

Activity 12: College Research Exercise

FOR THE TEACHER

Introduction

The purpose of this activity is to help students:

- Learn about colleges and the programs they offer
- Become familiar with Career Cruising's education and training resources
- Learn how to use the Internet to find important career-related information

Setting the Stage

Classroom discussion can focus on the importance of getting accurate information about colleges and the programs they offer. Ask those students who know what type of post-secondary education they plan to pursue if they are aware of the entrance requirements for the colleges and programs they are interested in. An alternative topic for discussion is the usefulness of the Internet for finding education and career-related information. Ask the class what difficulties they have encountered while searching for information on the Internet.

Starting the Program

Go to www.careercruising.com. Enter your personal My Plan username and password in the spaces provided, and click on **Log In**.

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Log in to Career Cruising and click on **Education** in the menu bar near the top of the page.

In the **Keyword Search** box, enter the name of a 2 or 4-year college or technical/vocational school you have heard about or are interested in (*e.g. Harvard, Western Business College, Missouri Technical Institute*). Click **Search**.

Career Cruising will provide you with a list of schools that include the name you entered. (If you don't get any matches, try changing the wording slightly. For example, if you tried "University of Oregon" before, you could try just "Oregon." You can also click on one of the states on the map to view a list of all the schools in that state.)

Click on a specific school that interests you.

School Name: _____

1. Click on the blue links to find the following information. If any of the information is not available for this school, write N/A.

School Type: _____

Location (*city, state*): _____

Website: _____

Admissions Contact Information: _____

What are the entrance requirements for this school?

What is required as part of your application package to this school? (*e.g. essay, transcripts, interview*)

Application Deadline: _____

Campus Enrollment: _____

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What facilities and services does this school have to offer?

Estimated Total Expenses: _____

What types of financial aid are available at this school? _____

Name of a major/program at the school that you might be interested in taking:

SUMMARY – YOUR VIEWS

2. Do you still think that this school is a good option for you? Are the admission standards different than you expected? What about the tuition costs?

OPTIONAL – INTERNET RESEARCH PROJECT

Click on the school's website address.

3. Try to find information about the major/program you selected above in the school's website. (Hint: look for "admissions," "academic programs," "student resources," or "course catalog.")

Answer the following questions:

What admission requirements or prerequisites are there for this major/program? (*i.e. courses or skills needed before you can start*)

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What are the names of some of the classes/courses you take as part of this major/program?

How many months/semesters/years does it take to complete the major/program?

Does the program include on-the-job work experience? (*e.g. work study or co-op placements*)

What is the name of the qualification you get after completing the program? (*e.g., bachelor's degree, associate degree, certificate*)

SUMMARY – YOUR VIEWS

4. Are you still interested in taking the major/program you selected? Is this major/program different in any way from what you thought it would be? (*e.g., longer education/training time, difficult admissions requirements, etc.*)

5. Was any important information not available on the school's website? How can you find the information?
