

Financial Aid: Opportunities of a Lifetime



Facilitator Guide

Suggested session length: approximately 1 hour

Equipment/Supplies Needed: Video/VCR or DVD/Player and projector, computer and data projector, PowerPoint Presentation located on Toolkit Print CD

Handouts: Trainers may choose to print the PowerPoint presentation slides as a handout. A hard copy of the slides can be found in this section of the training module. Additionally, the print materials listed below are suggested and can be found in the Resource Section of this toolkit. These materials could serve two purposes: 1) they may be used as resources (handouts) for students and parents that can be taken home, studied and discussed, or; 2) trainers may use them as discussion materials in sessions they lead. See suggested grade levels beside each selection.

- Earning College Credit in High School (9-12)
- Financial Aid- Five easy Steps (10-12)
- Community College Checklist (9-12)
- Helpful Resources for Parents and Students (7-12)
- Highlights From the College for Texans Web Site (9-12)
- Helpful Web sites (10-12)

1. Opening Pre-Discussion

This video, available in English and Spanish versions, covers the different types of financial aid, including grants, scholarships, loans and work-study. The steps involved in applying for and receiving a financial aid package are highlighted, as is the importance of meeting deadlines and accuracy in filling out the application forms. The video also has a motivational component: it incorporates the stories of students who are able to pursue their dreams thanks to financial aid.

2. View Video

Financial Aid: Opportunities of a Lifetime (13 minutes)

3. Discussion to follow video (45 minutes)

Using the PowerPoint presentation as a guide, begin a discussion with students/parents about the questions on the slides. Many of the print materials will have suggestions about the college admissions process and issues related to being a well-rounded student who is well prepared for college responsibilities. Trainers may choose to use the print materials as a basis for more discussion or may choose to simply review the information and send it home with participants for further study.

4. Closure (5 minutes)

Counselors may invite parents and students to make appointments with them for further discussion of the topics in this training session. The print material titled "Helpful Resources for Parents and Students" has an area in which counselors can give pertinent contact information. It also includes frequently used web sites that will help students/parents begin thinking about the college financial aid process.