

How Do I Apply to College? Helping Patrons Meet Their Higher Education Goals – Learner Guide

Event Description: As information and education centers, libraries are an ideal place for patrons—teens and adults—to learn about higher education opportunities. What can you offer in response to patrons who are curious about college? If you or your staff feel flummoxed by college-related reference questions, this session will acquaint you with the different types of college-bound students, college-related resources to promote at your library, and ways to work with community partners on programs for each audience. Provide help for the many patrons who do not have access to pricey college prep programs and services. Learn how to initiate or enhance your reference services to help more people meet their higher education goals.

Presented by: Africa Hands, MLIS, author of *Successfully Serving the College Bound* from ALA Editions

What are your goals for viewing this webinar?	
Personal Goals	
Team Goals	

Discussion/Reflection Question 1
Africa recommends that you and your team begin by identifying the college bound sub-groups in your community. What are these sub-groups? What information do you need to know about each population?
Activity 1
Pick one college bound sub-group from the four discussed in the webinar. Make a list sources you can use to access information about this population? 1. 2. 3. 4.

Activity 2

For the sub-group selected in Activity 1, make a list of potential community partners, both formal and informal, that you might connect with to offer a program for this sub-group:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Discussion/Reflection Question 2

Africa presented ideas for programs to serve the college planning needs of your patrons. Which programs would work best for your library and community? Why?

Activity 3

For the college bound sub-group identified in Activity 1, make a list of services or programs you would like to bring to your library

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Activity 4

Current library staff can assist you with college planning programs or services. List the skills or tasks needed for one program or service identified in Activity 3. For each skill or task, identify one staff member who can assist you.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Action Plan: (include next steps, who, when, etc.)

Now that you have identified one college bound sub-group, sources for additional information on the sub-group, potential partners, possible programs or services, and library staff, you are ready to create an action plan.

Additional resources

College Navigator <http://www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator>

KnowHow2Go <http://www.knowhow2go.org>

Think College <http://www.thinkcollege.net>

Heath Resource Center www.heath.gwu.edu

Database of Accredited Programs <http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation>

Almanac of Higher Education <http://chronicle.com/section/Almanac-of-Higher-Education/801>

Digest of Education Statistics <https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/>

Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/>

State level higher education assistance agencies – use search engine to find your state’s agency

First-generation students: <http://www.npr.org/blogs/ed/2015/02/16/385470288/fitting-in-on-campus-challenges-for-first-generation-students>

America’s Promise Fact Sheet: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/01/09/fact-sheet-white-house-unveils-america-s-college-promise-proposal-tuitio>

American Association of Community Colleges Fact Sheet:
http://www.aacc.nche.edu/AboutCC/Documents/Facts14_Data_R3.pdf

Free Application for Federal Student Aid <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>

Financial aid for military members and family members

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/types/grants-scholarships/military>

<http://todaysmilitary.com/living/paying-for-college>

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sites/default/files/scholarships-for-military.pdf>