

 **BUILDING BLOCKS STUDENT WORKSHEET**

Exploring community colleges

Community college is one option for gaining the knowledge, skills, and experience you'll need to succeed in the future. Exploring community college can help you decide whether it might be right for you.

Instructions

- 1 Follow the instructions below to research community colleges on two websites: <https://www.collegeboard.org> and <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/>.
- 2 Answer the questions about community college based on what you learned from the websites.

Researching the benefits of community college

- Visit <https://www.collegeboard.org> and search for the College Board's webpage on frequently asked questions about community college.
- List at least three potential benefits of attending community college:

Exploring a community college

1. Using the "College search" link on the frequently asked questions webpage, search for a community college near your home. You might consider starting your search with colleges within 50 miles of your zip code.
2. Be sure to click on the "Type of school" button and select "2-year/community college."
3. Choose a school and write its name below.
4. Click your chosen college to view a summary about the school; click the link to the school's website to explore the college further.

5. Review what the school has to offer.
6. Visit the College Scorecard website at <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/> to search for more information about the community college you chose.
7. Click on “name search” and enter the college’s name. A small box showing the college will appear. Click the college’s name in the box to see details about the school.
8. Use the information below the school’s name to answer these questions:
 - What is the average annual cost of attending this school? _____
 - What is the school’s graduation rate? _____
 - What is the average salary after completing? (This shows a range of salaries based on different fields of study.) _____
9. Next, scroll down to the “Financial Aid & Debt” drop-down menu and answer these questions:
 - What is the median total debt after graduation? (This shows a range of debt levels based on different fields of study and only includes federal student loans.) _____
 - What is the typical monthly loan payment? (This payment range is based on a 10-year payment plan with a 4.53% interest rate.) _____
10. Review the webpage for other information about the school that might interest you.

Weighing the pros and cons

- Reflect on what you learned from the two websites.
- List at least two reasons why you would consider attending the school and two reasons why you wouldn’t.

Reasons I would consider going to this school	Reasons I wouldn’t consider going to this school