

## 3

## SESSION 3: THE COLLEGE SEARCH

## ACTIVITY #2: RESEARCHING COLLEGES

### *Opening Discussion:*

Students need to examine a variety of sources so they can begin to see the similarities and differences among colleges and universities. They should not think about cost at this point, but rather, qualities and characteristics colleges have to offer.

### *Activity/Handouts*

**Viewbooks, catalogues, guidebooks and list of websites (computers if available)**

**Criteria Chart from Activity #1**

**List of Resources**

### *Instructions:*

1. If there is Internet access in the facility, show the students several websites (see attached suggestions) and guide them through a representative number, pointing out information about majors, residential options, and the admission/application site (which will be covered in a later session), and other aspects as you see fit.
2. Viewbooks and guidebooks should be on hand, too. Ask students to read a description of a college from a guidebook and talk about what they think they would like or not like about that school.
3. Have students look at resources independently and refer to their “Criteria Checklist” to develop a list of four–six schools.
4. Once they have developed a list, they should return to the resource books or go to the college websites to learn more about whether “the match” is right for them.

## INTERNET SITES FOCUSED ON COLLEGE EXPLORATION:

### COLLEGE INFORMATION

**CSO –Center for Student Opportunity College Center:** [www.imfirst.org](http://www.imfirst.org)

**The College Board:** [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

**College Prowler:** <http://colleges.niche.com>

**KnowHow2Go:** [www.knowhow2go.org](http://www.knowhow2go.org)

**Hobson’s CollegeView:** [www.collegeview.com](http://www.collegeview.com)

**Peterson’s:** [www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com)

**The Common Application Online:** [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)

**Colleges That Change Lives:** [www.ctcl.org](http://www.ctcl.org)

**Universal College Application:** [www.universalcollegeapp.com](http://www.universalcollegeapp.com)

**Undocumented Students:** [www.nacacnet.org/issues-action/legislativenews/pages/undocumented.aspx](http://www.nacacnet.org/issues-action/legislativenews/pages/undocumented.aspx)

### FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

**Federal Student Aid:** <http://studentaid.ed.gov>

**Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):** [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

**College Goal Sunday FAFSA Completion Assistance:** [www.collegegoalsundayusa.org](http://www.collegegoalsundayusa.org)

**FAFSA4caster:** [www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov)

**CSS/PROFILE:** <https://profileonline.collegeboard.com>

**The Smart Student Guide to Financial Aid:** [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)

**FastWeb:** [www.fastWeb.com](http://www.fastWeb.com)

**FindTuition:** [www.findtuition.com](http://www.findtuition.com)

**Sallie Mae:** [www.salliemae.com](http://www.salliemae.com)

**College Portraits:** [www.collegeportraits.org](http://www.collegeportraits.org)

### TESTING

**ACT:** [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

**ACT Fee Waiver Instructions:** [www.actstudent.org/faq/answers/feewaiver.html](http://www.actstudent.org/faq/answers/feewaiver.html)

**SAT:** The College Board: [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

**SAT Fee Waiver Instructions:** [www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/calenefees/feewaivers.html](http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/calenefees/feewaivers.html)

**Preliminary SAT (PSAT):** [www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/about.html](http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/about.html)

**Free Test Prep from Number2.com:** [www.number2.com](http://www.number2.com)

**The Princeton Review:** [www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com)

**Kaplan’s Test Prep:** [www.kaptest.com](http://www.kaptest.com)

### ASSOCIATIONS/ORGANIZATIONS AND RESEARCH/POLICY

**National Association for College Admission Counseling:** [www.nacacnet.org](http://www.nacacnet.org)

**United Negro College Fund (UNCF):** [www.uncf.org](http://www.uncf.org)

**Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities:** [www.hacu.net](http://www.hacu.net)

**National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education:** [www.nafeo.org](http://www.nafeo.org)

**First In The Family:** [www.firstinthefamily.org](http://www.firstinthefamily.org)

### ATHLETICS

**NCAA Eligibility Center:** [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org)

**Campus Champs:** [www.campuschamps.org](http://www.campuschamps.org)

**Athletic Aid:** [www.athleticaid.com](http://www.athleticaid.com)

### CAREERS

**The Occupational Outlook Handbook:** [www.bls.gov/ooh](http://www.bls.gov/ooh)