
ONE-ON-ONE COLLEGE LIST

This is your chance to show your college knowledge and help your peers identify colleges that are right for them. This play is perfect for 11th graders -- aka rising seniors -- to narrow in on options before senior year.

Make it a Virtual Play!

Advertise the opportunity to rising seniors on social media. They can set up times with a Peer Leader or adult volunteer to talk through their options on FaceTime or Zoom. You can also highlight www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org as a great place for students to search for colleges independently.

Check back each week for more virtual plays and other helpful resources:
PeerForward Team Assets

PLAY IN MOTION

Play #6: One-on-One College List

Description: Most high school seniors attend schools where they do not get one-on-one guidance when it comes to college. Now is your chance to be college counselors. In this activity, you will meet one-on-one with a fellow senior to help them develop their college list.

Goal/Outcome: Seniors will identify a list of 5–7 schools to which they want to apply.

Suggested Time/Audience:

- 30–40 minutes
- 12th graders (can also do this with 11th graders in spring)

Materials/Space Needed:

- 2–3 chairs
- Computers, laptops, or tablets with Internet access
- Sign-In Sheet

To Prep for Event:

- Work with your Advisor to determine which students you want to target. Hopefully he/she can provide you with a list of students, likely ones who aren't sure where they want to attend college or are undecided about college in general.
- Once you have your list, reach out to them to find out when they would like to meet. Tell them you are part of the PeerForward team and ready to help them with their college list.
- Make sure you know the College Board or Cappex college search sites.

At the Event:

- Start out the conversation by introducing yourself, and explain that you are here to help with their college lists. Go over the “Things You Need to Know About College Admission” handout with them.
- Go to **www.bigfuture.collegeboard.com** and go to “Find Colleges” at the top. Click on “College Search” under the drop-down menu.

PLAY IN MOTION

Play #6: One-on-One College List, cont.

- Walk students through selecting their filters and determining what's important to them.
- Have students create a list of schools and their information using the “College Admissions Comparisons Sheet” handout. Make a copy of this sheet—give one to the student and save one for yourself.
- Talk with the student: How do they feel about this list of schools? Are there others to add?
- Encourage students to begin applications and encourage them to check out the LinkForward.org apps for additional resources.
- Data to Collect:
 - ✓ Number of students who completed a college list (use the “Attendance Tracker”).

After the Event:

- Provide the college lists to your Advisor.
- Follow up with the students two weeks later to see if they have started their applications. If you can remember, continue to remind them to apply.
- Debrief with team:
 - ✓ What went well?
 - ✓ What could you improve for next time?
 - ✓ How did these conversations go?
 - ✓ Did the team feel comfortable meeting one-on-one with students?

Handouts Needed:

- “Collegeboard.org Search Guide” handout
- “Things You Need to Know About College Admission” handout



PLAY IN MOTION

College Admissions Comparison Sheet

Use this sheet to compare the colleges you are interested in. This sheet can be a helpful first step in creating a list of colleges. Use online resources such as www.linkforward.org to verify information.

College #1: _____

Average GPA: _____ Average SAT: _____

Deadline for Application: _____ Application Fee: _____

Required Materials (Y/N?)

SAT scores: ____ Recommendations: ____ Essay: ____

Supplemental Materials Required: _____

Additional Info/Notes: _____

College #2: _____

Average GPA: _____ Average SAT: _____

Deadline for Application: _____ Application Fee: _____

Required Materials (Y/N?)

SAT scores: ____ Recommendations: ____ Essay: ____

Supplemental Materials Required: _____

Additional Info/Notes: _____

PLAY IN MOTION

College Admissions Comparison Sheet, cont.

College #3: _____

Average GPA: _____ Average SAT: _____

Deadline for Application: _____ Application Fee: _____

Required Materials (Y/N?)

SAT scores: ____ Recommendations: ____ Essay: ____

Supplemental Materials Required: _____

Additional Info/Notes: _____

College #4: _____

Average GPA: _____ Average SAT: _____

Deadline for Application: _____ Application Fee: _____

Required Materials (Y/N?)

SAT scores: ____ Recommendations: ____ Essay: ____

Supplemental Materials Required: _____

Additional Info/Notes: _____

PLAY IN MOTION

Collegeboard.org Search Guide

Use this instructional sheet to help you with your one-on-ones. This will help guide you through the College Board website:

1. Go to **www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org**.
2. Click the second tab that says “Find Colleges”—hover your cursor over it.
3. Then click on the drop-down menu “College Search.”
4. At this point, you will go through all the filters on the left side of the page. Ask the student what is important to them. Do your best to fill in the student’s SAT/ACT scores if they know them.
5. You don’t need to use all the filters—just the ones that are most important to the student.
6. Once you get through as many filters as the student wants, click “Save Selections.”
7. At this point, you should see many schools—probably around twenty. Look through the list and ask the student if they know of any of these schools or would be interested in applying to any of them.
8. To get more information about the school, click on the school name to see all the details.
9. Try as much as possible to narrow down the list to about 5–7 schools. If you need to narrow the criteria even further, select even more filters to get a smaller list.

PLAY IN MOTION

Five Things You Need to Know About College Admission



1. You can get in. Really.

College admission isn't as competitive as you might think. Fewer than 100 colleges in the U.S. are highly selective, which means they accept less than 25 percent of applicants. Close to 500 four-year colleges accept more than 75 percent of applicants. And open-admission colleges accept all or most high school graduates.



2. You are more than test scores.

Colleges care most about the work you've done in high school. They look for students who have earned strong grades in challenging courses. They also try to learn about your character by looking at what you do outside the classroom. Take advantage of opportunities like the application essay and college interview to show a more complete picture of who you are.



3. You are in charge.

This is your big future—you're in the driver's seat. Stay focused on what's important to you and what you want to get out of your college experience. College planning can feel overwhelming at times, but if you take charge and stay focused on your goals, you can make it work for you.



4. You are unique.

You should base your choice on how well a college fits your needs. Don't worry about how it's ranked on a list or how famous it is. The effort you put in and the opportunities you take advantage of once you get there matter more than the college you go to. Once you graduate from college, your achievements and skills will matter most.



5. You are not in this alone.

Family, teachers, and friends are a great resource. Discuss your plans to go to college with them and ask for help and advice. Make an appointment with a school counselor or your principal to talk about the application process, colleges that will suit you, and options for financial aid.