

Lesson 5: College Scorecard

Objective:
Students will learn to use the College Scorecard website.
Overview:
Students will explore this Department of Education website to obtain information about individual colleges and universities including the cost to attend, graduation rates, and average salaries earned by their graduates. Students will compare the data for two or more colleges.

Lesson preparation:	Activity
<p>Teacher and students will need access to the internet.</p> <p>Open the PowerPoint for Lesson 5. Print copies of the Lesson 5 pre-test and post-test.</p> <p>Go to http://aspirations.sparc37.com/ and click on the Finance link at the bottom. Find the link in the table labeled "College Scorecard." This is the link students will explore in this lesson.</p>	<p>Distribute copies of the pre-test, ask students to complete, and collect pre-tests. The pre-test will let students know what they should learn from this lesson.</p> <p>Review the PowerPoint with the students. You may need to revisit slides as you conduct the lesson activities.</p> <p>Go to http://aspirations.sparc37.com/ and click on the Finances link at the bottom. Find the link labeled "College Scorecard." This is the link students will explore in this lesson.</p> <p>Click on the "Name" field, enter the name of a college or university you would like to explore, and click the green "Find Schools" button. When the summary Scorecard appears, click "View More Details" and explore the complete Scorecard. After exploring, click "Back to Search Results."</p> <p>To compare up to 10 different colleges or universities, click the plus (+) mark in the upper right corner of the summary Scorecard to select and save results. A yellow line will appear around the selected Scorecard. Use the "Edit Search" menu to find additional colleges or universities and use the plus (+) mark to select and save.</p> <p>When at least two colleges have been selected and saved, use the "Compare" menu to view a report comparing these colleges. Use the plus (+) mark to select or deselect colleges.</p> <p>After searching by Name, try searching by Programs/Degrees, Location, Size, or Advanced Search.</p> <p>Distribute copies of the post-test, ask students to complete, and collect post-tests. Compare pre- and post-test results.</p>

Suggestions for Differentiation:	Discussion:
<p>Google Chrome is the suggested browser if language translation is required. Simply right-click anywhere on the page and choose the "Translate" option. You may need to use the drop-down to select the preferred language.</p> <p>If students can't think of a college or university to explore, provide them with the names of nearby colleges or a list of NC colleges and universities.</p>	<p>How did the colleges you selected compare regarding their Average Annual Cost, Graduation Rate, Salary After Attending, and Financial and Debt? What are the typical ACT or SAT scores for students who attend these schools (ACT and SAT data not available for all colleges)?</p> <p>How might College Scorecard help you select the colleges or universities you want to attend? Which information about these colleges is most or least important to you and why?</p>