

How to Make a College Plan

Grade levels: 8th—12th grade

Time required: 20 minutes



Materials needed:

- A computer with Internet access.
- Access to this URL: <http://bigfuture.org/make-a-plan>
- (Optional) An email address to create a free College Board account or get login help.



Student objectives:

- Successfully create and save a personal college road map.
- Successfully complete a first college planning step.



Tips before you begin:

1. To save time, help students create an account or log in to an existing account before they start.
2. Students can view and interact with a plan without logging in, but they need to be signed in to save a plan or check off an activity as complete.
3. Give the students a specific activity to complete that's appropriate for their season and grade. It should be one that they can complete immediately—for example, by viewing a related video.
4. Note that some activities have multiple steps before they're considered "done."



Classroom discussion topics (optional):

1. Discuss things that students are worried about as they think about college planning—for example, the cost of college, the pressure to choose the "right" college.
2. Discuss things that students are excited about when they think about college—for example, learning new things, or the social life. Talk about how these interests can turn into college search criteria.

Find more lesson plans and other resources to help your students find their path to college at bigfuture.org.

Alignment with Eight Components of College and Career Readiness Counseling:

- 1. College Aspirations
- 2. Academic Planning for College and Career Readiness
- 3. Enrichment and Extracurricular Engagement
- 4. College and Career Exploration and Selection Processes
- 5. College and Career Assessments
- 6. College Affordability Planning
- 7. College and Career Admission Processes
- 8. Transition from High School Graduation to College Enrollment

Learn more about the eight components and NOSCA (National Office for School Counselor Advocacy): nosca.collegeboard.org

Frequently asked questions

What is BigFuture?

BigFuture by the College Board is a free comprehensive website with a step-by-step approach that improves the college planning process for students, families and educators. Students and educators collaborated to create the interactive tools and media that guide students as they find, afford and enroll in a college that's a right for them.

Visit bigfuture.org.

Why create a plan?

A BigFuture college plan is a free road map to college. It guides students step-by-step through the things they should be thinking about and doing, alleviating concerns along the way through expert advice and student stories. It gives students a simple way to get started and a simple way to stay engaged and connected.

How can my students share their plan with me?

Students can print the plan to share it with you and their family. Stay tuned for new and better ways to see and track your students' progress and activities.

Is it free to create a plan?

Yes. It's also free to create an account and save it.

Can my students and I use the same College Board login we already have?

Yes. You can use the same user name and password across all College Board student sites—to save your college plan, favorite colleges, scholarships, to register for the SAT® and get scores, connect to My College QuickStart™ and PSAT/NMSQT® score reports, and more.