Lesson 2

Community College vs. University and College Now: Coach Guide

Learning Goals

1. Students will understand the different degree types available from community colleges and universities.
2. Students will learn about the different paths of pursuing an associate and/or bachelor’s degree.
3. Students will learn about College Now: earning college credit while still in high school

Introduction (~1 minute)

- Briefly recap the previous session
  - Repeat some of the different types of post-secondary education that the students came up with during the previous session: universities, community colleges, culinary school, military, law school, trade school, ROTC.
  - Let them know this session will be focusing specifically on the differences between community college and university.

GEAR UP Video Activity (~10 minutes)

- Share your screen with the students to watch this 5-minute video about the different paths for pursuing an education from a community college, university, or both!
- Ask students to write down one benefit each of pursuing an education at either a community college, university, or transferring from a community college to a university.
  - Have one student share a benefit for each.

Different Degrees (~5 minutes)

- There are several different degree types one can earn from a community college or university:
  - But the two most common degree types are an Associate or Bachelor’s.
- **Associate’s Degree vs. Bachelor’s**
  - Ask the students if they have ever heard of the term “Associate’s Degree.” If so—call on someone to define it.
  - Associate’s Degree: An *undergraduate academic degree awarded by community colleges, junior colleges, technical colleges, and universities upon completion of a course of study usually lasting 2-3 years. Some jobs that require only an associate’s degree include technicians, dental hygienists, paramedics, teachers in early-childhood programs, engineering technicians, criminal justice jobs, paralegals, and machinists.*
    - Median income: $39,936 per year—Avg. tuition $2,000-$3,000 per year
Now ask if anyone can define the term “Bachelor’s Degree.”

Bachelor’s Degree: An academic degree awarded by a college or university to a person who has completed at least 120 credits (or 8 semesters) of undergraduate studies—usually taking about 4-6 years. Many careers require at least a bachelor’s degree some of which include: an Engineer, Supply Chain Manager, Teacher, Journalist, Computer Programmer, Nurse, Accountant, Architect, or Web Designer.

Median income: $54,756 per year—
The average cost to earn a Bachelor’s Degree can range anywhere from $9,000-30,000 per year depending on whether you are going to college in-state or out of state, and whether you are going to a public or private university. In-state public universities tend to be the much less expensive.

College Now: Earn College Credit in High School (~10 minutes)
- What is a College Now?
  - Open the Lesson 2 PowerPoint and screen share with your students. Make sure they can see the PowerPoint clearly before proceeding.

Closing/Assignment (~5 minutes)
- Wrap-up
  - Use the remaining time to let students ask you questions about college.
  - Optional: Give students a short assignment for next time.