

Lesson Title

Learning to use Big Future

Learning Targets: *I can...*

- use College Board's **Big Future** to research colleges and filter for test scores, selectivity, location and majors.
- identify three colleges from the filtered search that interest me, review each school's profile information, and identify features that I am looking for in a postsecondary program/school

Resources/Materials

- [College Board's Big Future](#)

Mini Lesson/Framing for Independent Work

Finding your college match is a challenging and exciting task. Check out [this one-page guide](#) to learn about what you can do to make a strong college match. An important place to start is researching the different college choices that are out there. College Board's Big Future tool is a great place to start your search.

This activity will take you through the College Board's Big Future search engine, allowing you to set filters based on what interests you in a school. At the end of this activity you will have a preliminary college list.

Important Vocabulary. *The Big Future search engine needs you to have a basic understanding of the following terms:*

Community college: Two year college that may lead to an Associate's Degree or Certification. You can also transfer into a four year college.

Four year college/university: After four years you may earn a Bachelor's Degree.

Public college/university: Funded mainly by the government and tuition. Typically larger and more inexpensive, but not necessarily easier to get into.

Private college/university: Funded by tuition and private donors. They vary in size, price and selectivity.

For Profit College/University: Funded by tuition; however tuition does not necessarily go to facilities or to professors, it goes to a board of directors as salary. Please take care: at many for-profit colleges, students graduate at lower rates and leave with higher debt.

Rural: relating to or characteristic of the country or the people who live there. If you move to a rural area, you won't see a lot of skyscrapers or taxis — but you'll probably see a lot of trees.

Suburban: a residential district located on the outskirts of a city. If you move to the suburbs, you will have access to shopping and business districts, but they are smaller in scope.

Urban: a city or large town in which people live and work in close proximity. You will see lots of skyscrapers and business districts in an urban setting.

Independent Work, including Checks for Understanding of the Learning Targets

1. Go to www.collegeboard.com
2. **If you have an account, sign in. If you don't have an account, create one.**
3. Click on the “Plan for College With Big Future” tab. Or, click on the “College Planning” tab and then click on “Research Colleges.”
4. On the left will be a series of filters. Click on these filters and play around with them. If you need more guidance on the search, use this [“College Search Step by Step”](#) link.
5. If you like a school, you should click the “Add to My List” tab highlighted in blue.

Tips:

- If you have not taken or received your P/SAT scores then you should leave the scores/selectivity filter blank.
- On the scale that will pop up (Don't Care, Want, Must Have) stay away from the “Must Have” unless it really is a “deal breaker” for you
- Under “Paying” you should pick: “Select the percentage of financial need you'd like a school to meet: At least 60%.”
- You should also click “Work Study programs are available”.
- Once you have gone through the filters, you should Save Selections on the bottom, and look at your list. If the list is more than 30, edit your filters. If your list is 30, start looking through the suggested schools.
- Any schools you are interested in, click on the icon and browse the profile.

As you are browsing begin taking note of the things you find interesting in a college.

EXAMPLES:

- *I notice I really like a school with sports teams so I can go to games over the weekend with my friends.*
- *I really want to join a fraternity. I only want to apply to schools with Greek life.*
- *I really don't want to be far from home; rural schools are not a good fit for me.*

Culminating Task/Exit Ticket

YOU SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST THREE SCHOOLS SAVED TO YOUR LIST. Share this list with your counselor and ask if they have any other suggestions of colleges for you to add to this list.

College and Career Planning

Grades 9-10 / 0-16 Credits