## Audience

10th – 11th grade students

## Time

30 – 45 minutes

## Materials needed

* White board or poster paper & writing utensil
* Types of Colleges handout *(p. 4-5)*
* Open space, large enough for students to move

## Purpose

Students learn the different ways colleges and universities can be categorized and apply that knowledge to a variety of institutions. Students will reflect on how this experience may help their own college search and selection process.

# 1. Identify colleges.

**Ask students to brainstorm as many colleges and universities they can think of:**

* Oregon institutions
* Colleges someone they know attends/ed
* College sports teams they like to watch
* Other colleges or universities they know

Ask a student to record the responses on the board or poster paper. The goal for this portion of the activity is to develop an extensive list of colleges, including those of various types: 2-year, 4-year, public, private, liberal arts, vocational/technical, universities, independent, religiously affiliated, art schools, conservatories, historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs), single-sex colleges, etc.

If you notice that students haven’t named colleges that fit into some of these categories, join the brainstorm to ensure your list is inclusive (use our Sample List of Colleges on page 5 if needed). Remind students that there are more than 4,000 colleges and universities in the United States; therefore, your list won’t be comprehensive, but encourage as large a list as your students can develop.

# 2. Review types of colleges.

**Give students the “Types of Colleges” handout:**

Ask students to review the information and share their thoughts, especially with respect to any details they find new or surprising. Choose three colleges in the list students brainstormed and ask students to categorize each institution in all the possible ways (e.g. if Oregon State University is the first college on your list, it can be categorized as 4-year, public, university, and residential).

# 3. Get up and move.

**Give the following instructions to students:**

This is an interactive activity. You will stand in a line and be asked to move to one side or the other based on information you hear. Each side of the line will represent one way to categorize colleges and universities. Your goal will be to move to the side that best fits the description or college name that I read. You may use the “College Types” handout to help you decide. In some cases, both sides of the line could represent a correct answer.

**Round 1:** Public vs. Private

Begin with the following descriptions, asking students to move to one side of the line if they believe it is representative of public colleges or universities and to the other side of the line if they believe it is representative of private colleges or universities.

* This type of institution typically offers a lower tuition rate to students who are residents of the state where the college is located. (PUBLIC)
* This type of institution relies primarily on tuition and private donations to fund the college. (PRIVATE)
* This type of institution can be not-for-profit or for-profit. (PRIVATE) Remind students of the difference between *private, not-for-profit colleges and for-profit institutions.*

Then, select several of the colleges and universities on the list generated by students and ask them to identify them as public or private by moving to the appropriate side of the line. For those identified as private, ask students to determine whether the institution is not-for-profit or for-profit.

**Round 2:** 2-year vs. 4-year

Begin with the following descriptions, asking students to move to one side of the line if they believe it is representative of 2-year colleges, and to the other side of the line if they believe it is representative of 4-year colleges or universities.

* A student can earn a BA or BS (i.e. a bachelor’s degree) at this type of college or university. (4-YEAR)
* This type of college or university might be a good place to earn a certificate or license. (2-YEAR)
* Universities and liberal arts colleges are an example of this type of institution. (4-YEAR)

Then, select several of the colleges and universities on the list generated by students and ask them to identify them as 2-year or 4-year by moving to the appropriate side of the line.

**Round 3:** Liberal Arts College vs. University

Begin with the following descriptions, asking students to move to one side of the line if they believe it is representative of liberal arts colleges, and to the other side of the line if they believe it is representative of a university.

* A student can earn a BA or BS (i.e. a bachelor’s degree) at this type of college or university. (BOTH)
* Regardless of what you choose as a major, at this type of institution, you will be required to take a broad base of courses, including math, literature, history, and science. (LIBERAL ARTS – though possibly also some universities)
* This type of institution is usually larger and typically offers more majors and degree options. (UNIVERSITY)
* This type of institution can prepare you for a wide variety of careers and graduate school. (BOTH)

Then, select several of the colleges and universities on the list generated by students and ask them to identify them as a liberal arts college or a university by moving to the appropriate side of the line.

**Round 4:** Special Focus vs. Specialized Mission College

Begin with the following descriptions, asking students to move to one side of the line if they believe it is representative of a special focus college, and to the other side of the line if they believe it is representative of a specialized mission college.

* A music conservatory is an example of this type of college. (SPECIAL FOCUS)
* An all-women’s college is an example of this type of institution. (SPECIAL FOCUS)
* A historically black college or university is an example of this type of institution. (SPECIALIZED MISSION)

Then, select several appropriate colleges and universities on the list generated by students and ask them to identify them as special focus or specialized mission colleges and ask them to move to the appropriate side of the line. Then, further ask students to identify what the special focus is (e.g. single-sex, religiously affiliated, arts college, or conservatory) or the specialized mission is (e.g. HBCU, HSI, or Tribal College).

# 4. Reflect & discuss.

* Why might it be important to know the various categories that colleges fit into?
* If you don’t know how to categorize a college, what are some clues you might be able to find in the name? If the name doesn’t offer any clues, how can you find information that will help you categorize colleges?
* Connect this to your own experience – are there types of colleges you are most interested in learning more about?

# Types of Colleges

## How many years?

**4-year colleges** offer four-year programs that lead to a Bachelor's degree; includes universities and liberal arts colleges.

**2-year colleges** offer programs that last up to two years that lead to a certificate or an Associate degree. These include community colleges, vocational-technical colleges and career colleges.

## Where do they get funding?

**Public colleges** are funded by local and state governments and usually offer lower tuition rates than private colleges, especially for students who are residents of the state where a college is located.

**Private colleges** rely mainly on tuition, fees and private sources of funding. Private donations can sometimes provide generous financial aid packages for students. These may also be called independent colleges.

**For-profit colleges** are private colleges but are also businesses. They tend to have higher costs, which could mean graduating with more debt. Credits earned may not transfer to other colleges, so be sure to check with the admission office at each college.

## What type of school?

**Liberal arts colleges** offer a broad base of courses in the liberal arts, which includes areas such as literature, history, languages, mathematics and life sciences. Most are private and offer four-year programs that lead to a Bachelor's degree. These colleges can prepare you for a variety of careers or for graduate study.

**Universities** often are larger and offer more majors and degree options—Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral degrees—than colleges. Most universities contain several smaller colleges, such as colleges of liberal arts, engineering or health sciences. These colleges can prepare you for a variety of careers or for graduate study.

**Community colleges** offer two-year Associate degrees that prepare you to transfer to a four-year college to earn a bachelor's degree. They also offer other Associate degrees and certificates that focus on preparing you for a certain career. Community colleges are often an affordable option with relatively low tuition.

**Career, trade or vocational schools** offer specialized training in a particular industry or career. Possible programs of study include the culinary arts, firefighting, dental hygiene and medical-records technology. These colleges usually offer certificates or Associate degrees.

## What special focus or mission do they have?

**Art colleges and conservatories** focus on the arts. In addition to regular course work, these colleges provide training in areas such as photography, music, theater or fashion design. Most of these colleges offer Associate or Bachelor's degrees in the fine arts or a specialized field.

**Single-sex colleges** are private colleges specifically for men or for women.

**Religiously affiliated colleges** are connected to a religious faith. The connection may be historic only, or it may affect day-to-day student life. Only private colleges may be religiously affiliated.

**Specialized-mission colleges** focus on serving a specific student population like Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs) and tribal colleges. These specialized-mission colleges may offer programs, services and activities targeted to the underrepresented students they serve.

*Adapted from* [*BigFuture*](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges/college-101/types-of-colleges-the-basics)

# Sample list of colleges

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Oregon | | | | |
| 2-Year | | 4-Year | 4-Year | 2-Year and/or 4-Year |
| **Public community colleges (CC)** | | **Public universities** | **Private, not-for-profit universities** | **Private, for-profit colleges & universities** |
| Blue Mountain CC **HSI**  Central Oregon CC  Chemeketa CC **HSI**  Clackamas CC  Clatsop CC  Columbia Gorge CC  Klamath CC  Lane CC  Linn-Benton CC  Mt. Hood CC  Oregon Coast CC  Portland CC  Rogue CC  Southwestern Oregon CC  Tillamook Bay CC  Treasure Valley CC **HSI**  Umpqua CC | | Eastern Oregon University **LA**  Oregon Institute of Technology  Oregon State University  Oregon State University-Cascades  Portland State University **AANAPISI**  Southern Oregon University **LA**  University of Oregon  Western Oregon University **LA** | Bushnell University **†**  Corban University **† LA**  George Fox University **†**  Lewis & Clark College **LA**  Linfield University **LA**  Multnomah University **†**  Pacific NW College of Art «  Pacific University **LA AANAPISI**  Reed College **LA**  University of Portland **† LA**  Warner Pacific University **† LA HSI**  Willamette University **LA** | Baker Technical Institute *(2)*  Carrington College *(2)*  Concorde Career College *(2, 4)*  Phagan’s School of Hair Design *(2)*  Portland Fashion Institute *(2)*  Sumner College *(2, 4)* |
| Out-of-state | | | | |
| 2-Year | 4-Year | | 4-Year | 2-Year and/or 4-Year |
| **Public community colleges (CC)** | **Public universities** | | **Private, not-for-profit universities** | **Private, for-profit colleges & universities** |
| Blackfeet CC **TCU**  Clark College  College of Western Idaho  Columbia Basin College **HSI** | Boise State University  Evergreen State College **LA**  Fayetteville State University **HBCU**  Humboldt State University **HSI LA**  Northwest Indian College **TCU**  Ohio State University  UC Berkeley (Cal)  University of Washington  University of Wyoming  Washington State University  West Point (U.S. Military Academy) | | Brigham Young University **†**  Harvard College **LA**  Howard University **HBCU**  Julliard School «  Loyola Marymount University **†** **HSI**  Morehouse College **HBCU M LA**  Mount Holyoke University **F LA**  New York University  Stanford University **LA**  University of Southern California  Whitman College **LA** | Academy of Art University « *(4)*  Capella University *(4)*  Full Sail University *(2, 4)*  University of Phoenix *(2, 4)*  Universal Technical Institute *(2)*  WyoTech *(2)* |

**TCU** *Tribal College or University* **HBCU** *Historically Black College or University* **HSI** *Hispanic-serving Institution***LA** *Liberal Arts**Single-Sex College (****F****=female,* ***M****=male)* « *Conservatory/arts college***†** *Religiously Affiliated* **AANAPISI** *Asian American Native American Pacific Islander-serving Institution*