* 1. **Coaching Students: Comparing Post-Secondary Options**

**Level 2 Professional Development**

Topic: Helping Students Explore Their Post-Secondary Options

**Prerequisite:** Level 1, Lessons 1-2 and Level 2, Lessons 1-4

**Audience:** All Staff

**Activity Goal**

Supporting Students

Help educators work with students on comparing their post-secondary options.

Background Knowledge for the Presenter

* The presenter should be able to define and discuss the definition and purpose of various post-secondary options:
* College/University - A four-year college or university offers a bachelor's degree. Programs that offer these degrees are called "undergraduate" schools. A "university" is a group of schools for studies after secondary school. At least one of these schools is a college where students receive a bachelor's degree.
* Technical college - A technical college is a college where you can study arts and technical subjects, often as part of the qualifications and training required for a particular job.
* Apprenticeship – Combines on the job training and specialized classroom training under the supervision of s killed worker. You are a paid employee under an apprenticeship program.
* Trade School – Also called career schools or job training programs. While a traditional college may require you take classes in a variety of subjects, trade schools focus on training you for a specific skilled career.
* Military – As part of their military training, recruits acquire skills they need to be fully prepared for the beginning of their careers. Training opportunities include rigorous physical fitness, mental strength, knowledge of military history and tactics, and additional training specific to a career field.
* The presenter should be able to discuss the difference between accredited and non-accredited institutions of higher education. Accreditation is a type of quality assurance process under which services and operations of post-secondary educational institutions or programs are evaluated by an external body to determine if applicable standards are met. If standards are met, accredited status is granted by the agency. An institution may not obtain or maintain accreditation for one of several reasons. As accreditation processes often require several years' work, a new institution may not yet have completed the initial accreditation process. A long-established institution may have lost accreditation due to financial difficulties or other factors. The following regional and national accrediting agencies are recognized by the Secretary as reliable authorities concerning the quality of education or training offered by the institutions of higher education or higher education programs they accredit: <https://www2.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/accreditation_pg6.html>
* The presenter should be able to discuss the difference between not-for-profit and for profit institutions. For profit institutions are often characterized by low graduation rates, high student debt and questionable recruitment practices. Their online only nature tends to be attached to stigma, that isn’t accepted by many mainstream employers. One of the most defining aspects of for-profit colleges is lack of accreditation, which means that credits students earn from a regionally accredited college will usually not transfer, to it limits abilities to advance studies. Not for profit institutions on the other hand are publically owned entities. They are often characterized by higher graduations rates and lower student debt than for profit colleges. Because they are publicly owned, non for profit institutions get federal and state funding to operate. They offer a broad range of degree programs, including certification, two year associates, bachelor’s, master’s and doctorate programs.
* The major difference between [public universities](https://www.petersons.com/college-search/public-university.aspx) and [private colleges](https://www.petersons.com/college-search/private-college.aspx) lies in how they are funded. This affects students because funding is tied to tuition prices. Most public universities and colleges were founded by state governments, some as early as the 1800s, to give residents the opportunity to receive public college education. Today, state governments pay for most of the cost of operating public universities. They also oversee these institutions through appointed boards and trustees. The influx of public money is why tuition is lower at a public university. Meanwhile, private colleges don't receive funds from state legislatures. They rely heavily on tuition and private contributions. This means tuition rates are generally higher. Another difference between private and public colleges is their size and the number of degrees they typically offer. Private colleges tend to be much smaller than public universities and may have only a few thousand students.

**Materials Needed**

* Handout – Post-Secondary Option Comparison Worksheet 2.5A

**Time Needed:** 35 minutes

**Procedures**

1. Have a discussion with participants using the information in the background knowledge for presenter section of this lesson.
2. Have participants complete the exercise in handout 2.5A
3. Have participants discuss the comparison process.

Handout 2.5A

**Post-Secondary Options Comparison Worksheet**

Thai is interested in graphic design. He lives in the Madison, WI area and would like to explore local postsecondary programs in the surrounding area. As a first generation college student, family knowledge and experience about postsecondary education is limited. Thai has seen commercials for both Madison Media Institute and Madison Area Technical College and both have graphic design programs. Complete the chart below using information found on these institutions’ website and what you learned from the background knowledge section of this lesson. How would you advise Thai on choosing the best fit for him? Use [this resource](https://www.mycollegeoptions.org/Core/SiteContent/Students/Advice/College-Resource-Center/College-Search---Selection/College-Selection/College-Selection---Essential-Steps-to-Take.aspx) to help guide your thinking.

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| Institute of Higher Education | Degree Type | Accredited/Non-accredited | Type of Accreditation | For profit/not-for-profit? | Public/Private | Cost of Program |
| Madison Media Institute |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Madison Area Technical College |  |  |  |  |  |  |