

Four-Year Programs

The **BIG** Idea

- What can a four-year college offer me, how should I choose one, and what should I major in?

AGENDA

Approx. 45 minutes

- I. Warm Up: My Choices (10 minutes)
- II. Some Options (5 minutes)
- III. Majors for Me: RUReadyND.com (25 minutes)
- IV. Wrap Up (5 minutes)

MATERIALS

PORTFOLIO PAGES:

- Portfolio page 22, RUReadyND.com and School Finder Results
- Portfolio page 23, Your Search Criteria

STUDENT HANDBOOK PAGES:

- Student Handbook page 61, My Choices

FACILITATOR PAGES:

- Facilitator Resource 1, School Finder Print Version

OBJECTIVES

During this lesson, the student(s) will:

- Learn about various types of four-year colleges.
- Develop a list of preferences that might guide their post-secondary choices
- Use these preferences to create a list of post-secondary options.

OVERVIEW

Students fill out a questionnaire about their four-year college interests and discuss their answers with a partner. As a class, they brainstorm the factors to consider when choosing a college to attend. They talk about different types of four-year college options, then visit RUPrepareND.com to find colleges that match their current interests.

PREPARATION

- List the day's **BIG IDEA** and activities on the board.
- Write the day's vocabulary words and definitions on the board.
- The following handouts need to be made into overhead transparencies or copied onto chart paper:
 - **Portfolio page 22, RUPrepareND.com's School Finder Results**
 - **Portfolio page 23, Your Search Criteria**
- Make arrangements for the class to use the computer lab, and make sure RUPrepareND.com is accessible from students' computers.

VOCABULARY

Tuition: Fees paid for instruction, especially for post-secondary education.

Undergraduate: A student in a university or college who has not received his/her bachelor's degree.

Private College or University: School that receives only a small amount of ongoing government support; tuition is usually higher, but so is the aid that is offered.

Public College or University: School partially funded by a state or local government, often called a state school or city college/university.

Specialized College: A public or private school that prepares you for a career in a specific field. Examples include art, music, teaching, engineering, business, health

science, and religion.

Financial Aid: Scholarships, grants, loans, and other assistance programs offered to students to help pay for tuition and other expenses while attending college.

Major: Area of focus or study at a college or university.

IMPLEMENTATION OPTIONS

In **Activity III, Colleges for Me: RUPrepareND.com**, after discussing the questions/topics highlighted in the lesson, you may choose to allow your students to complete their **School Finder** independently. Once students have finished their survey, have them record their results on **Portfolio page 22, RUPrepareND.com's School Finder Results** and **Portfolio page 23, Your Search Criteria**. Then continue with the **Wrap Up** as written.

ACTIVITY STEPS

I. Warm Up: My Choices (10 minutes)

1. **SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** True or false: All four-year colleges are pretty much the same, so it doesn't really matter which one you choose. [Students respond.]

There are all kinds of four-year colleges to choose from and every one is different. Today we'll find out about some of those differences and what your own personal preferences might be.

2. [Have students turn to **Student Handbook page 61, My Choices**. Ask them to fill out the questionnaire. For the first question, which includes the choices "students very similar to me" and "different types of students," you may want to describe ways in which students could be similar (e.g., gender, race, socioeconomic group, personal interests and style).]
3. [After students have had a few minutes to fill out the worksheet, call time. Pair off students and have partners discuss their answers. Make sure they give reasons for each answer, touching on questions like: What personal experiences influenced your response? Did you have a specific college in mind? Was the question easy or hard to answer and why?]

II. Some Options (5 minutes)

1. **SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** **Post-secondary education** has a vocabulary all its own, so here are a few terms you should know.

Every state has its own university system, sometimes with a few colleges and universities. The state gives these schools a lot of funding, so if you live there or one of your parents does, the costs are fairly low. These are known as **public schools**.

You can also go to a state university outside your home state, but you'll have to pay higher prices that are more like the costs for a private school.

Private schools receive much less government support, so they have much higher **tuition**. But you shouldn't rule them out just because of the price tag. These schools often offer scholarships and different kinds of **financial aid**, which can help you pay the bills.

There are also **specialized colleges**, which can be public or private. A specialized college is a school that prepares you for a career in a specific field. Can anyone name one? (*Agriculture, art, music, teaching, engineering, business, health science, and religion.*)

So if you know what you want to do with your life, a specialized college might be the way to go.

III. Colleges for Me: RUPrepareND.com (25 minutes)

1. **SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** RUPrepareND.com is a great place to find colleges and universities that match your interests. Using the **School Finder** feature, you can answer a few questions on the site, and it'll give you a list of schools with the things you're looking for. So let's log on. [Note that students don't need to rule out a school they're interested in just because it doesn't appear on their list.]
2. [Have students sign into RUPrepareND.com by going to RUPrepareND.com and entering their account name and password in the spaces provided.]

[Ask them to click on the **College Planning** tab at the top of the page and then on the **Explore Schools** section. Under the section of the page titled "School Exploration Tools" they should then click on the **School Finder** button. Next, they should click on **School Type**, which is listed under Key Facts on the left side of the screen. Students should check off Bachelor's degree programs and Associate's degree programs before proceeding to the next section.]

Students can now select additional characteristics from the list of choices along the left side of the screen. As a class, walk the students through the list of characteristics one-by-one to be sure that they know what each characteristic means.

3. [Give students about 10 minutes to review and complete the questions. Once they have a list of schools, ask them to print them out by clicking **Print This** near the top right corner of the page or record them on **Portfolio page 28, RUPrepareND.com School Finder Results**. Instruct the students to then look at their list of search criteria at the top of the page. These will appear on the printout of their list of schools.

If students did not print the list of schools, they should record their search criteria on **Portfolio page 29, Your Search Criteria**. Note that the type of school will be two-year

or four-year.]

4. [Tell students that they can save this particular search from the page that includes their list of schools. They should scroll down the page until they see “Save Your Current Search As” at the bottom of the blue bar on the left-hand side of the page. They should type in a title for their search in the text box and then click on the **Save Your Current Search As** button.]

IV. Wrap Up (5 minutes)

1. [Review the benefits of attending a four-year college as discussed in the lesson. Then review the importance of choosing a major that matches your interests.]
2. **SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** If you want to find out more about the majors on your list, what could you do? (Visit school websites, follow the links found in the article, talk to your school counselor about the major, talk to adults who may have majored in the area you’re interested in.)
3. [Remind students that their interests are likely to change and evolve in the next few years, so it’s important to stay open to different possibilities.]

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Encourage students to talk to a variety of adults they know about the four-year schools they attended. Explain that finding out what people liked and disliked about their college experience is a great way to continue to learn about the options available.

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Name: _____

Period: _____

School Finder

Directions: Circle your responses to the questions below. Answer each question thoughtfully. I will enter your answers on RUPrepareND.com and you will get the results next week in class.

LOCATION

1. Where would you like to go for college?

(You can either underline the names of the states where you would like to attend school or CIRCLE the name of a region that interests you. **DEFINITION** of Region: an area of the country made up of several states.)

- a. **West** [Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming]
- b. **Midwest** [Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Wisconsin]
- c. **Northeast** [Vermont, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Maine, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut]
- d. **Southeast** [Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Colorado]
- e. **American Protectorates** [Guam, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands]

SCHOOL TYPE

2. What type of college would you prefer?

- a. 2-year
- b. 4-year
- c. Does not matter

PUBLIC OR PRIVATE

3. Would you prefer to go to a public or private college?

- a. Public
- b. Private
- c. No preference

SCHOOL SETTING

4. What type of environment would you like to live in?

- a. Major City (major cities and towns)

- b. Small/Medium City
- c. Large Town
- d. Small Town
- e. Rural Community (an area far away from a city or large town)

SCHOOL SIZE

5. What size school would you like to attend?
- a. Extra Small (Under 25,000 students)
 - b. Small (2,500 - 5,000)
 - c. Medium (5,000 - 10,000)
 - d. Large (10,000 - 15,000)
 - e. Extra Large (15,000-20,000)
 - f. Super-sized (Over 20,000 students)
 - e. Does not matter

ENTRANCE DIFFICULTY

6. What level of selectivity are you looking for? (Selectivity covers the class rank, GPA, SAT scores and ACT scores of the incoming freshmen as well as the percentage of applicants who were accepted)
- a. Least Selective: virtually all applicants are accepted regardless of high school rank or test scores.
 - b. Less Selective: most freshmen were not in the top 50% of their high school class. Up to 95% of applicants accepted.
 - c. Selective: more than 75% of freshmen were in the top 50% of their high school class. 85% or fewer applicants accepted.
 - d. More Selective: more than 50% of all freshmen were in the top 10% of their high school class. 60% or fewer applicants accepted.
 - e. Most Selective: more than 75% of freshmen were in the top 10% of their high school class. Less than 30% of applicants accepted.
 - f. Does not matter

TUITION

7. How much are you planning to spend in tuition? Just choose tuition for now, don't include room and board. Circle your answer.
- a. Less than \$2,500 per year
 - b. \$2,500 - \$5,000 per year
 - c. \$5,000 - \$7,500 per year
 - d. \$7,500 - \$10,000 per year

SOURCE: RUPrepareND.com

- e. \$10,000-\$15,000 per year
- f. \$15,000-\$20,000 per year
- g. Over \$20,000

RESIDENCY

8. What is your state of residence? _____

PROGRAMS/MAJORS OFFERED

9. In the space below, write down the major you think you might be interested in studying at college. (Ex: biology, English, photography, accounting, carpentry, etc.)
If you are unsure, write Undecided.

SPECIAL ACADEMIC PROGRAM OPTIONS

10. Which of the following special program options are important to you? (Circle all that interest you. If you are unfamiliar with all of the programs listed, skip this question.

NOTE: Additional options are on the next page.)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| a. Study Abroad | l. Distance Learning |
| b. Self Designed Majors | m. External Degree Program |
| c. Double Majors | n. Washington Semester (American University) |
| d. Dual Degrees | o. UN Semester |
| e. Independent Study | p. Sea Semester |
| f. Accelerated Study | q. American Studies Program |
| g. Honors Program | r. Air Force ROTC |
| h. Phi Beta Kappa | s. Navy ROTC |
| i. Pass/Fail Grading Option | t. Army ROTC |
| j. Internships | u. Does not matter |
| k. Week-end College | |

GENDER BALANCE

11. Would you prefer a student population that is...

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| a. Coeducational (both men and women) | c. Men's College |
| b. Woman's College | d. Primarily Women |
| | e. Primarily Men |

INTERCOLLEGIATE SPORTS

12. Circle the sport(s) that you currently play and would like to play in college.

Alpine Skiing	Men's	Women's
Archery	Men's	Women's
Badminton	Men's	Women's
Baseball	Men's	Women's
Basketball	Men's	Women's
Bowling	Men's	Women's
Boxing	Men's	Women's
Canoe and Kayak	Men's	Women's
Cheerleading	Men's	Women's
Crew	Men's	Women's
Cricket	Men's	Women's
Cross-Country Running	Men's	Women's
Curling	Men's	Women's
Cycling	Men's	Women's
Diving	Men's	Women's
Equestrian Sports	Men's	Women's
Fencing	Men's	Women's
Field Hockey	Men's	Women's
Figure Skating	Men's	Women's
Football	Men's	Women's
Golf	Men's	Women's
Gymnastics	Men's	Women's
Handball	Men's	Women's
Ice Hockey	Men's	Women's
Lacrosse	Men's	Women's
Lightweight Football	Men's	Women's
Martial Arts	Men's	Women's
Nordic Skiing	Men's	Women's
Polo	Men's	Women's
Racquetball	Men's	Women's
Riflery	Men's	Women's
Rodeo	Men's	Women's
Rugby	Men's	Women's
Sailing	Men's	Women's

Soccer	Men's	Women's
Softball	Men's	Women's
Squash	Men's	Women's
Swimming	Men's	Women's
Tennis	Men's	Women's
Track and Field	Men's	Women's
Ultimate Frisbee	Men's	Women's
Volleyball	Men's	Women's
Water Polo	Men's	Women's
Water Skiing	Men's	Women's
Weight Lifting	Men's	Women's
Wheelchair Basketball	Men's	Women's
Wrestling	Men's	Women's

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

13. Which of the following do you want to be available on campus?

(Circle all that interest you.)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| a. Student Government | h. Yearbook |
| b. Literary Magazine | i. Television Station |
| c. Radio Station | j. Social Fraternities |
| d. Honor Societies | k. Campus Based Religious Organization |
| e. Social Sororities | l. International Student Organizations |
| f. Minority Student Organizations | m. Does not matter |
| g. Student Newspaper | |

STUDENT HOUSING

14. If you want to live on campus, what kind of housing are you interested in?

- | | |
|--|---|
| a. Coed dorms available(men and women) | f. Single-student apartments |
| b. Women's dorms available | g. Married-student apartments |
| c. Men's dorms available | h. Special Housing for Disabled Students |
| d. Sorority housing available | i. Special Housing for International Students |
| e. Fraternity housing available | j. Cooperative Housing Available |

My Choices

For each sentence, circle the choice that best describes your college preferences.

1. I would like to attend a college with:

students very similar to me

different types of students

2. I would like to go to college where I can:

live close to home

see new places

3. I would like to go to college in a:

small town

big city

4. In my studies, I'd like to:

specialize in one thing

learn about a variety of things

5. A school where you get a lot of personal attention in smaller classes is:

very important to me

not very important to me

6. A school known for its sports teams is:

very important to me

not at all important to me

What kind of colleges interest you? Use RUReadyND.com to begin your search.



School Finder Results

Use the **School Finder** to find undergraduate schools (two- and four-year colleges) that meet your needs. On each page, check the kinds of things you prefer -- public or private school, big or small. If you're not sure, skip over that section. The School Finder will create a list of possible schools.

Print out your list and put it in your Portfolio by clicking Print This in the upper right corner of the screen, or copy your top choices here. An example has been done for you.

List five schools that were exact or close matches:

Name of School	Type of School	City/State
North Dakota State University	four year	Fargo ND
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____

List additional schools that interest you. You may include schools that were not on your list. (Do not include any schools listed above.)

6. _____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____
8. _____	_____	_____
9. _____	_____	_____
10. _____	_____	_____

THE SCHOOL I AM RESEARCHING IS: _____

Your Search Criteria

You will see your criteria above your list of matching schools. Print out your list by clicking Print This in the upper right corner of the page and put it in your Portfolio, or copy your criteria below.

1. Location: (If you remember the region you selected, record just that name below.)

2. School Type:

3. Public or Private:

4. Setting:

5. School Size:

6. Entrance Difficulty:

7. Tuition:

8. Special Academic Programs:

9. Gender Balance:

10. Extracurricular Activities:

11. Student Housing:
