

# Making the Final Decision

This lesson is designed to highlight the key steps of making the final college decision.

## OBJECTIVES

Students will:

1. Learn about different types of financial aid to help comprehend financial aid offers
2. Utilize MEFA Pathway's *College Cost Calculator* and *Loan Cost Estimator* to calculate a personalized cost at each college they were accepted to

## ACTIVITIES

### PART 1

#### Content Knowledge

*Pre-class activity*

Students should watch MEFA's [After the College Acceptance webinar](#). Students should take notes on terminology that is new to them and information they find useful, taking into account their current college acceptance status. Students should also include any questions that they have after watching the webinar.

### PART 2

#### Applying Information

Students should apply the knowledge they gathered from MEFA's *After the College Acceptance* webinar in a Kahoot game MEFA will provide that will cover the webinar content. Students can use the notes they took while watching the webinar during the game. They should also take additional notes during the game.

#### In-Class Instruction

1. Divide the class into small groups
2. Have one student from each group register for the game
3. Once the game starts, each team must decide on a final answer together. When providing their answer, groups must explain how they came to their decision.

#### Virtual Class Instruction

1. Review [How to host Kahoot! remotely](#) and follow the instructions
2. During the game, pause between questions to ask students about the thought process behind their answers and if they have additional questions.

Grade Level: 12

#### MEFA PATHWAY SECTIONS WITHIN THIS LESSON:

- College Compare
- College Cost Calculator

#### SUBJECT AREAS:

- Choosing A College
- Paying for College

#### MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Internet connection to work with the MEFA Pathway website
- Word/Google Doc & Excel
- Webinar: [After the College Acceptance](#)
- [Kahoot Game](#)

Email any questions to:  
[info@mefapathway.org](mailto:info@mefapathway.org)

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### PART 3

#### Evaluating Information

Students should apply the information they have learned to review their financial aid offers. Students should enter the information from their offers into MEFA Pathway's *College Cost Calculator*. The costs of tuition & fees, room & board, and books & supplies for each school should be calculated and recorded in an Excel spreadsheet. After the students have calculated their personal cost at each college, they should use MEFA Pathway's *Loan Cost Estimator* if they are interested in borrowing a loan. Students should also add this to their Excel spreadsheet.

### PART 4

#### Critical Thinking/Creative Application

Students should reflect on the college cost Excel spreadsheet they created and rank the schools from the most affordable to the least affordable. Students should research the top colleges they are considering by visiting each college's website to explore further. Students should consider factors such as programs/majors of interest, sports, clubs, graduation rate, retention rate, size and location, and options for online programs when assessing the best fit.

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| CATEGORY   | EXCELLENT<br>4  | GOOD<br>3   | SATISFACTORY<br>2  | NEEDS<br>IMPROVEMENT<br>1   |
|--|---|---|--|---|
| Sequencing of Information  | The information is organized in a clear, logical way.                                   | Most information is organized in a clear, logical way.            | Some information is logically sequenced.                         | There is no clear plan for the organization of information.           |
| Effectiveness  | The spreadsheet includes all material needed to give a good understanding of the topic. | The spreadsheet is lacking one or two key elements.               | The spreadsheet is missing more than two key elements.           | The spreadsheet is lacking several key elements and has inaccuracies. |
| Includes Requirements  | All requirements are addressed.   | At least two of the requirements are addressed.                   | One of the requirements is addressed.                            | No requirements are addressed.  |
| Conventions. Student uses proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling. | The spreadsheet has no misspellings or grammatical errors.                              | The spreadsheet has 1- 2 misspellings, but no grammatical errors. | The spreadsheet has 1- 2 grammatical errors but no misspellings. | The spreadsheet has more than 2 grammatical and/or spelling errors.   |