Considering My Future:
Public, Private, Technical? Where To Go? (A4)

Course/Grade(s)
Personal Finance/9-12

Module:
Considering My Future

Lesson Title:
Public, Private, Technical? Where To Go?

Duration:
2 - 45 minute class sessions
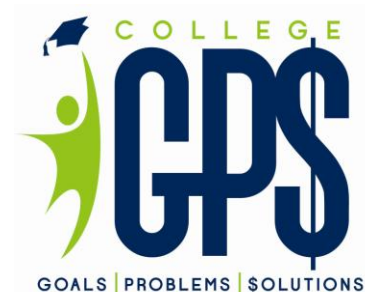
Materials/Resources/Technology:
Student Activity Sheet A4
Whiteboard or Wall Chart
Computers/Internet Access
www.CollegeforTN.org
Post-secondary institution websites

Classroom Arrangement:
No special classroom arrangement will be needed for this lesson.

Content Background:
When considering post-secondary education there are numerous factors which must be taken into account including location, tuition cost and fees, school's reputation for the educational program which you are considering (accreditation), admissions requirements (ACT/SAT scores), admissions rates, housing options and costs, transportation, and part-time jobs available in the local area.

Students should consider their individual and/or family financial resources as well as the length of time it would take to pay back any debt. There should be a general discussion about the college culture as well as that of the surrounding community.

When considering whether to attend a community (junior) college or a four-year college/university, students need to consider the characteristics of both types of institutions. Typically, community colleges are less expensive, offer a more flexible schedule in the form of more night courses, and offer smaller class sizes than most public colleges. Four-year, post-secondary institutions usually offer a wider range of degrees and more opportunities for campus life in the form of Greek organizations,

student government associations, discipline-specific student organizations, guest lectures, sports, and other cultural and leisure activities.

Standards:
National Jump$tart: Financial Responsibility and Decision Making: Standard 4 – Make financial decisions by systematically considering alternatives and consequences.

National Jump$tart: Income and Careers: Standard 1 – Explore career options.

Tennessee Personal Finance Standard 3 – Research and report the requirement for admission to and related costs of attending specific post-secondary institutions and how that will support education, career, and earning goals.

Day 1
Learning Targets/Objectives:
Students will identify and analyze ten major characteristics of two different post-secondary educational institutions.

Activating Strategy:
Facilitate a student discussion about things that would need to be considered when choosing a post-secondary institution. Have a student volunteer compile the list on a whiteboard or wall chart. Ask students if they have made their decision about which post-secondary institution they desire to attend. What do they know about the institution? Why was this post-secondary institution a good choice for them?

Instruction:
Have students access CollegeforTN.org and select College Planning. Then have them select Explore Schools and select College Matching Assistance. Using the information discovered during When I Grow Up I Want To Be… (A3) lesson (Student Activity Sheet A3) have the students search for two post-secondary institutions that can provide the education required for at least one of the careers they previously identified. Students will begin compiling information required for Student Activity Sheet A4.

Modifications/Grouping:
If a student indicates that they are absolutely not willing to consider post-secondary education, have them identify two careers that they can achieve without any additional education. Students will explore these career opportunities.

Students with learning disabilities or cultural differences may need assistance with navigating the CollegeforTN.Org website. They may also need assistance with reading/understanding the information. Advanced students may be assigned additional post-secondary institutions to identify and analyze. Instructor will determine any additional modifications/grouping required for each class.

Assessment/Evaluation/Closure:
Student volunteers will share the admissions requirements and admissions rates for one of their selected institutions. As students share information, take a moment to have them focus on those institutions with very high or very low admissions rates. Do the admissions requirements have an impact on admissions rates? Why do some institutions have high rates of admissions while others have very low rates of admissions? Discuss. Inform students that they will examine the overall environment of their two post-secondary institutions during the next lesson.

Day 2
Learning Targets/Objectives:
Students will explore the overall environment of the two selected post-secondary educational institutions.

Activating Strategy:
Based upon the information gathered in the previous lesson, have students share whether or not they have sufficient information to determine which post-secondary institution to attend. Why?

Instruction:
Students will complete the Student Activity Sheet A4 by examining the overall environment of the educational and surrounding community including job opportunities, transportation, housing, sports and leisure venues, shopping, medical facilities, and any others deemed important by the student. Students should visit the websites of their post-secondary institutions, school community chamber of commerce, etc. to get a feel for what life might like in that area.

Modifications/Grouping:
If a student indicates that they are absolutely not willing to consider post-secondary education, have them identify two careers that they can achieve without any additional education. Students will explore these career opportunities.

Students with learning disabilities or cultural differences may need assistance with navigating the CollegeforTN.Org and post-secondary institution websites. They may also need assistance with reading/understanding the information. Advanced students may be assigned additional post-secondary institutions to identify and analyze. Instructor will determine any additional modifications/grouping required for each class.

Assessment/Evaluation/Closure:
Ask students if there was any information about their two post-secondary institutions that they were not able to locate on the institution's website. Assist students with locating information and/or have another student assist.

Students will submit their completed Student Activity Sheet A4 for a formative grade. Students will create a list of the five most important things they have learned thus far about themselves, five most important things they have learned thus far about potential careers, and five most important things

they have learned about post-secondary educational opportunities while working through the Considering My Future module. Inform students that for the next five lessons, they will complete a project by creating an infographic that summarizes the insights they have gained from the Considering My Future learning module.

Reflect on the students' questions/feedback, activating strategy, and instruction and make notes for future instruction. Did students attain the learning targets at an acceptable level? Were special needs students adequately accommodated?

College GP$: Goals, Problems, and $olutions

Considering My Future: Public, Private, Technical? Where To Go?
Student Activity Sheet A4
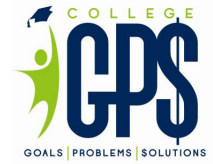
Student Name:_____ Student Login:_____ Period:_____

DESCRIPTION	SCHOOL 1	SCHOOL 2
School Name		
School Location		
Basic Tuition/Fees		
Admission Requirements		
Admission Rates (%)		
Accreditation(s)		
ACT/SAT Scores and/or Other		
Housing Availability		
Housing Costs		
Transportation Availability		
Part-time Jobs in the Immediate Area		