

# EXPLORING YOUR COLLEGE SUCCESS GUIDE

## INTRODUCTION & LEARNING GOALS

*The College Success Guide provides information to help high school seniors prepare for college. The following lesson will help students:*

- *Identify what they're looking forward to and what concerns they have about college*
- *Learn how the College Success Guide can help them address questions about college*

## AGENDA

**Timing:** approximately 30–45 minutes (will vary by class size)

1. Warm-up: College anticipations
2. Introductions
3. College Success Guide scavenger hunt

## ITEMS NEEDED

1. A copy of the College Success Guide for each student in the class. If students don't have copies on hand, you may download a printable PDF at [LearnMoreIndiana.org/classroom-materials](https://www.learnmoreindiana.org/classroom-materials).
2. (Optional) Chalkboard, dry-erase board or 11 large sheets of paper or poster board. Create 11 columns (or use individual sheets) labeled with the following headings:
  - Committing to college success
  - Tips for completing 30 credit hours each year
  - Budgeting for college
  - Keys to success in the college classroom
  - Hitting the books
  - First-year success and beyond
  - Making good lifestyle choices
  - Getting involved outside the classroom
  - Maximizing your college experience
  - Balancing work and school
  - Getting academic support
3. Worksheets included in this lesson (make a copy for each student in the class):
  - College anticipations
  - College Success Guide scavenger hunt



# Activities

1

## **WARM-UP: COLLEGE ANTICIPATIONS** (5–10 minutes)

**Distribute the worksheet: “College anticipations.”**

Give students several minutes to respond to the two warm-up questions. Then, ask students to pair up with a partner, introduce themselves to each other, tell where they plan to attend college and share their responses to the warm-up prompts. Provide about five minutes for partners to talk and share their responses. Then, bring the group back together for introductions.

2

## **INTRODUCTIONS** (5–10 minutes)

**Ask students to take turns introducing his/her partner to the group.**

**Each student should:**

1. Tell where his/her partner plans to attend college, and
2. Share one thing his/her partner looks forward to about college and one concern his/her partner has about going to college.

3

## **COLLEGE SUCCESS GUIDE SCAVENGER HUNT** (20–25 minutes)

Read the “Dear Student” letter on the first page of the College Success Guide aloud to students, or ask for a volunteer. Reiterate for students the purpose of this guide and point out the table of contents to help them get familiar with the sections.

**Distribute the worksheet: “College Success Guide scavenger hunt.”**

Students will use the worksheet to find information in the College Success Guide that will help them answer common questions about college. Give students about 15–20 minutes to complete the scavenger hunt. They can work independently or in groups of two to three. If time allows when students are finished, review the answers as a group and write them in the categories on the chalkboard, dry-erase board or large sheets of paper.



# Worksheet | COLLEGE ANTICIPATIONS

What are some things you look forward to about going to college?

Lined writing area for the first question.

What are some concerns you have about going to college?

Lined writing area for the second question.



# Worksheet | COLLEGE SUCCESS GUIDE SCAVENGER HUNT

Use this worksheet to familiarize yourself with the College Success Guide. Next to each of the questions in the table below, write down the section title and page number(s) of the College Success Guide where you can find information to help answer the question. The section titles include:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Committing to college success                 | 7. Making good lifestyle choices          |
| 2. Tips for completing 30 credit hours each year | 8. Getting involved outside the classroom |
| 3. Budgeting for college                         | 9. Maximizing your college experience     |
| 4. Keys to success in the college classroom      | 10. Balancing work and school             |
| 5. Hitting the books                             | 11. Getting academic support              |
| 6. First-year success and beyond                 |   |

<i>Where can I find information about...</i>	<i>Section title</i>	<i>Page number(s)</i>
...reasons to get involved in activities outside the classroom during college?		
...deciding where to live during college?		
...where to go for help filing my FAFSA in college?		
...how an academic advisor can help me during college?		
...how college classes and instructors differ from high school?		
...where to look for on-campus jobs in college?		
...how to make sure I complete enough credit hours each year?		



# Worksheet | COLLEGE SUCCESS GUIDE SCAVENGER HUNT (CONTINUED)

<i>Where can I find information about...</i>	<i>Section title</i>	<i>Page number(s)</i>
...what summer bridge programs are and how I might benefit from participating?		
...weekend events and activities during college?		
...how to begin creating a budget for college?		
...what types of events and services might be available for first-year students at my college?		
...what I could gain by participating in experiential- or service-learning in college?		
...how to develop good study habits in college?		
...different types of clubs and organizations for getting involved during college?		
...what to do if I need help in a class during college?		