



College Access Project Strands

developed through the partnership of:
The Ayers Institute for Teacher Learning and Innovation
The Tennessee College Access and Success Network

Working with Young People

Module 1: Non-academic factors influencing college readiness

Topics: College-going identity and aspiration, Motivation, Persistence and grit, Introduction of the concept of college fit, Exposure to career opportunities; linking future plans to current actions

Module 2: Academic preparation for college admissions

Topics: Course selection and early college credit, The importance of GPA, Standardized testing, Remediation

Module 3: Challenges faced by low-income, first generation students

Topics: Common characteristics of this population, Family/community support, Finances, Non-academic readiness

Sample Content:

Discussion Board Question: Savitz-Romer & Bouffard (2012) discuss the role of peer influence on identity and aspiration. What could be some of the benefits from maximizing positive peer influences? How would you encourage positive peer effects?

Portfolio Item: Create a 2 page guide to overcoming financial barriers to college that you can share with the young people you serve. Consider how you can format and word your guide so that it is youth-relevant.

Ethics of College Access Counseling

Module 1: Role of the College Access Coach

Topics: What is a coach or mentor, Skills needed for college access counseling

Module 2: Foundational tenets of good counseling

Topics: Ethical obligations in college access counseling, Confidentiality, Considerations in working with parents and families

Module 3: Cultural competence

Topics: Understanding power relationships, Understanding bias, Counseling with cultural competence, Understanding economic and racial inequity in higher education systems

Sample Content:

Discussion Board Question: College mentors often give information and knowledgeable advice to young people and their families about college, only to have them disregard the advice and behave in ways that the mentor knows is not in the student's long-term interest. What strategies have you used to prevent this from happening? How do you respond when it inevitably does? Explain your answer in 3-4 sentences.

Portfolio Item: Read the *Ethical Dilemmas Part 1* document. Choose two ethical dilemmas to respond to. For each of your two dilemmas, explain how you would respond in the scenario given in one 5-7 sentence paragraph. What factors would you keep in mind? What additional information might you need? After receiving feedback on your response, revise your response and upload as your portfolio item.

Creating a College-Going Culture

Module 1: Why is College Access Important?

Topics: College Access and Economic Development, College for Individual Growth, Focusing on College Success

Module 2: College-Going Culture 101

Topics: College-Going Culture Defined, College for All, Global Connections to College-Going Culture

Module 3: Creating a College-Going Culture

Topics: Assessing College Access and Success, Developing Partnerships to Support College Access and Success, Overcoming Barriers to Change

Sample Content:

Discussion Board Question: What are some of the competing messages students get about whether or not they are “college material” from their families, peers, schools, and other youth-serving organizations? How can college coaches help students sort through competing messages?

Portfolio Item: Using a template, create an asset map of what is happening around college access and success in your community already. What are some of the gaps you notice? What are your community’s areas of strength?

Paying for College

Module 1: Cost of Attendance

Topics: Estimating Cost of Attendance, Budgeting for College

Module 2: Financial Aid

Topics: Types of Financial Aid, Applying for Federal and State Aid, Applying for Institutional Aid and Private Scholarships, Advising Students about Loans and Student Debt

Module 3: Award Packages

Topics: Evaluating Student Award Packages, Financial Aid Timeline

Sample Content:

Discussion Board Question: Knowing that most people over-estimate how much college costs, identify some ways that you can alleviate the discomfort of discussing money and the misunderstanding of affordability among family members of prospective college students.

Portfolio: Create a one-page guide to FAFSA follow-through for students and families that outline the steps they must take once their FAFSA is submitted.

The College Admissions Process

Module 1: Types of Colleges

Topics: Differentiating Types of Colleges, Support Services, College Fit

Module 2: How College Admissions Work

Topics: Parts of an Application, Transformational vs. Transactional Relationships

Module 3: College Admissions Timeline

Topics: Developmental Progression of Admissions Preparation, Timeline

Sample Content:

Discussion Board Question: What type of degree or degrees would you recommend to a student who isn't sure what they want to do after college? Why?

Portfolio: Create a role-play scenario that you can use with your students to prepare them for an upcoming college fair.

Rev. 2/8/2018