Choosing a college or university

| | Unit **Making it real** | | Length **95 minutes** |

About this lesson

To identify factors to help make post-secondary education decisions, students will explore schools to help them understand what's important to them in potential post-secondary schools, investigate how a college or unversity stacks up to their priorities, and evaluate their choices to help them revise their post-secondary goals based on what they've learned.

Learning objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will:

- identify which factors are important to them in a potential post-secondary school
- investigate how a college or university stacks up to their priorities
- reflect on why a potential post-secondary school is a good choice to help them achieve their post-secondary goals

Driving question

Why does choosing a post-secondary school matter to my career/life goals?

Future-ready skills

Prioritization   Research   Reflecting   Evaluating

Lesson breakdown

20 minutes

Activity 1: School exploration

In this activity, students will explore schools in Xello, saving at least 3 and identifying factors that influenced their choices by sharing them in a class discussion.

65 minutes

Activity 2: Xello Lesson: Choosing a college or university

Direct students to complete the Xello lesson **Choosing a college or university** where they will identify which factors are important to them in a potential post-secondary school and investigate how a college or university stacks up to their priorities.

10 minutes

Activity 3: Narrowing options

In this activity, students will reflect on their post-secondary goals by adding or updating their top 3 potentialschool choices in their Xello **My plans**.

🔲 Xello entry point

As part of the first activity, students will save 3 schools in Xello, which is a prerequisite for Xello's lesson **Choosing a college or university**. It's also recommended they are familiar with the **My plans** section in Xello and have completed the **Programs prospects** lesson and supporting activities prior to this lesson to better understand the education pathways schools offer.

Vocabulary

- College
- University
- Apprenticeship
- Vocational training
- Confidence
- Responsibilities
- Admission requirements
- Financial aid
- School factors
- Student life

Ontario career studies

A2.1 apply various decision-making strategies as they set personal, social, educational, and career/life goals, then evaluate and revise those goals based on what they learn about themselves during this course

B3.1 use a research process to identify and compare a few post-secondary options that suit their aspirations, skills, interests, values, and personal circumstances

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Activity 1: School exploration

Unit
Making it real

Length:
20 minutes

Inquiry prompts

- What do you need to be happy at school?
- When considering post-secondary education, what would be your top priorities?

Before you begin

- It is recommended that students are familiar with the **My plans** section in Xello and have completed the **Programs prospects** lesson and supporting activities prior to this lesson to better understand the education pathways schools offer.

Teaching strategies

In this activity, students will explore schools in Xello, saving at least 3 and identifying factors that influenced their choices. By completing this activity students will fulfil the prerequisite for Xello's lesson **Choosing a college or university**.

1. Provide the instructions on the next page to your students and set a time to return as a whole group to share their list of factors.

2. After 15 minutes, bring the whole class back together, if you have a larger class you may want to divide the class into smaller groups to ensure everyone has time to share.

3. Lead a round robin style discussion that gets each person to share one of their top factors when saving a school.

4. OPTIONAL: Document the list of factors during the discussion and then ask students to vote their top 3 priorities when choosing a college or university. Is there a clear consensus in the class?

Materials required

- Student instructions
- Computer or tablet with internet access
- Synchronous learning environment for a live class discussion

Artifacts

Students will save at least 3 schools and share the factors that influenced their decisions in a class discussion.

Culminating project tip

Add your students' questions about post-secondary schools to the discussion guide. For example: Which schools are known to provide excellent training in this field?

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School exploration

Student instructions

Even if you're not sure you'll be heading to college or university your first year after high school, you never know where your future career will take you. It may be later in your career that you decide a post-secondary program is necessary to advance your career. So why not start thinking about potential schools that would make a good fit for you. In this activity you'll explore schools in Xello to help you identify factors that you feel are important in your post-secondary education goals.

Use the next 15 minutes to **Explore schools** in Xello. Your goal is to save at least 3 schools by the end of your exploration, while also keeping track of your reasons for saving a school. Following your search you will be sharing these factors with your classmates. Here are some tips to help you with your search:

1 If you've already saved a school in Xello, review the school profile and note a couple reasons why you chose to save it. If you've already saved a in Xello, look at a few school profiles that offer the program or a related program. Why would you choose one school over the other?

2 In **Explore schools**, use **More filters** to search schools within a set of parameters. What filters did you apply? Why are these factors important to you?

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Activity 2: Xello Lesson: Choosing a college or university

Unit
Making it real

Length:
65 minutes

About this activity

In activity 1, students explored schools in Xello, saving at least 3 and identifying factors that influenced their choices by sharing them in a class discussion.

In this activity students will complete the Xello lesson: **Choosing a college or university**, where they will identify which factors are important to them in a potential post-secondary school and investigate how it stacks up to their priorities.

Inquiry prompts

- What are the differences between a college and university?
- What's most important to you in a college or university?
- What do you need to do now if you want to go to college or university?
- What does an ideal college or university look like to you? (What does it have that you love? What's a deal-breaker for you?)
- When talking about your options, whose opinion do you trust the most? Why?

Before you begin

Before diving in with your students:

1. Create a copy or download the Choosing a college or university slide presentation to use as a helpful teaching aid before and after the Xello lesson.
2. Review the slides (including the speaker notes section) for suggested discussion strategies and prompts.
3. Update slide 5 of the presentation with your students' Xello sign in format. If you don't know your students' Xello login format check out Sign in to Xello for support.

Teaching strategies

Use the following strategies to set your students up for success:

1 Before students start the Xello lesson, take 5 minutes to have them review and consider the inquiry prompts from the **Warm up** activity slide of the Choosing a college or university slide presentation, or choose your own. Advise students to keep these questions in mind as they complete the lesson. You will revisit these questions with them in the **Exit activity** afterwards.

2 Help your students log in to their Xello account. Project your screen as you model how to navigate to the lesson using your demo student account. From the student dashboard, click on a lesson to get started. If the lesson you want isn't visible, access it by selecting **View all lessons** below the lessons shown.

3 Students finished early? If students have time after completing the Xello lesson, encourage them to add interests they'd like to explore in college or

Materials required

- Computers or tablets with internet access
- Whiteboard/projector
- Choosing a college or university slide presentation

Prerequisites

- Save 3 schools

Artifacts

Students will complete the Xello lesson: **Choosing a college or university**.

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Activity 2: Xello Lesson: Choosing a college or university

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university to their interests section in Xello.

4. Once students have completed the Xello lesson, return to the Choosing a college or university slide presentation to have students revisit the inquiry prompts you posed at the beginning of class.

5. **Classroom discussion strategy: Round robin:** Lead a round robin style discussion that gets each person to share their answer to the inquiry prompt: What do you need to do now if you want to go to college or university?

OPTIONAL: Document the responses. Ask students to reflect on and share their observations about them. Encourage students to make connections, and notice themes, similarities, or differences about what they and their classmates believe they need to do now if they want to go to college or university?

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Activity 3: Narrowing options

Unit
Making it real

Length:
10 minutes

Inquiry prompts

- Can a school still be a "dream school" if it doesn't meet all of my top factors?
- Which school will help me reach my post-secondary education goals?

Before you begin

- Ensure students have completed the first activity which includes saving 3 schools in Xello, which is a prerequisite for Xello's lesson **Choosing a college or university**. It's also recommended they are familiar with the **My plans** section in Xello and have completed the **Programs prospects** lesson and supporting activities prior to this lesson to better understand the education pathways school offer.

Teaching strategies

After completing the Xello lesson Choosing a college or university, students will be in a good place to reflect on their post-secondary goals by adding or updating their top 3 potential school choices in their Xello **My plans** section under **Goals & plans**.

1. Provide the instructions on the next page to your students.

Materials required

- Student instructions
- Computer or tablet with internet access

Artifacts

Students will update their **My Plans** in Xello with school choices and short reflections that demonstrate their personal preferences.

Culminating project tip

Add your students' questions about post-secondary schools to the discussion guide. For example: Which schools are known to provide excellent training in this field?

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Narrowing options

Student instructions

Now that you have a clearer idea of what your priorities are when choosing a school after high school you can revise your plans to help you achieve your post-secondary goals. Complete the following in Xello:

1 Confirm the schools you've saved in Xello match the priorities you identified in the Xello lesson Choosing a college or university. Refer back to your lesson responses by reopening the lesson to review:

- Part 3: Institution Intuition
  Do your saved schools meet your personal preferences for:
    - School location
    - Living situation
    - Extracurricular activities
    - Types of classes
    - Campus life
- Part 4: Your school must-haves
  Do your saved schools rank well on your most important factors?

2 Remove any saved schools that don't reflect a good match to your personal preferences or important factors.

3 Update your **My plans** in Xello's **Goals & plans** section to reflect your post-secondary schools of choice.
NOTE: If you haven't already created a plan in Xello, follow step 4 to start one.

- **Edit** the plan to reflect post-secondary school preferences
- Within the text field of the plan, add a short reflection explaining how the chosen school in your plan meets your personal preferences and important school factors.

4 HOW TO CREATE **MY PLANS** IN XELLO:

- Under **Goals & plans** select **My plans** to create a + **New plan**
- Select **School** as the starting point and follow the prompts
- Return to step 3 to complete this activity

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