

# Session 6

## COLLEGE 102: RESEARCHING COLLEGES

### Coach Overview

Every student wants to find the best college for them, but some students have a hard time finding the perfect match. In this session, mentors are given the opportunity to explore a variety of colleges and then work in teams to do some "college recruitment."

### Session Goals

- Mentors learn about different colleges and postsecondary education options.
- Mentors consider possible colleges to attend based on their interests and goals.
- Mentors discover the importance of finding the right college match.
- Mentors present information to peers to foster a college-going culture.

### Timeframe

Coach: 30 minutes coaching of Lead Mentors prior to each club meeting; attend all meetings

Mentors: at least 5 hours to complete entire session (see club agenda)

### Mentor Materials

- mentor sign-in sheet
- Club Agenda – handout copies or projected display
- baseball cap or college cap and paper strips for the warm-up
- list of postsecondary schools (community, state, university, independent)
- Campus Facts sheets – handout copies only
- My College Future – handout copies only
- computers with internet access social media
- pencils, pens, paper, highlighters, whiteboard, chart paper
- copies of all instructional pages for the pair or trio of Lead Mentors



# Session 6

## COLLEGE 102: RESEARCHING COLLEGES

### Session At-a-Glance

*What's in Your College Cap?* – Mentors input their ideas for a perfect college campus.

*Which Type of College?* – Mentors learn about four different college systems (community, state, university, independent/private) and other school options (vocational, technical, trade).

*Come to College!* – Teams of mentors research online to complete a factsheet about a chosen college; then role-play college recruiters competing to convince peers to go to that college.

*More College Options* – Mentors explore and share more factors to consider when finding the best college match (e.g., social-emotional factors, living environment, studying abroad).

*My College Future* – Mentors complete a questionnaire about their future college plans.

### Getting Started

1. Print copies of the club agenda, session instructional pages, and handouts for the Lead Mentors. Briefly meet with them prior to each club meeting (at least two days in advance) to review what to do, answer questions, help them plan, and check progress.

2. Provide advice for managing group activities, posing questions to help Lead Mentors consider possible ways to resolve problems and conflicts. For example:

- *How might you help teams manage their Campus Facts research?*  
(Possible ideas: rotate roles within each team, such as website reader, notetaker, decision-maker; equally distribute tasks)
- *How do you plan on doing the More College Options activities so everyone has fun?*  
(Give Lead Mentors the flexibility of modifying and personalizing activities to best meet club interests.)

3. For the Which Type of College discussion topic that you will help facilitate, consider your own reasons for choosing your alma mater and share your story with the club.

4. For the Come to College activity, give mentors plenty of leeway for creativity and fun. Be sure that all mentors partake in the research and role-playing, including Lead Mentors.

5. Help Lead Mentors look for ways to utilize the club coordinators, such as:

- Have the Campus Culture Coordinator(s) make arrangements for mentors to do the Come to College recruiting activity in front of classes or during lunchtime in the quad.
- Have the Guest Coordinator(s) help arrange for actual college recruiters to visit.
- Have the Campus Liaison, Media, and PR Coordinators do their part too.

# Calling All Mentors...

## COLLEGE 102: RESEARCHING COLLEGES

### CLUB AGENDA

### Approx Time

Call the meeting to order.

1. Opening: recap of last meeting; news and updates from club coordinators. (5 min)

2. Introduction:  
What do you know about college life? Everyone share their ideas. (5 min)

3. Warm Up:  
"What's In Your College Cap?" (10 min)

4. Discussion Topic:  
"Which Type of College?"  (10 min)

5. Activity A:  
"Come to College!"   (varies)

6. Activity B:  
"More College Options"  (varies)

7. Activity C:  
"My College Future" (10 min)

8. Session Adjourned:  
Final thoughts, gearing up for next session. (5 min)

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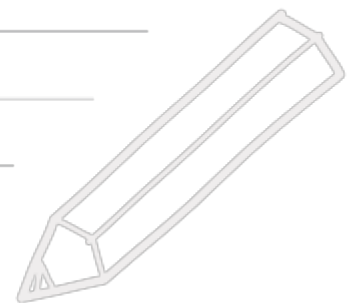
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## Warm Up

# WHAT'S IN YOUR COLLEGE CAP?

Bring a college cap or baseball cap to this warm up event, where mentors will drop in specific characteristics they would like to see in a college.

1. Give each mentor some strips of paper and a pencil.
2. Ask them to write the characteristics they would like to see in a college, but with this little catch: they cannot write about the size, location, distance, major, or population.
3. To encourage free thinking, tell mentors that their responses should be anonymous and their ideas don't have to be normal everyday responses.
4. Have them write each idea on a different strip of paper and then toss it into the cap. (Don't forget to throw some in yourself.)
5. After everyone has put their thoughts into the cap, read them aloud so everyone hears the range of ideas regarding college.

Point out to mentors that everyone has specific things they look for in a college. Today they will start exploring colleges, thinking about what characteristics they really want to see in a campus, and deciding which colleges they like best.

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# Discussion Topic

## WHICH TYPE OF COLLEGE?

What do you know about these four college categories? Have everyone share their thoughts. Then talk about the following facts with the group.

### Community College

Community colleges, sometimes called city colleges, are two-year public schools that accept most students, including those with lower grades, and offer many different programs that lead to an associate degree or certificate. They also prepare students who transfer to a four-year school. Costs for attending community college are usually low, often less than \$3,000 per year for tuition and fees.

### State College

State colleges are four-year public schools in which you can earn a bachelor's degree, which is more advanced than an associate degree from a community college. State colleges offer a wide selection of subject areas (majors) that you can choose for your degree. Some state colleges also offer graduate programs, beyond four years, that lead to a master's or doctoral degree. Costs for attending state college are more than for community college.

### University

A university is a collection of colleges on one campus, each providing degrees for a specific area of study, such as for law or engineering. Like state colleges, universities offer four-year bachelor's degrees, and all offer master's and doctoral degrees. They are larger than state colleges and offer more advanced education and specialized programs. In general, it's tougher to get into a university, with fewer number of applicants accepted. Universities have higher admission requirements as well as higher costs for attending school. But getting a degree from a university usually makes it easier to get well-paying jobs and a successful career. In general, the higher your degree, the more money you will earn.

### Independent College or University

Independent colleges and universities are private schools and separate institutes of higher education that often have very specific admission requirements and much higher costs than public colleges and universities. Among independent schools are the prestigious Ivy League universities including Stanford, Harvard, and Yale.

### Other School Options?

Other school options include going to a job-training school (such as a trade school, career school, vocational school, or technical school) that teaches specific skills for one particular type of job (e.g., car mechanic, dental assistant). Upon completion of the program, you usually need to get a certification or license for that job.



# Activity

## COME TO COLLEGE!

In this activity, mentors become college recruiters, competing in teams to convince others in the club to go to their particular school. May the best recruiter win!

### Choose a School

Give each team a Campus Facts sheet for one of the college categories on the next few pages (community college, state college, university, independent school), and have them pick one school from a list of schools that you provide.

Possible websites you could use to create the list: [www.californiacolleges.edu](http://www.californiacolleges.edu) (CA colleges), <http://www.utexas.edu/world/univ> (all U.S. colleges), the state department of education websites.

### Gather Facts

Have each team work together to find facts about their school, using the school's website and any other available resources (e.g., college videos, brochures). You might also give teams the option of deciding on their own which facts to include instead of filling in their Campus Facts sheet. Set a time limit to gather facts.

### Plan Your Pitch

It's time for teams to be clever and creative! Give teams a few minutes to plan their strategy for convincing other mentors to go to their school.

### Recruit Others

Let the competition begin! Have teams take turns convincing others to go to their school. You could also have them debate or answer audience questions.

Then have everyone "submit an application" to the school they want to attend the most (write the name of that school on a strip of paper), excluding their own school. Tally the results and announce the winner!



# COMMUNITY COLLEGE Campus Facts

SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION (e.g., San Diego, near the beach): \_\_\_\_\_

1. Number of students enrolled (approximately): \_\_\_\_\_

2. List of degrees or majors offered: (Top 4 favorites)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Clubs or programs offered, such as athletics or drama: (Top 4 favorites)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Tuition and fees per year: \_\_\_\_\_

5. One grant or scholarship offered by the school: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Average grade point average (GPA) of admitted students: \_\_\_\_\_

7. College-entrance exam required for admission?    Yes    No

Three Other Reasons to Attend This School

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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# STATE COLLEGE Campus Facts

SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION (e.g., San Diego, near the beach): \_\_\_\_\_

1. Number of students enrolled (approximately): \_\_\_\_\_

2. List of degrees or majors offered: (Top 4 favorites)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Clubs or programs offered, such as athletics or drama: (Top 4 favorites)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Tuition and fees per year: \_\_\_\_\_

5. One grant or scholarship offered by the school: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Average grade point average (GPA) of admitted students: \_\_\_\_\_

7. College-entrance exam required for admission?      Yes      No

Three Other Reasons to Attend This School

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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# UNIVERSITY Campus Facts

SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION (e.g., San Diego, near the beach): \_\_\_\_\_

1. Number of students enrolled (approximately): \_\_\_\_\_

2. List of degrees or majors offered: (Top 4 favorites)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Clubs or programs offered, such as athletics or drama: (Top 4 favorites)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Tuition and fees per year: \_\_\_\_\_

5. One grant or scholarship offered by the school: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Average grade point average (GPA) of admitted students: \_\_\_\_\_

7. College-entrance exam required for admission?    Yes    No

Three Other Reasons to Attend This School

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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# INDEPENDENT COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY

## Campus Facts

SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION (e.g., San Diego, near the beach): \_\_\_\_\_

1. Number of students enrolled (approximately): \_\_\_\_\_

2. List of degrees or majors offered: (Top 4 favorites)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Clubs or programs offered, such as athletics or drama: (Top 4 favorites)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Tuition and fees per year: \_\_\_\_\_

5. One grant or scholarship offered by the school: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Average grade point average (GPA) of admitted students: \_\_\_\_\_

7. College-entrance exam required for admission?    Yes    No

Three Other Reasons to Attend This School

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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# Activity

## MORE COLLEGE OPTIONS

Have mentors complete these activities to explore beyond classroom walls and into the surroundings of their future college experiences, considering even more options in finding the perfect college match.

### College Preferences

1. Copy the More College Options lists (School Type, Location, Environment, Student Body, Campus, Academics, Extra Activities) from the following page onto separate sheets of chart paper, and post them on the walls. Post a blank chart for additional ideas.
2. Start by asking mentors the following question: *Why is it important to choose just the right college for you?* (College will be your home for several years, so it's important to choose just the right one.)
3. Tell mentors to think about the perfect environment for them to enjoy learning and living. Then give each mentor a different colored marker or set of stickers, and have them mark their preferences on each posted chart. Have them write additional preferences on the blank chart.
4. Talk about the results. What do you notice about everyone's preferences? Why might some mentors prefer to go to a local college while others prefer to go out of state?
5. Have mentors write their own preferences in their notebook for future reference, to help them narrow their choices of colleges later in their search for the perfect college match.



### College Views

Have mentors go online to view college video tours or college recruitment videos, such as at [www.youniversitytv.com/latest-college-videos](http://www.youniversitytv.com/latest-college-videos), or provide a collection of videos for them to view.

Have mentors rank each video from 1 to 10 depending on how close a match it is to their college preferences.

Then have mentors tell about and give reasons for their favorites. Which mentors choose the same videos and why?



# Activity

## MORE COLLEGE OPTIONS

### College Abroad?

Ask mentors if they have ever considered “studying abroad” – going to another country for some or all of their college education. Brainstorm reasons for and against studying abroad.

#### Reasons to Study Abroad

- travel around and see the world first-hand
- experience another culture first-hand
- learn and practice the language of that country
- make friends around the world
- develop global skills and experiences
- develop multicultural skills and experiences
- explore international internships
- learn about yourself and your own heritage
- learn to solve diverse problems and situations
- enhance your future employment opportunities

Does it cost more to study abroad? Many local universities have a Study Abroad Program, in which their students can attend school in another country while still paying the regular tuition of that local university. The partnering schools usually exchange students, providing opportunities for students in both places to study in a foreign country. Some programs also include room and board, with students living on campus or with a host family.

Have mentors check favorite colleges to see what opportunities are available for studying abroad. Mentors might also do online research about the culture and lifestyle of those favorite places.

### Sharing College Knowledge

As a club, share college knowledge with peers by creating an interactive map or other type of dynamic display, and/or creating a “college knowledge” blog or your own videos, for peers to explore college options. Encourage peers to submit their own questions, exchange information, and rank preferences.



# Activity

## MORE COLLEGE OPTIONS

### SCHOOL TYPE

large university  
small college  
private school  
religious school  
prestigious school  
specialty school  
international school

### LOCATION

local  
distant  
near family  
urban area  
rural area  
west coast  
east coast  
southern state  
northern state  
central state  
another country

### ENVIRONMENT

warm climate  
cool climate  
near beaches  
near mountains  
near lakes  
near cities  
safe area

### STUDENT BODY

coed  
not coed  
cultural  
relaxed  
studious  
friendly  
partiers  
competitive  
quiet  
common interests  
diverse interests

### CAMPUS

on-campus dorms  
on-campus dining  
sororities and fraternities  
strong school spirit  
spacious campus  
many lawns and trees  
libraries and study halls  
auditoriums and stadiums  
top technology resources  
research laboratories  
financial aid services  
counseling services  
tutoring services  
campus transportation

### ACADEMICS

less than 50 programs  
more than 50 programs  
large classes (> 200 students)  
small classes (< 100 students)  
large selection of classes  
night/weekend classes  
online classes  
independent study programs  
study abroad programs  
graduate programs  
taught by assistants  
taught by professors  
prestigious professors

### EXTRA ACTIVITIES

intercollegiate sports  
performing arts  
music programs  
student clubs  
community services  
student government  
civic opportunities  
campus jobs  
internships  
career networking  
academic competitions

# Activity

## MY COLLEGE FUTURE

1. How many colleges do you plan to apply to in the future?

0    1    2    3    4    More than 4

2. Do you plan on visiting any of those colleges?    Yes    No

3. Which college would you like to attend the most? Why?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What do you think will be the hardest part about applying for college?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. How much do you think a college degree will cost, including four years of tuition (school fees), room and board (rent and food), books, and other expenses?

Tuition: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Room & Board: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Books: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Other Expenses: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Cost: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

6. Do you think you will need financial aid (grant, scholarship, loan) to pay for college?

Yes    No

7. What do you hope to accomplish in college? Write three goals for your college future.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Talk with other mentors about your answers.  
How can CCC help you reach your future goals?



# SESSION ADJOURNED

## Final Thoughts About This Session

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## Gearing Up For Next Session

Next club session is about...Preparing for College!

- \* What are some ways to prepare for college?
- \* Think about how to make yourself a top candidate for college.



## Lead Mentors For Session 7

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

(Coach: Before the next session, work with the lead mentors to prepare them to lead the club.)