show me the ... “ *Allow students to make guesses.* Yes, it’s MONEY. It seems we all need it and never have enough of it!

Say: Why is money important? *Entertain answers.* *It buys you things you want, it pays bills, it gives freedom to travel and purchase expensive items, like postsecondary education.*

Say: What about the cons of money? *Entertain answers:* *people “purchase” your friendship, money does not buy happiness, if one is not careful, money is fleeting, being in debt is no fun, etc.*

Say: Why is money important when you are considering postsecondary education (education after high school)? *Entertain answers.* Unlike public education grades k – 12, postsecondary education is not free. It costs money, a lot of money.

So, today, we are going to talk about how to pay for your education after you graduate from high school. It’s like anything else in your life. If you want something bad enough, you will find a way. Let’s look at some of the ways to pay for your education after high school. *Distribute the handout:* Fill in the circles as I talk about each one.

2. **Strategies to Pay for Your Education After High School**

SAVING: Your parents may have put money aside for your education. This is free money. You would be wise to begin to put money away now. Decide on a % of your part time earnings, monetary gifts, etc. GAcollege411 has savings plan under the FINANCIAL AID PLANNING tab that your parents might be interested in learning about. Share that site with them.

HOPE: This program will pay for your tuition and provide an allowance for your books, if you maintain a B average in high school. It is renewable if you maintain this B average. It is available for college, technical training, and licensing programs in State of Georgia institutions. Go to GAcollege411 for more information about the entire HOPE PROGRAM including scholarships and grants under the FINANCIAL AID PLANNING tab.

SCHOLARSHIPS: This is free money! It may be given by the institution to which you are applying. There are many types of scholarships available based on academic achievement, sports, your ethnic background, the Veterans Administration, civic groups, and employers of your parents. GACollege411 has a scholarship file that can help you begin to investigate the different types of scholarships that might be available to you. Start now investigating all your options.

GRANTS: This is also free money! These are generally awarded by the institution to which you are applying. It is a gift. You do not have to pay it back. Often these are based on the ability of your parents to pay for your education at a particular institution. Gacollege411 has all the information you will need to discover the different types of grants you might be able to take advantage of. Remember to show your parents the web site so they can start early looking at your options---they will need to help you through this process.

Finally LOANS: This is NOT free money! Loans are to help pay for your education. This money must be paid back with interest. You are obligated to pay it back even if you do not complete your education. If you complete your program, you do not have to begin paying back this loan until you have worked for 6 months. However, it MUST be repaid. Loans for 4 years or more can be a considerable amount of money and can seriously cramp your lifestyle after you complete your education. However, many students depend on loans to complete their education. *Say:* Your High School Counselor can assist you. That person has a wealth of information (no pun intended) to share with you. Also, GACollege411 continually updates scholarship opportunities for you. The key is to start early learning as much as you can about the process and how you can “groom” yourself for specific scholarships so you will not have to borrow money.

3. *Say:* Remember the more you learn, the more you earn. If your education after high school directly impacts your earning potential, what is your responsibility? What can you do NOW to affect the cost of your posts secondary education? *Say:* Take the next few minutes to fill in the circles on your handout. If you have forgotten, ask your neighbor to help you. Allow about 5 minutes, then

4. *Dismiss saying, or if time permits, list the following on the board as a follow up to this activity.*

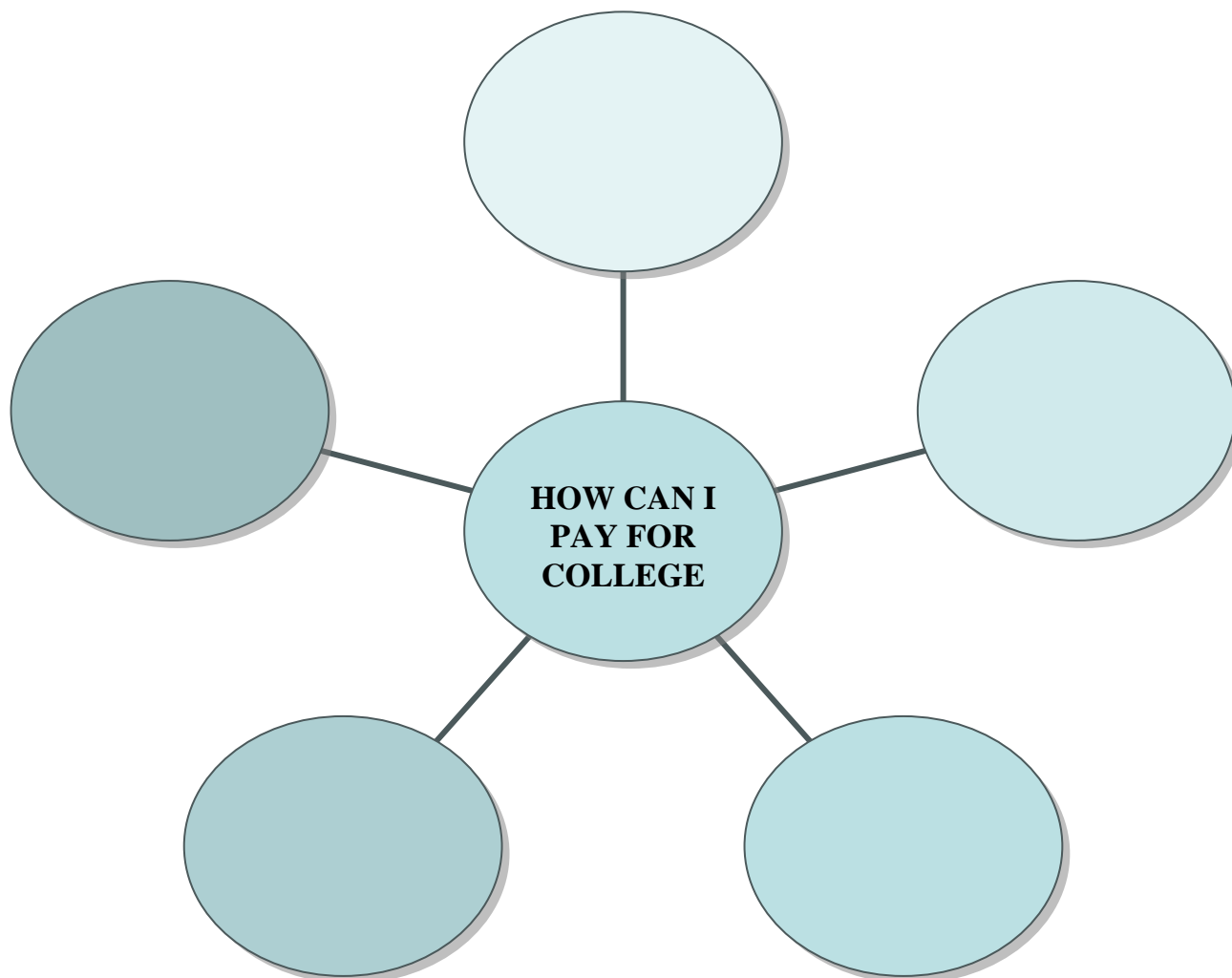
What I Can Do Now to Plan for My Education After High School

- Make the best grades you can; acquire effective study skills, believe in yourself
- Make HOPE a priority in your life – set goals for yourself of high grades starting day 1 of high school
- Investigate possible scholarships tailored to you – become a scholarship expert. Do research on GaCollege411
- Look at grants given by various universities and institutions – find out which institutions have generous grants
- Become loan ‘savvy’. With a loan, what will your total loan repayment cost be to receive your degree?
- Never, Never, Never give up. There is always a way to finance your higher education.

See you next time!

How Can I Pay for Postsecondary Education?

Using this diagram write the different types of financial strategies in the circles you can use to help pay for postsecondary education.



Which strategy will I have to pay back? _____