

 **BUILDING BLOCKS STUDENT WORKSHEET**

# Exploring community colleges

Community college is one option for gaining the knowledge, skills, and experience for future work opportunities. Learning about the benefits of 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 “community college FAQs” to find the College Board’s webpage on frequently asked questions about community college.
- Using information from the webpage, list at least three potential benefits of attending community college:



## Exploring a community college

1. Visit the College Board's "Big Future" page at <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/> to find a community college near your home.
  - a. Use the "College Search" to find a 2-year college within 50 miles of your zip code.
  - b. Choose a school from the list and write its name below.
  - c. Click to view a summary about the school.
  - d. Reflect on what you think is positive or negative about the school.
2. Visit the College Scorecard website at <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/> to search for more information about the community college you chose.
  - a. Enter the college's name in the search box. Click the option to see details about the school.
  - b. Use details about the school to answer these questions:
    - What is the average annual cost of attending this school? \_\_\_\_\_
    - What is the school's graduation rate? \_\_\_\_\_
    - What are the median earnings of students who started at the school 10 years earlier (but didn't necessarily graduate) and received federal student aid? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Next, use the "Financial Aid & Debt" information to answer these questions:
    - What is the median total debt after graduation? (This is the median total federal debt of undergraduate borrowers who graduated. This figure includes only federal loans originated at the school; it excludes private student loans, Parent PLUS loans, and federal loans originated at previously attended schools.) \_\_\_\_\_
    - What is the typical monthly loan payment? (This is the median monthly loan payment for student borrowers who graduated, based only on federal loan debt originated at the school the student graduated from, if it were repaid over 10 years at the current federal student loan interest rate.) \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. 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