Lesson overview

Choosing a college

11 Recommended: **11th grade**

Length **60 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 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.

30 minutes

Activity 2: Xello Lesson: Choosing a college

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

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Activity 1: School exploration

11 Recommended: **11th grade**

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 fulfill the prerequisite for Xello's lesson **Choosing a college**.

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 . Is there a clear consensus in the class?

Materials required

- Student instructions(also available in Spanish)
- 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.

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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 major 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?

Exploración de instituciones

Instrucciones para estudiantes

Incluso si no tienes la certeza de que irás a la universidad durante el primer año después de la secundaria, nunca sabrás a dónde te llevará tu profesión. La decisión de que un programa después de la secundaria sería necesario para avanzar en tu área podría llegar más tarde en tu profesión. Por eso, tiene sentido empezar a pensar sobre las instituciones que podrían ser indicadas para ti. En esta actividad, explorarás instituciones en Xello para identificar factores que te parezcan importantes en tus metas para después de la secundaria.

Usa los próximos 15 minutos para **Explorar colegios y universidades** en Xello. Debes tener guardadas al menos 3 instituciones al finalizar la exploración y también hacer un seguimiento de las razones por las que las guardes. Después de la búsqueda, compartirás estos factores con tus compañeros. A continuación se muestran algunos consejos para tu búsqueda:

1. Si ya guardaste una institución en Xello, revisa el perfil de esta y anota algunas razones por las que decidiste guardarla.
2. Si ya guardaste un programa en Xello, mira algunos perfiles de instituciones que lo ofrezcan o que dispongan de un programa relacionado. ¿Por qué elegirías una institución antes que otra?
3. En **Explorar colegios y universidades** , usa **Más filtros** para buscar instituciones dentro de un conjunto de parámetros. ¿Qué filtros aplicaste? ¿Por qué estos factores son importantes para ti?

Activity 2: Xello Lesson: Choosing a college

11 Recommended: **11th grade**

Length: **30 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**, 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 2-year and 4-year college?
- What's most important to you in a 2-year or 4-year college?
- What do you need to do now if you want to go to college?
- What does an ideal college 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 slide presentation (also available in Spanish) 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 slide presentation (also available in Spanish), 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, or **View lessons** on the left of your screen.
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 to

Materials required

- Computers or tablets with internet access
- Whiteboard/projector
- Choosing a college slide presentation (also available in Spanish)

Prerequisites

- Save 3 schools

Artifacts

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

Activity 2: Xello Lesson: Choosing a college

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Length: **30 minutes**

their interests section in Xello.

4. They can also explore their dashboard feed where they'll find content related to their saved careers.
5. Once students have completed the Xello lesson, return to the Choosing a college slide presentation (also available in Spanish) to have students revisit the inquiry prompts you posed at the beginning of class.
6. **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?

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?

Activity 3: Narrowing options

11 Recommended: **11th grade**

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**. 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, 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 (also available in Spanish)
- 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.

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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. 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

Reducir las opciones

Instrucciones para estudiantes

Ahora que tienes una idea más clara de tus prioridades en el momento de elegir una institución después de la secundaria, puedes revisar tus planes para alcanzar tus metas para después de la secundaria. Completa lo siguiente en Xello:

1. Confirma que las instituciones que guardaste en Xello coincidan con las prioridades que identificaste en la lección **Elegir una universidad**, de Xello. Consulta tus respuestas de la lección volviendo a abrirla para revisar lo siguiente:
   - Parte 3: Intuición institucional
     Verifica si las instituciones que guardaste coinciden con tus preferencias personales para lo siguiente:
     - Ubicación de la institución
     - Situación residencial
     - Actividades extracurriculares
     - Tipos de clases
     - Vida en el campus
   - Parte 4: Lo que no debe faltar en tu institución
     ¿Las instituciones que guardaste tienen buena clasificación en tus factores más importantes?
2. Elimina las instituciones guardadas que no coincidan correctamente con tus preferencias personales o los factores que te importen.
3. Actualiza tu área de **Mis planes** en la sección **Objetivos y planes** de Xello para que refleje las instituciones posteriores a la secundaria que elegiste.
   NOTA: Si aún no creaste un plan en Xello, sigue el paso 4 para iniciar uno.
   - **Editar** el plan de modo que refleje las preferencias de instituciones para después de la secundaria
   - En el campo de texto del plan, agrega una reflexión breve en la que expliques cómo la institución elegida de tu plan coincide con tus preferencias personales y los factores que te importan.
4. CÓMO CREAR **MIS PLANES** EN XELLO:
   - En **Objetivos y planes**, selecciona **Mis planes** para crear un plan con **+ Nuevo plan**
   - Selecciona **Universidad** como punto de partida y sigue las indicaciones
   - Regresa al paso 3 para completar esta actividad