

# The Great College Mystery!

## Journey to Your Dreams



# What's it all about?

**Does going to college seem like a mystery to you?  
It doesn't have to be.**

“Going to college” or “getting a higher education” means getting any type of education or career training after you graduate from high school. It takes planning and money to get a higher education. But if you start preparing now, you can go to any kind of college you want!

You'll need to discover the answers to important questions like:

- Why is college so important?
- What classes should I take in high school?
- What are the different types of colleges?
- How do I get into college?
- What's the price of getting a higher education?
- How will I pay for my higher education?

## Higher Education?

## College?

## Career?



## Benefits?

## Graduate?

# “Wow!”

## “This is so incredible!”

Peter at his college graduation



“My friends are all here. They’re so impressed. My parents are proud of me. I’m proud of me! I’m graduating from college. And next week, I start this incredible new job.”

“I remember when I didn’t know anything about going to college. It seems like just yesterday that I was hanging out with my friends.”

### Investigation

**You** can be a  
**Student Detective**  
in the **Great**  
**College Mystery!**

Complete the activities in this booklet and you will uncover important facts about getting a higher education of your own.  
Happy detecting!



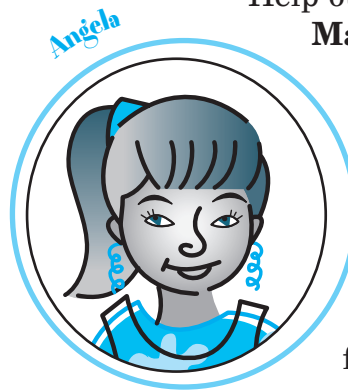
# Flashback!

“Hi! My name is **Peter**. I love building things and being outdoors. I also love growing and arranging plants. That’s what I want to do when I grow up—get a job where I work with plants all day long.”



“Read books from the library?” asked **Marcus**.

“Help out in a greenhouse?” **Maylee** suggested.



“Work with a gardener?” **Chris** asked.

Then, **Angela** spoke up. “Peter, maybe you could go to college!”

“Not me. I want to be a veterinarian, like my dad,” said my friend **Maylee**.



“Really? Go to college for plants?” I asked. I’d never thought of it. “How do I find a good plant college? Can I live at home? How much will it cost?”

“I’m going to be a middle school teacher,” said **Marcus**.



No one said anything. No one seemed to know much about college.

**Angela** didn’t say anything, at first. She’s kind of quiet.

**Chris** said, “Do you really know enough about plants or building to get a job?”

“Well, not yet,” I said. “But I can learn.”

“How?” asked **Ilhan**.

“Uhhhh...” I hadn’t really thought about it.



**Ilhan** looked around at us and then said, “We’re smart. Let’s go talk to people who have been to college and ask them. We’ll meet back here and share what we find out. Let’s be detectives and try to solve the Great College Mystery. Come on!”



# “How can college help me?”

I'd never thought about college. I had a million questions, so I went to my teacher. All teachers need a college education so I knew that she'd be able to help me out. Besides, she knows everything!



Peter

Ms. Jackson smiled. “College helps people every day, in hundreds of different ways,” she said. “You can learn more about what interests you in college, and you’ll make your family proud. It prepares you for better jobs, and college graduates can be a big help to their community. See if you know these famous college graduates.”



Ms. Jackson

I said, “**Ms. Jackson**, when I get older I want to get a job where I can work with plants. Would college help me?”

## Who did it?

Read these paragraphs about two famous people and try to guess who they are. If you have trouble, check the clues below.

“I was born in Brooklyn, New York. My mother was Puerto Rican and my father was Surinamese. When I was growing up, I spoke Spanish at home and English at school. I was big for my age and played football in high school. I also acted in some plays. I always knew I wanted to go to college. My parents convinced me to get a degree in education so that I could teach. But after graduation, I realized that I wanted to be an actor. I knew I needed more training so I went to Cornell University in 1982 and got a graduate degree in acting. I acted with the New York Shakespeare Festival and received good reviews. My first big TV role was in *Miami Vice*. I later starred in *L.A. Law* and *NYPD Blue*.”

**Who Am I?:** \_\_\_\_\_

“I was born in Brooklyn, New York. No one in my family is over six feet tall and my first nickname was “Magic.” I accepted a basketball scholarship from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill as a freshman and played there for two years before leaving in my junior year to play for the Chicago Bulls. Two years later, while still playing for the Chicago Bulls, I received my B.A. in Geography from the University of North Carolina.”

**Who Am I?:** \_\_\_\_\_

(Clues: Lucy Liu, Helen Keller, Michael Jordan, Winona LaDuke, Oprah Winfrey, Jimmy Smits)

# “College can provide more opportunities for you, your friends, and your family.”

Ms. Jackson said, “Peter, it’s really important to have some type of higher education. College is a place where people can learn about themselves and what they want to do with their lives. College



graduates are community leaders with special skills that make life better for themselves, their friends, and their families. Many people can benefit when you have a college education.”

## Investigation

### Who is your college role model?

**Pick someone who has achieved a higher education—someone in your school, family or someone famous. Draw a picture or write a story about him or her and what the person does. Then write three questions that you’d like to ask the person about college.**



**My role model is:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Draw your picture or write your story here:**

**Three questions I would ask my college role model:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_



# College helps in lots of ways!

Maylee's older cousin, **Nou**, was going to Tri-City Community College. Maylee figured that her cousin would be able to give her some great clues about getting a higher education. She gave Nou a call.



"Nou, you know that I want to be a veterinarian, like my

dad," said Maylee. "Do you think going to college would be helpful to me?" Maylee asked.

Instantly, Nou replied, "Absolutely. Going to college can help you learn new skills. Let's order a pizza and talk about it."



## Investigation

### Who does it take to make a pizza?

Maylee surfed the Internet and found out that college students order more pizza than anyone else. "Mmm, pizza sounds good," she thought. "I wonder how many careers it takes to make a pizza?"



List as many careers as you can think of that help make a pizza and deliver it to your door:

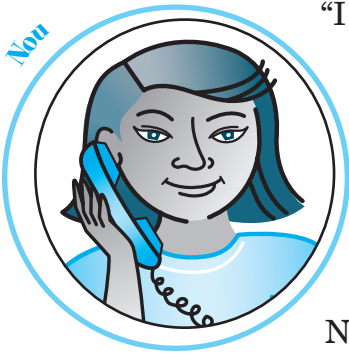
- Pizza store manager
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

What skills can you learn in college to help prepare for each career?

- Supervisory skills, people skills, and business skills
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

# Show me the money!

Nou



“I never realized that college could help you in so many different ways,” Maylee said.

“No matter what you want to be, having a higher education can really help you,” said Nou. “And there’s

another area college can really help in...”

“Making more money?” interrupted Maylee.

“That’s right,” Nou said. “Let’s do some math. Ready?”

Maylee



## Investigation

### Does it pay to go to college?

Pretend that you’re an adult. These are the things you will need: a place to live, food, clothing, and other costs (doctor bills, electricity, heat, furniture... ). We call this the “cost of living.” It’s about \$950 a month. Subtract this cost from the different levels of income. Then, subtract the costs of the other things you want to purchase. With a college education, you’re likely to have more money for the things you want and need.



	Less than High School Education	High School Education	College Education
What will your monthly income be?	\$ 1,067	\$ 1,600	\$ 2,800
The cost of living for a month	– 950	– 950	– 950
<b>How much money will you have left over?</b>	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Deposit in savings account:	– _____	– _____	– _____
<b>How much money will you have left over?</b>	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
What do you want to buy? _____ Cost:	– _____	– _____	– _____
<b>How much money will you have left over?</b>	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
What do you want to buy? _____ Cost:	– _____	– _____	– _____
<b>How much money will you have left over?</b>	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
What do you want to buy? _____ Cost:	– _____	– _____	– _____
<b>How much money will you have left over?</b>	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

#### Examples of what things cost:

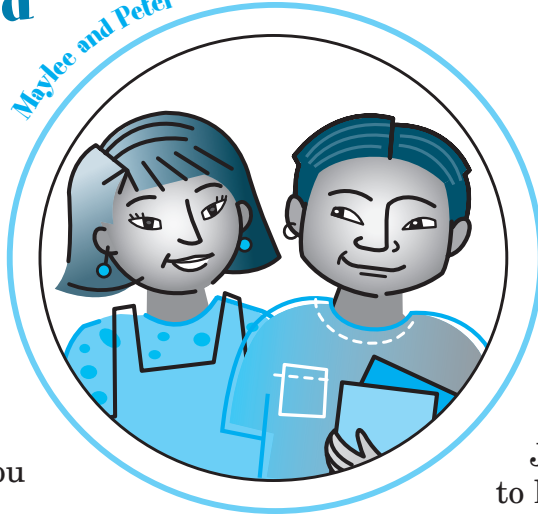
CDs \$15, tennis shoes \$100, video game \$30, bike \$150, car payment \$200, pet dog \$30, in-line skates \$200, new clothes \$70, night out with your friends \$20, sports equipment \$100, books \$10, 24 pack of pop \$5, trading cards \$1.



# “I didn’t know that college could help in so many ways!”

“Wow! I had a great talk with my cousin Nou,” Maylee exclaimed. “She told me you learn all sorts of skills in college for your future...any future you choose. She also told me how college helps you earn more money.”

Maylee and Peter



“I know what you mean,” said Peter. “My teacher, Ms. Jackson, said she really thinks I should go to college. We talked about how proud I’ll be when I get a higher education. My family will be proud of me, too. I never realized that college could help in so many ways. Ms. Jackson even gave me this game to help me get ready for college.”

## Investigation

### Can you unscramble these clues to your adventure?



Unscramble each word and write it on the lines below.

egolelc	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
rebrae	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
scusecs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
asgol	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
slecsas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
dutsy dhra	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
darge tinop vgaere	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Now try to unscramble the letters in the shaded boxes to decode the hidden message.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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# Good work, Detective!

**Remember: with a college education, dreams can come true!**

Going to college can make a real difference in your life. How will your college education help you? Here's what you've discovered from the clues:

- You'll have more job and career opportunities because of the skills you've learned.
- Your family and friends will be proud of you.
- You can be a role model for others.
- You can make more money throughout your career.
- You can give back to your community.



Think of some more ways college can help you:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

## Investigation

**Think of all the things that a higher education can help you do, be, and have.**



Then go to pages 16 and 17 to make a poster showing your future (you can cut and paste pictures from magazines or draw the pictures yourself).

**Be sure to share the poster with your family, friends, and classroom teacher!**

# How do I learn about and get ready for college?

Marcus knew he wanted to go to college. But which one? Where? For how long?

He had a lot of questions. So, Marcus decided to go to where there are lots of answers... the Internet!



## Who did it?

Read these paragraphs about two famous people and try to guess who they are. If you have trouble, check the clues below.

“I was born in the tiny town of Kosciusko, Mississippi. We moved around a lot when I was young, and I had a hard time fitting in. After my parents split up, I went to live with my father in Nashville. He taught me the importance of having self-discipline and getting a good education (he had been a soldier). Just after high school, I got a job as a radio reporter. I also enrolled at Tennessee State University to study speech and performing arts. With what I learned in college I was able to pursue a career in television. I eventually got my own TV talk show with my name in the title.”

Who Am I?: \_\_\_\_\_

“I was born in Tuscumbia, Alabama and lost my sight and hearing when I was two years old. I was a student of Anne Sullivan and eventually attended Radcliffe College where I graduated from with honors. I wrote several books and lectured throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia to raise awareness as well as money for the training of the blind.”

Who Am I?: \_\_\_\_\_

(Clues: Lucy Liu, Helen Keller, Michael Jordan, Winona LaDuke, Oprah Winfrey, Jimmy Smits)

# College research on the Internet

Marcus went to the library to use the computer to find out about college.

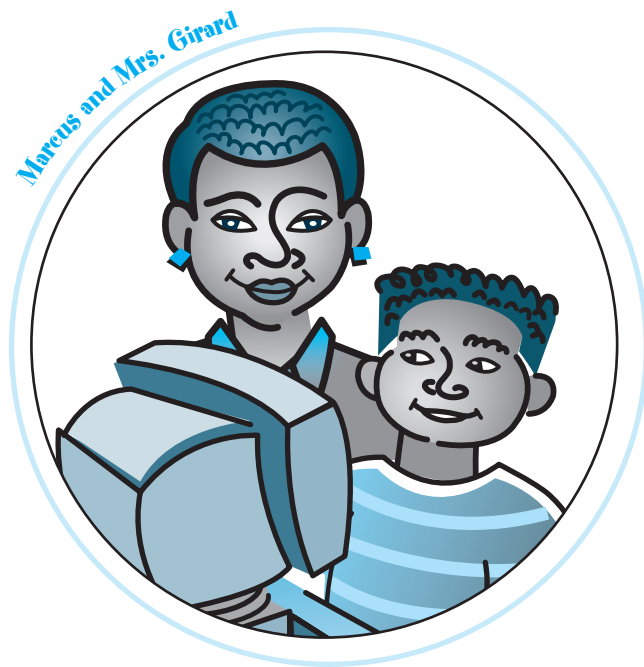
“Excuse me,” said Marcus.

“Shhhh!” answered Mrs. Girard, the librarian.

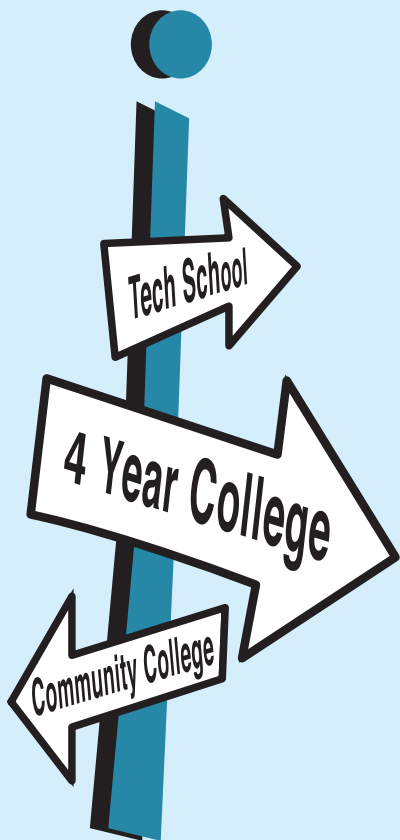
“Sorry,” Marcus whispered, “But do you know of any web sites that can help me learn about college?”

Mrs. Girard smiled and typed in **www.mheso.state.mn.us**.

Soon, he was learning all about college while surfing the Internet. He even downloaded a workbook just for kids like him.



## Investigation



## What did Marcus discover?

Marcus learned that there are different kinds of colleges. The way you want to live your life and the type of work you want to do will help you select the type of college you will attend. You don't have to make any decisions right now, but it's good to start learning about the options you'll have later.



Here are the three basic kinds of colleges Marcus discovered:

### Technical and Career Colleges

For example: St. Cloud Technical College (public)

For example: Rasmussen Business College (private)

### Community Colleges

For example: Itasca Community College (public)

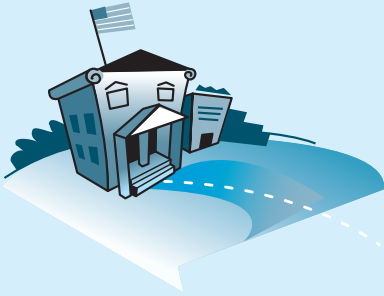
### Four-year Colleges and Universities

For example: University of Minnesota (public)

For example: Winona State University (public)

For example: St. John's University (private)

## Investigation



# Different colleges, different choices



Draw a line connecting each characteristic with the type of college (Hint: some characteristics describe more than one type of college).

**Technical  
College or  
Career School**

**Community  
College**

**4-year College  
or University**

- Degrees can usually be earned in two years
- Includes careers that involve working with your hands
- Degrees can be earned in four years or longer
- You can often transfer credits to 4-year colleges or universities
- They are usually public schools
- They are either public or private schools
- You can take many different classes in languages, math, science, history, the arts, and so on
- Degrees can be earned in two months to two years
- Career examples: computer programmer, plumber, medical assistant, florist, cosmetologist, welder
- Career examples: teacher, social worker, scientist, writer, actor
- Career examples: salesperson, nurse, legal assistant, accountant, drafting, some computer careers

**Do some investigating and fill in the blanks:**

Name a Technical College or Career School: \_\_\_\_\_

Name a Community College: \_\_\_\_\_

Name a 4-year College or University: \_\_\_\_\_

# How can I prepare in high school?

She didn't talk about it a lot, but Angela knew what she wanted to do—go to college to become a florist. She knew that good grades in high school would help her get into college, but good grades in what? What was high school like? What would she study? She decided to ask her older brother, Kevin, who was in 11th grade.

Kevin lived with their father across town. She gave him a call. He told her, "High school isn't like grade school. You can actually choose the classes you want to take in high school."



"Which ones should I take if I want to get into college?" asked Angela.

Her big brother said, "Meet me right after school tomorrow. Then you can ask all the questions you want."

After school the next day, Kevin took Angela to meet his high school counselor. "Ask **Ms. Drucker** anything you want," he said. "She's got the answers."

Angela didn't waste any time. "Which high school classes will help me get into college?"

Ms. Drucker reached into her desk and handed Angela a set of *Go Study!* cards...

## Investigation

### Let's play *Go Study!*

Make your own *Go Study!* card game by cutting out the 16 cards on the next page. Each card represents one year of class in a subject.



- Count the number of cards for each subject and write it in the blank. (That's the minimum number of each type of class you should take in high school.)

How many years of English? \_\_\_\_

How many years of Math? \_\_\_\_

How many years of Science? \_\_\_\_

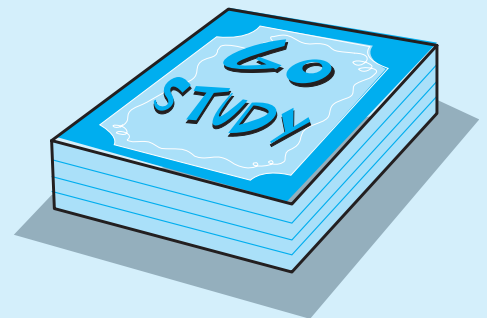
How many years of Social Studies? \_\_\_\_

How many years of World Language? \_\_\_\_

How many years of Fine Arts? \_\_\_\_

How many years of Computer? \_\_\_\_

- Then, shuffle the cards and play *Go Study!* (It's just like *Go Fish!*)
- Remember, high school lasts four years. 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grades all count.







**One year of  
English**

**One year of  
Language**

**One year of  
Fine Arts**

**One year of  
English**

**One year of  
Science**

**One year of  
Math**

**One year of  
Math**

**One year of  
Social  
Studies**

**One year of  
Social  
Studies**

**One year of  
Computers**

**One year of  
English**

**One year of  
Science**

**One year of  
Language**

**One year of  
English**

**One year of  
Science**

**One year of  
Math**

# What will you learn in high school?

Draw lines from the classes on the left to the sentences on the right of the page.



Math

Sciences

English and Literature

Fine Arts

Social Studies

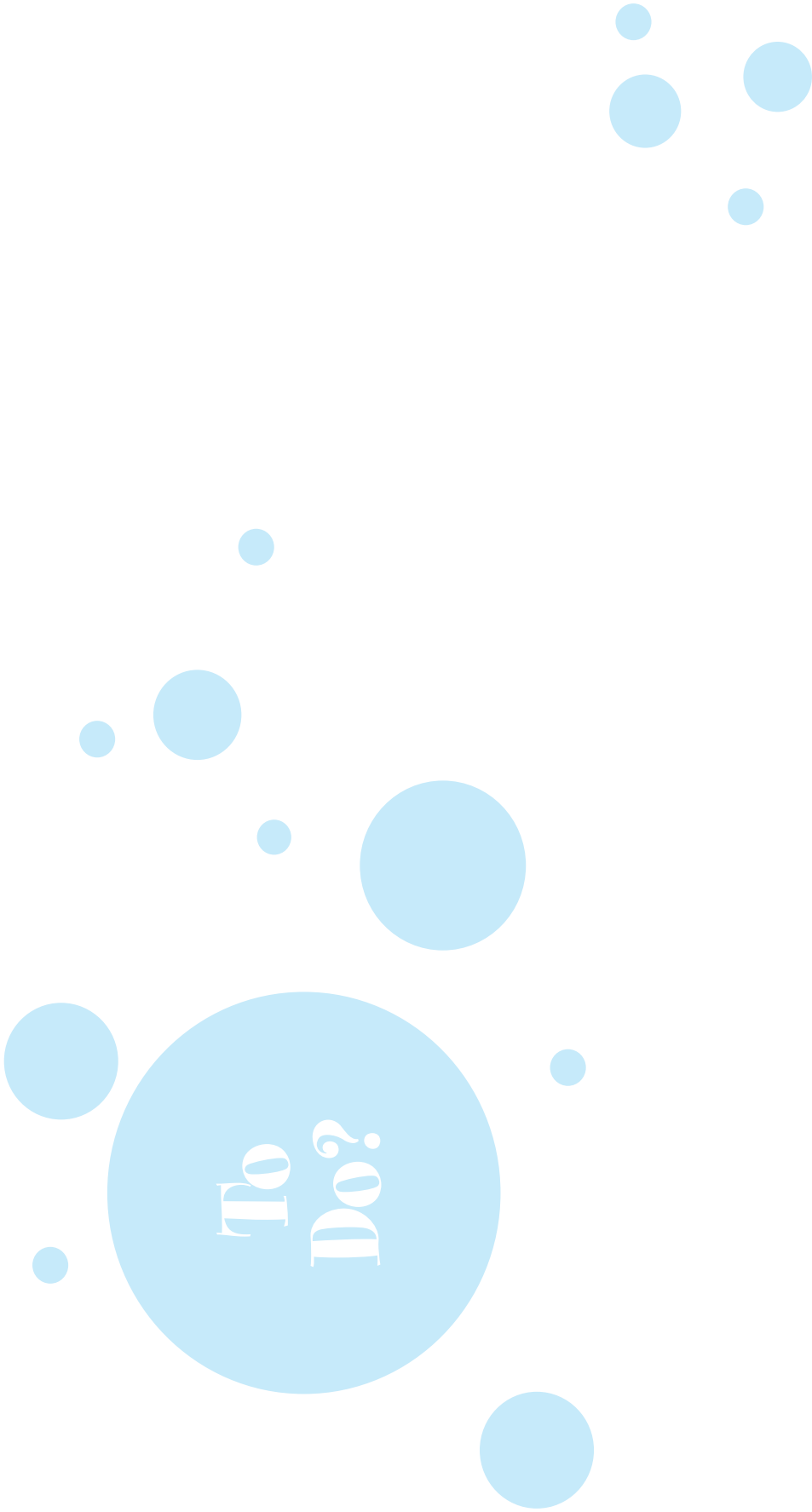
Computer

World Languages

- In 1492, Christopher Columbus left Spain on a voyage to discover a shortcut to India.
- “Yo voy a ir a la universidad” means “I am going to go to university” in Spanish.
- William Shakespeare wrote a number of plays that are considered the greatest work in English literature.
- The Hmong people live in mountainous parts of Laos, Thailand, Vietnam, and southern China, and now live in the U.S.
- Michelangelo was a famous sculptor, painter, and scientist.
- The sum of the measure of the three angles in a triangle always equals 180 degrees.
- Western music typically uses eight tones in a musical scale.
- An archipelago is a large group of islands.
- *Petromyzon marinus* is a type of eel or lamprey.
- The melting point of gold is 1063 degrees centigrade.

# My Future Dreams

**(With a little help from college)**



To  
Do?



To  
Be?



To  
Have?

“Are these the only classes I have to take to get ready for college?”  
Angela asked.

“Oh, no,” said Ms. Drucker. “Those are just the minimum courses.  
Each year, you fill in the rest of your class schedule with other  
classes you might like.”

Angela frowned. “How could I pick those other classes?”



## Investigation

### What do you like to do?

**Uncover and identify your interests by completing the questions below. Then you can begin to plan your high school years (on the next page). You can even start thinking about the courses you want to take in college!**



What subjects are you taking now?

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What other activities do you enjoy?

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Which subjects do you like best?

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Which subjects are you best at?

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What other activities are you interested in?

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## What classes are you going to take?

Based on the interests you listed on the previous page, fill in your own high school class schedule below. Be sure to include those recommended in the “Go Study” card game and, remember, you can spread them out over all four years.



### 9th Grade [freshman]

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### 10th Grade [sophomore]

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### 11th Grade [junior]

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### 12th Grade [senior]

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What else would you like to do in high school?  
Fit it into your schedule.

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# The right college for you.

I was walking to school the next day with Angela and Marcus. They were pretty excited about what they'd found out so far about college. Angela talked about how high school was different than grade school, and the classes you need to take to get ready for



college. Then Marcus told us about the three different types of colleges.

“How do you decide which type of college you should pick?” asked Angela.

Marcus said, “I found this checklist on the Internet.”

## Investigation

### What's important to you about college?

Discover what's important to you about college. Put a check mark beside the items that interest you the most.

#### Who?

- With my friends
- Make new friends
- Combination of new and old friends

#### What?

- Big College
- Smaller College
- Community College
- 4-Year College or University
- Technical or Career School

#### When?

- Right after high school
- Wait a year
- Full time
- Part time
- Weekend College or night school

#### Where?

- Big city
- Smaller town
- Near home
- Far from home
- Live off campus
- Live on campus
- Live at home?

#### How?

- Take a bus
- Drive my car
- Ride with friends
- Walk or ride bike

#### Why?

##### Because...

- I know what I want to be/do
- I want to discover what I want to be/do
- I want to learn stuff
- I want to meet new people
- I want to have fun



Write three sentences about how you will choose a college. Use the boxes that you've checked.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

# Way to go, detective!

You've successfully helped Marcus discover that you should:

- Use your time in school to explore the subjects and activities that interest you the most. These are important clues to your future.
- Remember that the “best college” is the one that’s best for you. It’s important to choose a college based on your personal interests and goals.



## Who did it?

Read these paragraphs about two famous people and try to guess who they are. If you have trouble, check the clues below.

“I am Anishinabe from the Makwa Dodaem (Bear Clan) of the Mississippi Band of the White Earth reservation in Northern Minnesota. My dad was an actor and activist while my mother was a Jewish art professor. I graduated from Harvard University and have worked to make sure that reservation lands are kept sacred for my people. I’ve published many books and articles, and even ran for vice president with Ralph Nader. Currently, I am spokeswoman for the Chippewa of Northern Minnesota, founder of the Indigenous Women’s Network, and teach courses on Native American environmentalism at the University of Minnesota.”

Who Am I?: \_\_\_\_\_

“I was born in 1968 in Queens, New York. I graduated from New York’s prestigious Stuyvesant High School and later earned a degree in Asian languages and cultures from University of Michigan. My first acting job was on *Beverly Hills 90210*, but my career took off in 1998 when I landed a major role on *Ally McBeal*. I’ve also appeared in several movies, including *Jerry Maguire* and *Payback* as well as *Shanghai Noon* and *Charlie’s Angels*, both of which allowed me to show off my martial arts skills.”

Who Am I?: \_\_\_\_\_

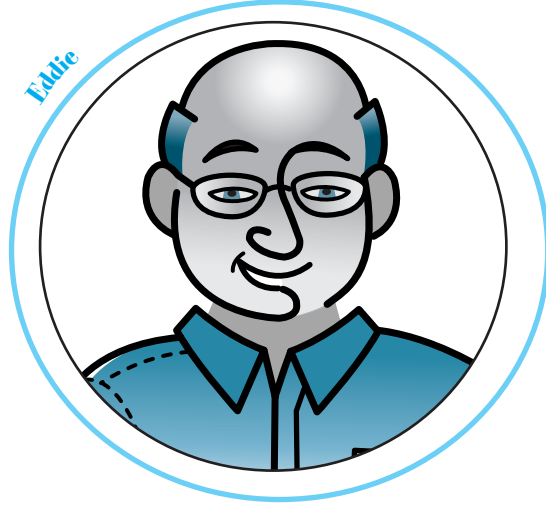
(Clues: Lucy Liu, Helen Keller, Michael Jordan, Winona LaDuke, Oprah Winfrey, Jimmy Smits)

# How will I apply to and pay for college?

Ilhan and Chris



Eddie



“I don’t know where to begin,” said Chris. He wasn’t even sure he wanted to go to college. After all, he loved drawing and building sculptures. How could college help him with that?

“Well,” said Ilhan, “why don’t we talk to someone who went to college, like Eddie?”

Eddie owned the gas station near their school and coached their community baseball team. Everyone knew him, and said he was a smart guy who’d gone to technical school. Eddie would know the real deal about college.

After school, Chris and Ilhan stopped by the gas station to visit Eddie.

“My friends want to go to college,” said Chris, “but it’s not for everyone, right?”

Eddie looked thoughtful. “Well, I went to a technical school to learn about running my gas station. It was really helpful. But what do you want to do?” he asked.

“You know, draw and build stuff...all that kind of art stuff,” said Chris.

“And I want to be a journalist,” said Ilhan.

“Well, being an artist or a journalist takes a lot of skill and practice,” Eddie replied.

“College is a great place to get both. I bet there are some good college courses that would help both of you.”

For the first time, Chris started to get excited. Now, this was getting interesting! “What would I have to do to get into a college like that?” Chris asked.

“It takes some planning and preparation,” Eddie said with a smile, “but it’s mostly common sense. You’ll need to learn about colleges to figure out the kind of higher education you want to get, learn how much it costs, and figure out how you’re going to pay for it.”

Ilhan took out a pen and notebook. “Let’s start by making a list of what we can do now to help us get to college later!”

# Steps to college



Write down steps you have to take to get into college. Don't worry about which steps come first. Just list as many as you can.

- Read all about college
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
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- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Now, challenge yourself to put the steps you've identified for getting into college in some kind of order. You can add more numbers if you need them.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_



## Investigation

# Your first resumé

A resumé is a list of the things you've done or plan to do in your life. Make a resumé by completing the sentences below. If you get stuck, ask a parent, a teacher, or a friend for some help. This kind of information could also go on a college, grant, or scholarship application.



I help with \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I am a leader in \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I am good at \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I belong to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

My friends like me because I \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I have fun when I \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In high school, I plan to help with \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to be a leader in \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I will be good at \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I hope to belong to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

My friends will like me because I \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I would like to have fun when I \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# Want to apply to a college?



Complete the following practice college application. Answer all the questions accurately.  
Write clearly and neatly.

Application for New Students

The College of Detective Knowledge



First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent or Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

**Is English your first language?**  Yes  No

**Ethnic Background (Optional):**  American or Alaskan Indian  Black

Asian or Pacific Islander  Foreign  Hispanic  White  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Gender:**  Male  Female

**What would you like to learn in college?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**What are you best at in school?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**What kind of activities do you enjoy?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Name the last two schools you have attended.** Please list the city and state of each.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

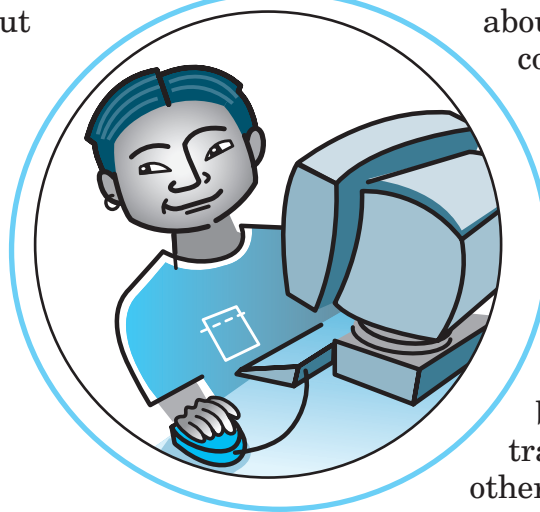
**Everything above is true to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# It costs money to go to college

My teacher was a big help with all my questions about college. But even she didn't have all the answers. When I wanted to know how much money it would cost to go to college, she let me use the computer to go on the Internet. I found the web site of the Minnesota Higher Education Services Office at [www.mheso.state.mn.us](http://www.mheso.state.mn.us).

Peter on the Internet



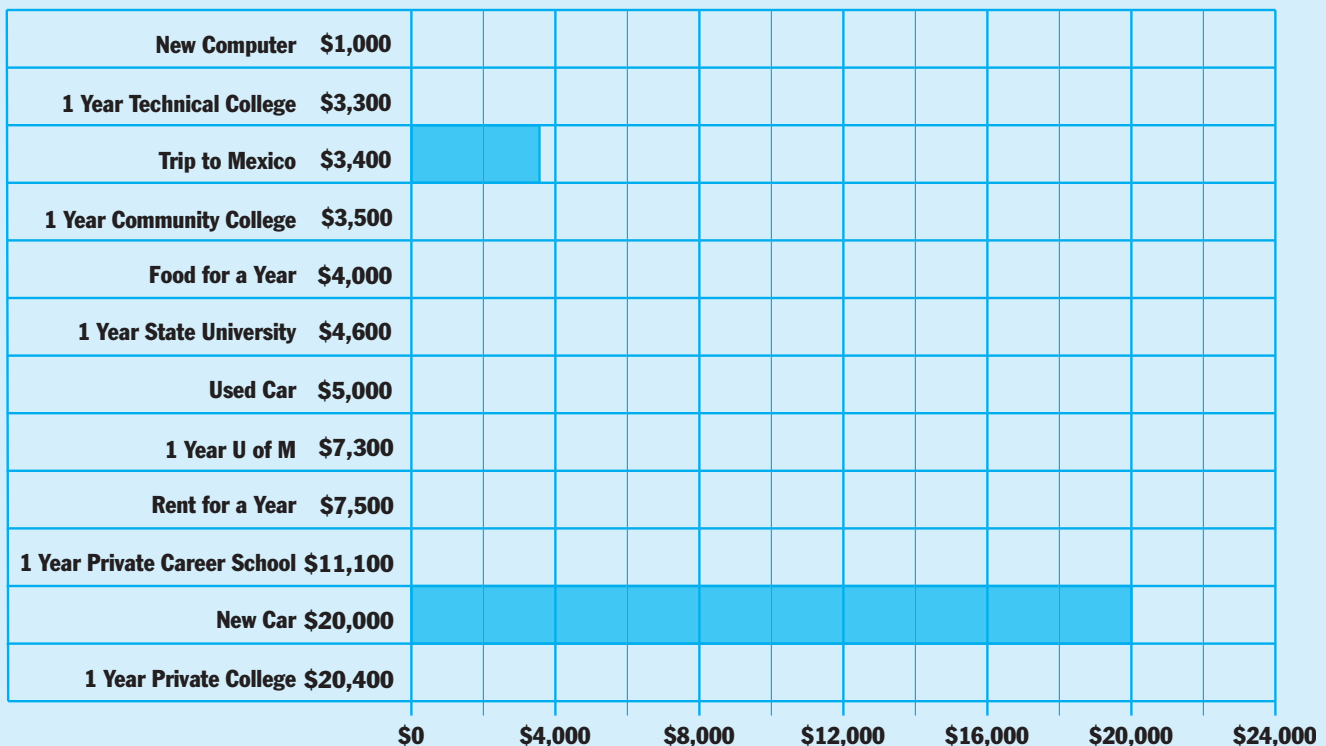
It has all the latest information about what's happening at colleges and universities around the state.

College isn't free; you have to pay for it. How much you have to pay depends on many things, including the tuition and fees of the college you choose. It also depends on books, room and board (food and housing), transportation, and other expenses.

## Investigation

### How much does it cost?

Complete the bar graph by shading in each of the expenses; then you will see how much college costs compared to other items. Use different colors.



# There are many ways to pay for college

College costs a lot of money...even for a single year. I thought, what if I wanted to go to a two-year or four-year school?

My family wasn't rich, and I didn't have any money of my own. After all, I was only in 5th grade. I figured I could start saving, but could I save that much? I thought my college career was over before it even started! Then, I clicked into another part of the web site called, "Paying for College." Here's what I found...



## Investigation

### What are the ways to pay for college?

Discover each of the ways to pay for college by filling in the blanks

1. Any amount of money I can put into \_\_\_\_\_ will help me pay for college. This is something I can start doing right now.
2. I can also get help paying for college from my \_\_\_\_\_. They want the best for me. That means helping me get a college education.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ come from the state and federal government. This is money that is given to those students who need it the most to help pay for their college education. This type of financial aid does not have to be paid back.
4. Money for college that must be repaid is called a \_\_\_\_\_. In fact, I have to pay back more than I actually borrow. The extra amount is called interest.
5. Many college students \_\_\_\_\_ during school to help pay for their education. Students have jobs in many different places like the college cafeteria, the library, computer lab, and day care centers. This is sometimes called \_\_\_\_\_-study.
6. Students get \_\_\_\_\_ for many reasons, like good grades, sports, music, cultural or religious background, or any combination of the above. I don't have to pay this money back so I will apply for as many of them as I can!
7. When students or families file a federal income tax return, some receive a \_\_\_\_\_ for what they've paid for college. This reduces the amount of taxes owed.
8. Most branches of the military will help pay for college in exchange for \_\_\_\_\_.

(Hints: tax credit, grants, savings, family, loan, scholarships, work, military service)



## Investigation

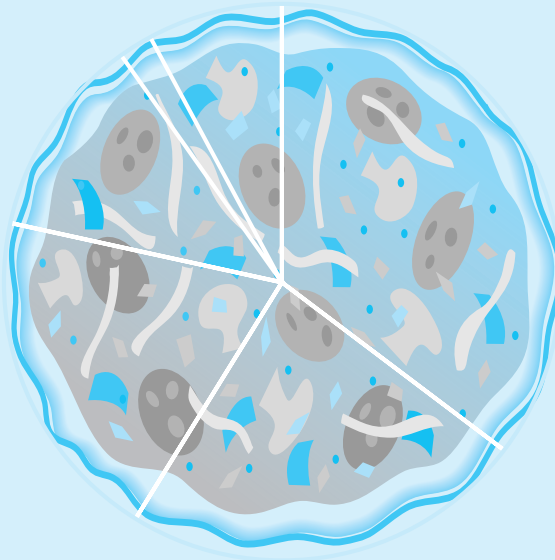
### Slicing up your college financial pie!

You can get money to pay for your higher education from different places. That makes it easier to afford the price of college.

For example: If you wanted to go to a 4-year public college with an average price of \$3,000 a year, you might pay for college with:

Savings	Family	Grants	Scholarships	Loans	Work	Total						
\$900	+	\$600	+	\$500	+	\$300	+	\$500	+	\$200	=	\$3,000

Look at the pie chart below. Label each slice of the pie with the appropriate number and source of money.



### Paying for college is as easy as 1, 2, 3... Try it!

Follow these steps and you'll discover there's no mystery to paying for your college pie!

1. Check the box next to the type of college you might want to attend:

- Technical College (Average price: \$3,300 per year)
- Community College (Average price: \$3,500 per year)
- 4-Year Public College/University (Average price: \$4,600 per year)
- University of Minnesota (Average price: \$7,300 per year)
- Private Career School (Average price: \$11,100 per year)
- 4-Year Private College/University (Average price: \$20,400 per year)

2. List how much money you think you can get from each of the ways to pay for college. (Remember, the total has to equal the price of the college you checked above.)

Savings	Family	Grant	Scholarships	Loans	Work	Total						
_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	=	_____

3. Create your own pie chart on a separate sheet of paper or paper plate.

# Congratulations, Detective!

Here are some of the clues to college you've helped Peter uncover:

- If you plan ahead and use all the ways to help you pay for your higher education, no college is out of your reach.
- Start saving now. Even a little bit each week can add up to a lot of money by the

time you graduate high school.

- Get good grades and stay involved in school activities. You never know what kinds of scholarships are available to you. The best detectives will search them out. Keep up the good work!

## Investigation

### Create your own college diploma!

Fill in the spaces below and imagine how it will feel to be a college graduate.

THE TRUSTEES OF

\_\_\_\_\_

(NAME OF SCHOOL)

ON THE NOMINATION OF THE FACULTY  
HEREBY CONFER UPON

\_\_\_\_\_

(YOUR NAME)

THE DEGREE OF

\_\_\_\_\_

TOGETHER WITH ALL THE HONORS, RIGHTS, AND  
PRIVILEGES PERTAINING THERETO.

IN THE MONTH OF \_\_\_\_\_, IN THE YEAR \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(OFFICIAL SIGNATURE)



# Mystery completed!

We got back together and shared what we'd learned about college. Everybody was excited. We talked for days about what we learned. And that was just the beginning, because we all ended up going to college!

**Angela** is finishing her 2-year degree at a technical school where she's learning about horticulture and business. She plans to open her own floral shop

**Marcus** studied for 2 years at community college and then transferred to 4-year school. He's finishing his education degree so he can teach middle school science.

**Maylee** is studying biology at a 4-year college and will then have 4 more years in veterinary school. She wants to start an animal hospital to treat abandoned and abused animals.

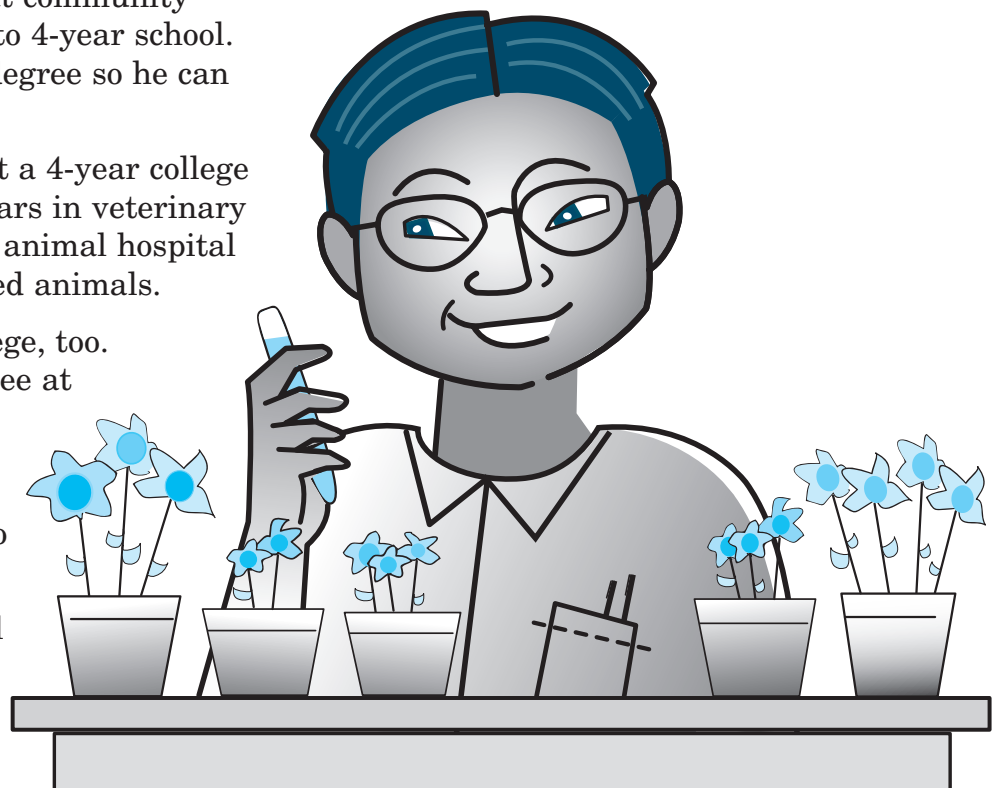
**Chris** ended up going to college, too. He's finishing his 2-year degree at a career school where he is studying graphic design. He'd like to run his own design studio and teach art to kids in the community.

**Ilhan** went to a 4-year school and is studying journalism and writing. After she

graduates, she wants to get a job as an investigative reporter at a local newspaper.

**And me?** I went to a 2-year school to study landscape design, and then to a 4-year university to learn about botany. I'm the first person in my family to go to college!

To complete the case and get yourself ready for college, we suggest that you do the investigations on the next two pages.



## Investigation

# Which mysteries did each student discover?

Write down what each person in this story learned about going to college.  
(Hint: Look back through the book.)



Peter: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Maylee: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Marcus: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Angela: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Chris: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Ilhan: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What did you discover? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Investigation

# Hey Detective! File your report on the Great College Mystery

Make a list of the people, places, books, and web sites that will help you learn more about going to college. (Hint: Take a look through the book and review your answers in the activities.)



1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

Make a list of the most important reasons why you want to earn a higher education. (Hint: Take a look through the book and review your answers in the activities.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

# Congratulations, Detective!

**You can make your own detective badge.**

Cut out this badge and put your name on it:  
It's your official College Detective Badge!





1450 Energy Park Drive, Suite 350  
Saint Paul, MN 55108-5227

Telephone: (651) 642-0567  
(800) 657-3866

Fax: (651) 642-0675  
Email: [info@heso.state.mn.us](mailto:info@heso.state.mn.us)  
Internet: [www.mheso.state.mn.us](http://www.mheso.state.mn.us)

For the Hearing Impaired:  
TTY Relay: (800) 627-3529

This document can be made available in an alternative format to individuals with disabilities by calling (651) 642-0567.

## My Personal Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

## About the Minnesota Higher Education Services Office

The Minnesota Higher Education Services Office (MHESO) is a state agency that administers the state's student financial aid and interstate tuition reciprocity programs and informs families about academic and financial preparation for post-high school education. Oversight of the Office is provided by the Higher Education Services Council, which consists of eight citizens and a student appointed by the Governor.

The Minnesota Higher Education Services Office does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities.

## About the Get Ready! Program

The Get Ready! program is funded by a grant to the Services Office from the U.S. Department of Education under GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) with matching funds from the state of Minnesota and a variety of other partners. Get Ready! provides, at an early age, students and parents of color, low income, or no previous post-secondary education with the information, skills, and experiences that will help encourage and prepare them to complete high school and pursue post-secondary education.

