

Junior: Fall/October/Unit 8

College Exploration I/II

Objectives: **Research two colleges of your choice.**
 Evaluate what you have learned.
 Contact Site Teachers and NAU Upward Bound office for help as needed.
 Assist in the development of the portfolio program.

To complete this unit successfully and receive your stipend, finish the following activities:

1. Complete all of the activities in this unit.
2. Obtain and complete a grade check for all of your classes. Place a copy of the grade check with the work/information required for this unit.
3. Complete the Gates Millennium Scholarship essay question for this month and include with this unit.
4. Fill out the evaluation sheet when you have completed this unit.
5. Fill out the Honorarium/Stipend Request form.
6. Complete this unit and be prepared to review it by _____.

Once you have completed this unit, you should meet with an Upward Bound staff member to review it.

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How much will I earn this month?	
C = \$40.00 complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 100% complete • Unit turned in on time
P = \$20.00 partial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit more than 50% complete • Unit turned in on time
0 = \$0.0 incomplete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A unit turned in late is considered incomplete • A unit less than 50% complete is considered incomplete

What to do if you are absent on the day Portfolio's are to be reviewed by Upward Bound staff members?

Planned Absences (e.g., basketball games, track meets, etc.)	Unplanned Absences (e.g., sickness, flat tires, abduction by aliens, etc.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Give your binder to your site teacher before you leave for the planned absence. ◆ If you give your binder to your site teacher before you leave, then the UB staff can review your work and you are still eligible for the full \$40.00 stipend. ◆ If you forget to leave your binder with your site teacher before you leave, then your work is late and you are no longer eligible for a stipend. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Give your binder to your site teacher As Soon As You get back to school. ◆ If you give your binder to your site teacher As Soon As You return from an unplanned absence, then you are still eligible for the full \$40.00 stipend. ◆ If you forget to give your binder to your site teacher As Soon As You return, then your work is late and you are no longer eligible for a stipend.

Step 1

Before you begin your research, you should figure out what kind of school you would like to attend. The following questions are meant to help you with this process. It is important that you answer these questions thoroughly and honestly. The goal is for you to enjoy college and be successful. (Questions excerpted from Countdown to College by Zola Dincin Schneider and Phyllis B. Kalb.)

1. Think about the Life Plan that you made in the last unit. How do you see yourself growing and changing in the next few years? (ex. Becoming a college graduate, starting a new career, moving away from home, making new friends, etc.)

What would be the best environment for that growth? (ex. Home, College/University, a new town, etc.)

2. What do you hope to gain from college? (ex. A degree, respect in my family, more earning potential, etc.)
3. What worries you most about going to college? (ex. Homesickness, money, meeting new people, etc.)
4. Are there any special interests you want to pursue in college? (ex. Medicine, law, mechanical skills, counseling skills, etc.)

Do your interests require special facilities or programs? (Labs, Darkrooms, Theatre, Music Department, Garage/Automotive facilities, etc)

5. What kind of academic environment do you want? (Check all that apply)
 Challenging Competitive Moderately Challenging
 Pressure filled Relaxed Grade Focused
 Learning Focused Other (Please explain what "other" is if you choose it.)
6. How far or close do you want to be to where you live right now?
 Same town Same county Same state
 Same region Same country Same hemisphere
7. What kinds of people do you like to be around?
 People just like you because you are the most interesting person on the planet.
 People completely opposite of you because diversity is great.
 People somewhat like you because that's comfortable, but not too boring.
 It doesn't really matter because you can get along with everyone.
8. What kinds of surroundings do you want around your school?
 City life (ex. Phoenix) Smaller town (ex. Flagstaff)
 Suburb (ex. Mesa) Rural area (ex. Holbrook)

9. How do you feel about forming new relationships?
 I love meeting new people!
 I like the friends I have and don't want any more.
 I'm a little scared, but excited.
 I don't like people.
10. How do you feel about learning new surroundings?
 New places are exciting and I love discovering them!
 I'm more comfortable in a familiar place.
 I'm excited about exploring new places, but it's scary to leave what I know.
 I'll never leave the places I'm familiar with.
11. Are climate and natural surroundings important to you? Where would you prefer to live?
 Desert Mountains Coastal (Ocean front property)
 Forest Plains/Prairie
12. Do you learn best when you set your own pace, or when you have a structured, directed course of study?
13. How important are activities and services that acclimate new students to the college or university (ex. Freshmen Orientations, New student social functions—dances, concerts, coffee hours, etc.)
 Very (I'll want these functions to help me feel more comfortable in a new place with new people.)
 Somewhat (It would be nice to get to know the place that way.)
 Maybe (I might or might not go if they offered them.)
 Not at all (I prefer to get to know people and places on my own.)
14. How important to you is a close relationship with your teachers and other students? Which size school would you prefer, because size matters?
 Small (ex. Dine College, 2,000 students)
 Medium (ex. Yavapai College, 7,000 students)
 Large (ex. University of Arizona, 32,000 students)
15. How is your viewpoint on college affected by pressure from parents, friends, and your community?

Step 2

Summarize the results of the previous questions. Stay focused on these things as you begin the research component of this unit.

1. I want the postsecondary school I attend to be (check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> academically challenging and competitive | <input type="checkbox"/> able to offer new student orientations, activities, and socials |
| <input type="checkbox"/> moderately challenging and competitive | <input type="checkbox"/> able to occasionally offer new student orientations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat challenging and competitive | <input type="checkbox"/> free of new student orientations and socials |
| <input type="checkbox"/> close to home | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> in a different geographical location | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> in a city | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> in a suburb | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> in a small town | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> in the country | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> small and communal | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> medium sized with community or autonomy | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> large and full of people | |

2. I will require special facilities and/or programs, such as _____
(film school, medical school, drama department, music dept, etc.)
_____.
3. I want to live in a climate that is _____
(hot, dry, snowy, cold, wet, humid, etc.)
4. Geographically speaking, I want to live in a place that is _____
(mountainous, flat, in the forest, in the desert, near the ocean, etc.)

Step 3

Answer the following questions about two postsecondary schools. These schools must meet the criteria you established in steps 1 and 2. In other words, you should not research ASU (student population: 50,000) if you said that you would be happiest on a small campus, and you shouldn't research a school that doesn't offer a major in architecture if you indicated that you wanted to study architecture.

1. First, and most important, what schools are you going to be researching? Please list the names of the schools and the states where they are located.
2. It is also important that these schools offer programs of study in which you are interested. Please list two major fields of study at these schools in which you are interested.

A. Name of college or university: _____

1st major field of study offered at this school that you might want to pursue: _____
(geology, French, mechanical engineering, etc.)

2nd major field of study offered at this school that you might want to pursue: _____

B. Name of college or university: _____

1st major field of study offered at this school that you might want to pursue: _____
(geology, French, mechanical engineering, etc.)

2nd major field of study offered at this school that you might want to pursue: _____

Admission Requirements

3. List 3 requirements for admission into the schools you are interested in. These could be GPA, ACT/SAT scores, specific high school classes—anything the school requires you to have before they will admit you.

School #1

(ex. GPA, 3.0)

School #2

4. Based on these requirements, would you say you are currently on the right track for admission to these schools? Please explain your answer.

School #1

(ex. No because I haven't taken the ACT yet)

School #2

Student Population

5. How many undergraduate students attend these schools?
School #1 **School #2**
6. How many graduate students attend these schools?
School #1 **School #2**

Cost of Tuition

7. Please indicate the cost of tuition at these schools.

College /University #1	Full-time – One Semester	Full-time – One Academic Year
In-state Tuition		
Out-of-state Tuition		

College /University #2	Full-time – One Semester	Full-time – One Academic Year
In-state Tuition		
Out-of-state Tuition		

Housing

8. Do these schools have dorms on campus in which students live?
School #1 **School #2**
9. How much does it cost to live in a dorm for one academic year (fall and spring) at these schools?

Dorm Rooms	Cost per Academic Year @ School #1
single, one person to a room	
double, two people to a room	
suite, two rooms that share a bathroom	
Dorm Rooms	Cost per Academic Year @ School #2
single, one person to a room	
double, two people to a room	
suite, two rooms that share a bathroom	

10. Do these schools offer apartment-style living on campus? If so, how much would it cost to live in an on-campus apartment for one academic year?

On-campus Apartments	Cost per Academic Year @ School #1
Studio	
two bedrooms	
three or more bedrooms	

On-campus Apartments	Cost per Academic Year @ School #2
Studio	
two bedrooms	
three or more bedrooms	

11. Many students choose to live off campus while going to college. Do the schools you are researching allow freshmen to live off campus? (Not all schools do)

School #1

School #2

12. How much would it cost per month to rent an apartment off campus? You may have to call the student life office at the school or look on a local website (chamber of commerce, newspaper, etc.) to find this information.

Off-campus Apartments	Cost per Month @ School #1
Studio	
two bedrooms	
three or more bedrooms	

Off-campus Apartments	Cost per Month @ School #2
Studio	
two bedrooms	
three or more bedrooms	

13. Based on the above information, where do you think you would live for your first year at these schools? Please explain your answer.

School #1

School #2

14. Do you have to pay for parking at these schools? What does a one-academic-year parking permit cost?

School #1

School #2

Meal Plans

15. List the different meal plans available at these schools. Please include the cost of each plan.

School #1

School #2

16. Based on this information, which meal plan would you choose? Please explain your answer.

School #1

School #2

17. Given the information you have gathered in the last few sections, estimate how much it would cost to attend these schools for one academic year? Your estimation should be based on your stated preferences.

School #1

School #2

Financial Aid

18. What types of financial aid are available to students who attend these schools?
School #1 **School #2**
19. What is the deadline to apply for financial aid? List the deadline for the coming school year.
School #1 **School #2**
20. Do these schools offer scholarships for its students? Please list the scholarships that are available for first-year students.
School #1 **School #2**
21. When is the deadline to apply for scholarships at these schools?
School #1 **School #2**

Student Services

22. List two student service offices at that these schools (e.g., financial aid advisement, academic advisement, Native American student services, computer lab, tutoring, health services, learning resource center, etc.).
- a.
- b.
23. List two student organizations in which you might be interested (e.g., Black & African Coalition, Golden Key International Honor Society, Young Democrats, Model United Nations, Hispanic Business Students Association, sorority/fraternity Greek life, etc.), and tell us WHY you are interested in the three student organizations you selected.
- a.
- b.

Study Abroad

24. Do these schools have a study abroad program?
School #1 **School #2**
25. List three countries where you might want to study.
- a.
- b.
- c.

Setting

26. Describe the geography of the area in which these schools are located (mountainous, plains, desert, etc.).

School #1

School #2

27. Describe the typical weather conditions of the area in which these schools are located (dry, humid, hot, cold, rainy, etc.).

School #1

School #2

Step 4

Reflect on the results of your research and then circle the correct answer for each question.

School #1:

Does this school offer a major area of study in which you are interested?	yes	no
Does the size of the school meet your needs?	yes	no
Is there adequate financial assistance available to meet your needs?	yes	no
Do the housing options meet your needs?	yes	no
Is there enough student support services offered to meet your needs?	yes	no
Are there clubs and/or organizations that are of interest to you?	yes	no
Is this school close enough (or far away enough) from home?	yes	no
Is the geography of the area to your liking?	yes	no
<u>Are the typical weather conditions of the area acceptable?</u>	<u>yes</u>	<u>no</u>
<i>Does this school meet your needs?</i>	yes	no

School #2:

Does this school offer a major area of study in which you are interested?	yes	no
Does the size of the school meet your needs?	yes	no
Is there adequate financial assistance available to meet your needs?	yes	no
Do the housing options meet your needs?	yes	no
Are there enough student support services offered to meet your needs?	yes	no
Are there clubs and/or organizations that are of interest to you?	yes	no
Is this school close enough (or far away enough) from home?	yes	no
Is the geography of the area to your liking?	yes	no
<u>Are the typical weather conditions of the area acceptable?</u>	<u>yes</u>	<u>no</u>
<i>Does this school meet your needs?</i>	yes	no

1. At this time which school would you rather attend and why?

Name: _____

<p style="text-align: center;">GATES MILLENNIUM SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY QUESTION</p>

JUNIORS... it is now time for you to begin preparing yourselves for the many scholarship essays you will have to write during your senior year! With each fall portfolio unit you will be asked to answer ONE of the seven essay questions from the 2006 – 2007 Gates Millennium Scholars application.

Your essay question for this month is:

Discuss your short and long-term goals. Are some of them related? Which are priorities? Students please note: Limit your essays to two paragraphs.

JUNIOR MID-MONTH PORTFOLIO CHECK-IN SHEET Fall/October/Unit 8 College Exploration I/II

Student Name: _____

Directions: To obtain full credit complete this check-in sheet of your unit work.

- It is advisable to take time to think of what portfolio work you need to complete between now and the day your portfolio is due, and get to work on it!
- Please circle the appropriate response and answer in complete sentences where asked.

1. What parts of the unit have you completed?
 - a. all of it
 - b. half or more
 - c. very little of it
 - d. none of it

2. When do you work on your unit?
 - a. at home in the evening
 - b. on the weekends
 - c. during class
 - d. on the bus going to/from school
 - e. other (*please explain*):

3. Rate the difficulty of this unit. 1 is easy and 5 is very hard.
1 2 3 4 5

4. From whom did you/will you seek help for this unit?
 - a. teacher
 - b. friend
 - c. parent
 - d. other adult (*please identify*)
 - e. other (*please explain*)

5. How well did you manage your time during this unit?
 - a. very well
 - b. ok
 - c. not great
 - d. poorly

6. Look at your answer to number 5, how could you improve the way you manage your time? Or if you answered "a. very well", what else could you do to be a more efficient time manager?

STUDENT GRADE CHECK

Instructions: Fill out this form. Obtain an estimate of your current grade from each of your teachers. He/she should sign and date next to each grade in the appropriate column. Include this form in your Portfolio Unit for review by Upward Bound staff at your next Portfolio visit.

Student's Name: _____

Name of Class	Grade	Teacher's Name (Printed)	Teacher's Signature	Date	Comments
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					
8.					

STUDENT: Please give an explanation for any grade that is lower than a C in the space provided below. Feel free to use an additional page if necessary.