

Activity 16: How Much Does College Cost?

Target Audience: Grades 9-12

Objective: The student will:

- Calculate the costs of four college options.
- Compare and analyze the results to choose the best option.
- Determine if a transfer option would also be a good alternative.

ASCA Standard	National Career Development Goal	National Career Development Guidelines
<p>Career Development Standard B: Students will employ strategies to achieve future career goals with success and satisfaction.</p>	<p>Career Management Goal 2: Use a process of decision-making as one component of career development.</p>	<p>CM2.K3: Describe how information (e.g., about you, the economy, and education programs) can improve your decision-making. CM2.A3: Demonstrate use of information (e.g., about you, the economy, and education programs) in making decisions. CM2.R3: Assess how well you use information (e.g., about you, the economy, and education programs) to make decisions. CM2.K4: Identify alternative options and potential consequences for a specific decision. CM2.A4: Show how exploring options affected a decision you made. CM2.R4: Assess how well you explore options when making decisions.</p>

Resources and Materials:

- Career Outlook, Estimated On-Campus Budgets, page 63
- How Much Does College Cost? activity sheet

Leading Questions and/or Comments:

Have students look over the ND Estimated on Campus Budgets for Resident Dependent Students (students living on campus) chart on page 63 of the Career Outlook.

Discuss:

- This will give you an idea of the college expenses for one year. Keep in mind that not all expenditures are listed, as there are additional expenses when living away from home.
- Some students do live at home while going to college.
- A large number of students do not complete a 2-year degree in 2 years. It may take 2 or 3 years to complete an Associate’s Degree.
- A four-year degree often takes 4 or 5 years to complete, which brings the total costs up considerably.
- Visits with your college advisor are important in order to complete a degree in the shortest time possible. It also requires you work hard to do well in all of your classes.

Activities:

Instruct students to do the following:

- Look over the information on Estimated On-Campus Budgets for Resident Dependent Students on page 63 of the Career Outlook.
- Complete the comparison chart.
- Answer the worksheet questions.
- Brainstorm additional costs that college students may have and write on board.

Making Connections for Students:

Have students:

- Discuss what they discover about the costs of a college education including additional costs not directly related to education expenses.
- Research further about their college choices on the college websites.

Optional Activities:

- A lesson on credit would be beneficial.
- Students may interview actual college students from the area to have them discuss the costs of a college education.