

College Knowledge Activities by Grade Level

Adapted with permission from Dr. Corina Espinoza

Grades K—3rd:

- Color the map of California with the state capital, the tutor's alma mater, and the student's hometown highlighted.
- **Color College Mascots:** Print a black/white copy of a college mascot or university logo. Let your student color the image.
- **Steps to Higher Education:** Walk your student through the steps to higher education/advanced learning. Let them color the steps to their career.
- **Virtual Campus Tour:** Take student on a virtual tour of your alma mater or a college/university near home.

Grades 4—6th (May also work for 7th- 8th):

- **Career Pin Wheel:** Guide student through thinking about and identifying possible career/occupations connected to his/her hobby or interest. Select 2 or 3 to further explore and talk about.
- **Career Collage:** Have student go through magazines to find images of various professions, occupations, etc. Place on poster board, portfolio, or notebook.
- **Business Card Activity:** Use a business card (yours, colleagues, local business) to discuss career/occupations, types of preparation or skill needed. Student can create their business card using an index card.
- **Math:** Use California colleges math to do simple conversions to percentages, ratios, fractions, and word problems. E.g. What percentage of California universities are public? Private? CSU? Etc.
- **California history:** Fourth grade history focuses on California mission history. Have student identify the college/university closest to a mission they are studying.
- **Crossword/Word Search:** Create a puzzle for college knowledge vocabulary building and also have student do a Word Map (definition, synonym, sentence, etc.)

Grades 7—8th:

- **Pin Wheel:** Guide student through thinking about and identifying possible career/occupations connected to his/her hobby or interest. Select 2 or 3 to further explore and talk about.

- **Business Card Activity:** Use a business card (yours, colleagues, local business) to discuss career/occupations, types of preparation or skill needed. Student can create their business card on the computer with clip art images.
- **Math:** Use California colleges math to do conversions to percentages, ratios, fractions, and word problems. E.g. What percentage of California universities are public? Private? CSU? Etc. Find enrollment data for colleges and use for more advanced math conversions.
- **Virtual Tours:** Most colleges and universities have a form of virtual tour on their website. After discussing Top 3 choices – perhaps 1 from each region (north, central, south), take your student on a virtual tour of their choice campuses. Discuss different features of the campus – classrooms, student life, faculty, etc.

Grades 9-12th:

- Planning and preparing for college or post-secondary options should begin in middle school, however, there is an immense disparity in college counseling/advising.
- California has the highest (in the U.S.) student to counselor ratio. Regrettably, that means that many, many students are not getting adequate, if any, counseling on the academic and other requirements necessary to pursue higher education.
- Many resources available to help students, however, the need for an advocate, an ally, a *personal anchor* is critical in accessing and understanding the resources.
- There are a wide range of resources available online and in print; many free upon request or for a nominal cost. These include:
 - College Board
 - ACT
 - University of California (UCOP)
 - Cal State System
 - California College Guidance Initiative
 - Colleges That Change Lives
 - Know How 2 Go