

# COMMITTING TO COLLEGE SUCCESS

## INTRODUCTION & LEARNING GOALS

*Each student's college experience will be different, but these guiding recommendations are useful no matter his or her circumstances. This lesson will help students identify ways to be successful as a college student.*

## AGENDA

**Timing:** approximately 65–90 minutes (will vary by class size)

1. Warm-up: How to set myself up for college success
2. Make a commitment to college success
3. Wrap-up/Reflection: What I learned about succeeding in college

## 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](http://LearnMoreIndiana.org/classroom-materials). For this lesson, refer to pages 3–4.
2. Chalkboard or dry-erase board.
3. Computers with Internet access.
4. Worksheets included in this lesson (make a copy for each student in the class):
  - My ideas for college success
  - Five steps to succeeding in college



# Activities

1

## **WARM-UP: HOW TO SET MYSELF UP FOR COLLEGE SUCCESS** *(15–20 minutes)*

**Distribute the worksheet: “My ideas for college success.”**

This worksheet provides space for students to jot down their thoughts about how they can be successful in college. Give students about 5–7 minutes to record their ideas.

Ask students to share their ideas with the group, and write them down on the chalkboard or dry-erase board.

2

## **MAKE A COMMITMENT TO COLLEGE SUCCESS** *(35–50 minutes)*

**Distribute the worksheet: “Five steps to succeeding in college.”**

Explain that completing certain steps will help students succeed no matter where they go to college or what they choose to major in. Divide students into five groups and assign each group to one of the following:

1. Enroll in college full time
2. Complete 30 credit hours each year
3. Meet Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards set by your college
4. Complete and file the FAFSA each year by April 15
5. Remain drug- and crime-free

**Direct students to pages 3–4 of the College Success Guide.**

Give them about 10 minutes to come up with a brief presentation for their assigned tip. In the presentation, each group should explain their tip and provide guidance for where students may find support or resources for help. As the groups are giving presentations, ask students to write down what they learned in the chart on the worksheet.



# Activities

## 3

### **WRAP-UP/REFLECTION: WHAT I LEARNED ABOUT SUCCEEDING IN COLLEGE** *(15–20 minutes)*

Discuss how the ideas they wrote down at the beginning of the lesson compare to what they learned during the presentations. Jot down their comments on the chalkboard or dry-erase board.



# Worksheet | MY IDEAS FOR COLLEGE SUCCESS

Using the space to the right, write down some ideas about what you can do to be successful in college.

A large area of the page filled with horizontal dashed lines, intended for writing ideas.



# Worksheet | FIVE STEPS TO SUCCEEDING IN COLLEGE

The chart below outlines five steps that can help you succeed no matter where you go to college or what you choose to study. Refer to pages 3–4 of the College Success Guide to fill in the information below.

<i>Steps to success</i>	<i>What should I do and/or what resources might I seek out if...</i>
Enroll in college full time	...I'm considering dropping a class?
	...I have issues or concerns during college about full-time enrollment?
Complete 30 credit hours each year	...I'm struggling with a 15-credit hour course load?
	...I'm interested in earning some credits over the summer?
Meet Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards set by your college	...I'm experiencing difficulty in one or more of my classes?
	...I want to make sure I stay on top of my academics?



# Worksheet | FIVE STEPS TO SUCCEEDING IN COLLEGE (CONTINUED)

<i>Steps to success</i>	<i>What should I do and/or what resources might I seek out if...</i>
<b>Complete and file a FAFSA each year by March 10</b>	<p>...I need assistance completing and filing my FAFSA during college?</p> <hr/> <p>...I have any questions, concerns or issues regarding my financial aid awards?</p>
<b>Remain drug- and crime-free</b>	<p>...I violate my college's alcohol and/or drug policy?</p> <hr/> <p>...I want to learn how I can get involved in the community in a positive way (volunteering, etc.)?</p>