

## **Unit Four**

# *Exploring Options & Opportunities*

# UNIT FOUR:

## EXPLORING OPTIONS & OPPORTUNITIES

### *Suggestions for the Instructor*

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#### **Pg. 4-10 - 4-11-- Words of Wisdom: Options and Opportunities**

Ask volunteers to take turns reading the quotes aloud. Ask students to pick a quote that interests them and to write about it, reflecting on:

- what they think the speaker means
- whether they agree and why or why not
- how the quote is or is not relevant to their lives
- specific examples from their lives or the lives of others which highlight its meaning

Ask students to share their reflections with the class.

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#### **Pg. 4-12 - 4-15 -- Felon Goes from Prison to Valencia Honor Student**

Ask students to read the article from the Orlando Sentinel aloud or silently. Ask them to find evidence from the article to answer the questions and discuss their answers with the class.

#### **ANSWERS:**

1. What were some of the obstacles Angel Sanchez faced as a child?
  - **He spent most of his boyhood on the streets of Miami's Little Havana.**
  - **He carried a .38 Special for protection.**
  - **He was in a gang.**
  - **He had an absentee, crack-addicted mother.**
  - **His father was poor, sometimes living on bread and coffee so he could eat.**
2. What crimes led to his incarceration? Why did he decide to be tried as an adult for an earlier arrest, when he was 14?

**By 16, he had been arrested four times for aggravated assault to racketeering to attempted murder – all involving his association with drug dealers and violence against rival gang members. He decided to be tried as an adult because he knew the adult prison had a commissary. He was hungry and he wanted the honey buns.**

3. What does Sanchez say motivated him to earn his GED, earn a certificate as a paralegal, and apply to college?

**He said it might have been:**

- **the pain in his father's eyes**
- **prayer**
- **reading in the prison law library**

(continued)

- the movies he was allowed to watch, the ones with tales of redemption
- knowing that, if he went back to his old life in Little Havana, he would certainly die there.

4. What were the expectations of Kent DeGuzman, who ran the Salvation Army's transitional-living program, of what felons could be like? How did Sanchez defy those expectations?

**Kent DeGuzman, who ran the Salvation Army's transitional-living program that Sanchez joined, knew from his days as a correctional officer what felons could be like. "You hear stories from them all the time about their big plans. But with Angel – if he said he was going to do something, he followed through. On everything."**

5. When Sanchez was turned down for federal student aid because he'd never registered with the Selective Service System, what did he do?

**When Sanchez was turned down for federal student aid because he'd never registered with the Selective Service System, as required of 18-year-old males, Sanchez researched the law, found the exclusion for prison inmates and presented an appeal to Valencia.**

6. Sanchez was accepted at Valencia College and offered a work-study position and a part-time job. He was then selected for the Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship, awarded to just 85 students. Why was he selected?

**He was selected in part based on his work ethic. The foundation also weighs financial need, academic achievement, leadership skills and the student's desire to help others.**

7. What are some the obstacles and struggles Sanchez still faces?

- His mother still struggles.
- His half-sister is in prison.
- He has to petition to have his civil rights restored if he wants to practice law.
- He has to choose between attending the honors program at the University of Central Florida or starting anew at places where he knows no one.

8. What would you say are some of the qualities Sanchez has that have enabled him to succeed despite his obstacles?

**Answers may vary, but should include:**

- |                |                             |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| • intelligence | • determination             |
| • leadership   | • ability to follow through |
| • charisma     | • good work ethic           |

9. Are there any aspects of Sanchez's story that you can relate to? Have you ever had any experiences similar to his?

**Answers will vary. Encourage students to draw comparisons or contrasts to their own lives in order to better draw lessons from the story.**

10. Are there lessons to be learned from Sanchez's story? What are they?

**Answers will vary, but might include: have courage to overcome obstacles, pursue one's dreams, don't give up, advocate for yourself, etc.**

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**Pg. 4-16 - 4-19 -- Ten Most Common Reasons for Not Going to College or Technical School**

Ask students to review the list of reasons frequently given for not attending college or vocational / technical school. Then ask them to work individually or in pairs to think of advice or explanations they could give themselves or a friend to counter these reasons. Then read aloud and *review the counter arguments*. Ask them how these answers compare or differ from their responses.

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**Pg. 4-20 -- Questions about Technical Education**

If possible, invite a student (a former GED student, if possible) who attends a local technical school to visit the class and talk with the students about his or her experience. In a jail or prison setting, you may have a student in your GED classroom who has attended technical school and he or she might be willing to answer questions about the experience.

Ask students to work in small groups to develop a set of questions to ask the student about the classes he or she takes or took, the length of the program, the type of assignments and class work involved, the career possibilities after program completion, etc. Collect the questions from the students in order to compile them and share them with the speaker, so he or she can prepare to answer the questions. Return the handouts to the students and ask them to write answers on the sheets so they will have the information to draw on later as they reflect on whether technical school is right for them.

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**Pg. 4-21 -- Questions about College**

If possible, invite a student (a former GED student, if possible) who attends a local college to visit the class and talk with the students about his or her experience. In a jail or prison setting, you may have a student in your GED classroom who has attended college and he or she might be willing to answer questions about the experience.

Ask students to work in small groups to develop a set of questions to ask the student about the classes he or she takes or took, the type of assignments and class work involved, note taking, research assignments, tests, time management, the career possibilities after program completion, etc. Collect the questions from the students in order to compile them and share them with the speaker, so he or she can prepare to answer the questions. Return the handouts to the students and ask them to write answers on the sheets so they will have the information to draw on later as they reflect on whether college is right for them.

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**Pg. 4-22 -- Financial Aid Eligibility for People with Felonies**

There is a misconception that people with criminal histories are not eligible for financial aid. In fact, many people with felony convictions can receive financial aid but don't apply. Read aloud this handout with students in order to help them understand who is eligible for financial aid and who is not and how they need to proceed to find out more. They miss their chance to go to college based on wrong information.

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**Pg. 4-23 - 4-24 -- Post-secondary Vocabulary**

Ask students to work with partners or in small groups to match key post-secondary vocabulary to definitions and to use the terms in sentences.. Tell them they may use the dictionary if necessary. Review their answers as a group.

**ANSWERS:**

1	A	financial aid	A	Money to help pay for school, in the form of grants or loans
2	E	grant	B	How much it costs to pay for classes
3	H	loan	C	A percentage of the money you owe which you have to pay <i>in addition to the money you owe</i> when you pay back a loan
4	C	interest	D	What it costs to pay for things we need to live, like food, rent, transportation costs, etc.
5	B	tuition	E	Free money from the government to be used for tuition or other expenses; you don't have to pay it back
6	D	living expenses	F	To fill out the paperwork to apply for school
7	G	vocational / technical school	G	School which teaches skills related to work, trade or career
8	K	certification	H	Money borrowed from a bank or from the government which you must pay back with interest
9	F	register	I	Educational studies in many subjects, like history, science, English, math, not necessarily related to work
10	I	academic	J	Two year college degree
11	L	post-secondary	K	Documentation earned by a student who has completed a vocational program
12	J	Associate's Degree	L	Education after high school; it can be either vocational or academic
13	M	Bachelor's degree	M	Four year college degree

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**Pg. 4-25 - 4-26 -- Review of the Technical Center Catalogue**

Distribute copies of the Lively Technical Center catalogue (or the catalogue of the technical center in your area.) Discuss the schools' mission, the types of programs offered, how many hours various programs take, how to determine the cost of classes, etc. After carefully reviewing the catalogue, ask students to complete the handout.

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**Pg. 4-27 - 30 -- How to Apply to Tallahassee Community College**

This handout outlines the steps to apply to Tallahassee Community College. Carefully review it with the class, then assess their knowledge of the process by asking them to complete the quiz which follows: **How to Apply to TCC: Quiz.**

**ANSWERS:**

1. To complete the on-line application, you need your <b>Social Security Number.</b>
2. To apply for financial aid, you need to go to <a href="http://www.fafsa.edu.gov">www.fafsa.edu.gov</a> .
3. To prove you are a <b>Florida resident</b> , you need a Florida driver's license, vehicle registration or voter registration card.
4. After you apply to TCC, you will get a <b>TCC email address and Student ID #.</b>
5. You will find out if you are eligible for federal financial aid in approximately <b>72 hrs.</b>
6. You can use federal grant money to <b>buy books.</b>
7. Money you have to pay back with interest is called a <b>loan.</b>
8. Financial aid that does not have to be paid back is called a <b>grant.</b>
9. Whether to not you receive federal financial aid depends on <b>income eligibility.</b>
10. Federal Pell grant money is <b>limited</b> , so apply early.
11. You may take the CPT test before you <b>receive your GED test results.</b>
12. Go to the <b>Fine and Performing Arts Center</b> to take the PERT.
13. When you go to take your PERT, you should bring your <b>photo ID.</b>
14. If you want to transfer to a four-year college, you will need to earn an <b>Associate of Arts degree.</b>
15. If you enter a <b>two-year certificate program</b> , you will earn an <b>Associate of Science degree.</b>

- |   |
|---|
| 16. You will develop your schedule of classes with a <u>counselor</u> when you go to <u>orientation</u> . |
| 17. To keep financial aid, you need a <u>grade point average</u> of 2.0.                                  |

1. What is the TCC website address? www.gototcc.com
2. What is the Federal government's financial aid website address? www.fafsa.ed.gov
3. What is the oldest you can be and still be declared a dependent on your parents' tax returns? 24
4. How long will it take to be notified if you are eligible for financial aid? 72 hours
5. Can you use Pell grant money for living expenses? yes
6. Does everybody who applies for federal aid receive it? no
7. Do you need to wait till after you receive your passing GED scores before you can apply to TCC? no
8. Do you have to wait till after you receive your passing GED scores before you can apply for financial aid? no
9. Do you have to wait till after you receive your passing GED scores before you can apply take the College Placement test? no
10. How much does the College Placement Test (PERT) cost? PERT is free; students can retest once for a \$4.00 retest fee  
Do you need to make an appointment to take the PERT? no
11. What do you need to bring when you take the PERT? photo ID
12. Where do you need to bring a copy of your GED scores once you have passed? Enrollment Services in the Student Union
13. What percent of your classes do you need to pass in order to keep your financial aid? 67%
14. If you withdraw from all your classes, do you need to pay your financial aid back? you may need to pay back a portion
15. What degree should you earn if you want to transfer to FSU? AA
16. What degree should you earn if you want to transfer to FAMU? AA
17. What type of degree would you earn to get a 2-year certificate? AS
18. What are some examples of 2-year certificate programs? answers will vary; see TCC catalogue listings

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**Pg. 4-31 - 4-32 -- Post-Secondary Catalogue Exploration & Presentation**

Based on what they have learned about their interests, skills and talents as well as what they now know about post-secondary options, ask students to choose a program at one of the local institutions that interests them, then, if possible, go to the website of the institution to answer the questions on the handout. If students do not have internet access, consider ordering print catalogues from the local college and vocational / technical center for use in the classroom. Ask students to prepare to present their information to the class.

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**Pg. 4-33 - 4-34 -- Exploring Options and Opportunities: Reflection**

Ask students to write a reflective essay, in which they think about the options available to them for post-secondary education. They should ask themselves the following questions then write for ten minutes without stopping. Encourage students to be prepared to share their thoughts and feelings with the class.

- What education or training do you need in order to achieve your employment / career goals?
- What do you want to learn more about because it interests you?
- What education and training goals are right for you?
- What steps will you need to follow to achieve your goals?

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## **Unit Four**

# *Exploring Options & Opportunities*

## **Student Activities**

# **Words of Wisdom: Options & Opportunities**



*Surviving is important, but thriving is elegant.*  
**Maya Angelou**

*Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying,  
I will try again tomorrow.*  
**Anonymous**

*A diamond is a chunk of coal that made good under pressure.*  
**Anonymous**

*The greatest glory in living lies not in never failing, but in rising every time we fall.*  
**Nelson Mandela**

*Don't let anyone rob you of your imagination, your creativity or your curiosity.  
It's your place in the world; it's your life. Go on and do all you can with it,  
and make it the life you want to live.*  
**Dr. Mae C. Jemison**

*I am not afraid of storms, for I am learning how to sail my ship.*  
**Louisa May Alcott**

*No person is your friend who demands your silence, or denies your right to grow.*  
**Alice Walker**

*I have not ceased being fearful, but I have ceased to let fear control me.*  
**Erica Jong**

*Be bold. If you're going to make an error, make a doozy.  
And don't be afraid to hit the ball.*  
**Billie Jean King**

*Don't sit down and wait for opportunities to come; you have to get up and make them.*  
**Madame C.J. Walker**



# Felon Goes from Prison to Valencia Honor Student

By Kate Santich, Orlando Sentinel

April 12, 2014

*Used courtesy of the Orlando Sentinel*



When Valencia College President Sandy Shugart discovered one of his school's most promising students was living in an Orlando homeless shelter and spending hours each day riding the public bus system to take classes on three campuses, he offered the young man a car and a place to live.

Angel Sanchez turned him down.

"Did I think about having my own bed, my own food? Yes," the 31-year-old student admits. "But I wanted to show people it can be done. And I didn't want them to be able to say, 'Well, you had somebody giving you things.'"

He has had his share of doubters. After all, few felons leave prison for college, let alone graduate — as Sanchez will early next month — with a 4.0 GPA and one of the most prestigious scholarships in the country. His Jack Kent Cooke award, announced this week, will give him up to \$30,000 a year to pursue his education.

"We've given scholarships to other felons," says Dana O'Neill of the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. "But I don't know that we've had other gang members or anyone who was in prison for as long as he was."

Angel Sanchez spent most of his boyhood on the streets of Miami's Little Havana. He carried a .38 Special by the time he was in middle school.

"I was 13, and I looked 10," he says. "But a gun was your ticket to protection, your ticket to respect. To be honest, I didn't think of it as being in a gang. In that environment, they're just your friends. They're your family."

His real family was an absentee, crack-addicted mother and a Cuban immigrant father who spoke broken English, drove a tow truck and lectured his son on the value of education.

"If you want to get ahead," Sanchez always remembers him saying, "You have to go to school." The father sometimes lived on bread and coffee so his only child could eat. Yet by 16, Sanchez had been arrested four times for a laundry list of felonies, from aggravated assault to racketeering to attempted murder — all involving his association with drug dealers and violence against rival gang members. His last sentencing, for 15 years, was compounded by his decision to be tried as an adult for an earlier arrest, when he was 14.

"I was in the juvenile system, but I knew the adult prison had a commissary, that they had honey buns," he says. "I was lying in bed, hungry, and I wanted those honey buns." His father would come to visit and cry. He died six years ago when Sanchez was behind bars.

Maybe it was that pain in the old man's face. Maybe it was prayer or reading in the prison law library or even the movies he was allowed to watch, the ones with tales of redemption: "The Pursuit of Happyness," "Cinderella Man," "Finding Forrester." Maybe he knew that, if he went back to his old life in Little Havana, he would certainly die there.

So in prison, he earned his GED and a certificate as a paralegal. He wrote to colleges asking whether, as a felon, he'd be able to attend. Several sent form letters; a few mailed catalogs. One added a personal note.



"Come see us when you get out," someone at Valencia wrote. To this day, Sanchez doesn't know who. But three years ago, when his 15-year sentence was cut to 12, he moved to Orlando, living at the Salvation Army shelter, enrolling in a job program there – and struggling to find work.

Kent DeGuzman, who ran the Salvation Army's transitional-living program that Sanchez joined, knew from his days as a correctional officer what felons could be like. "You hear stories from them all the time about their big plans. But with Angel – if he said he was going to do something, he followed through. On everything."

But what impressed DeGuzman most was how Sanchez dealt with rejection. When he was turned down for federal student aid because he'd never registered with the Selective Service System, as required of 18-year-old males, Sanchez researched the law, found the exclusion for prison inmates and presented an appeal to Valencia.

"He had a copy of the federal regulations, and everything I needed to look at, he had highlighted," said Kenya Richardson, coordinator of financial aid at the college's West Campus. "I said, 'The student did this?' I've got to meet this guy."

Ultimately, she offered him a work-study position and, later, a part-time job. His selection for the Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship, awarded to just 85 students this year, was based in part on that work ethic. The foundation also weighs financial need, academic achievement, leadership skills and the student's desire to help others.

The job has allowed Sanchez to move into an apartment, which he shares with a roommate, and save enough to buy a car. He sees his mother, who still struggles, on Thanksgivings, and he tries to counsel his half-sister, who is now in prison herself.

And there are still hurdles ahead. He'll have to petition to have his civil rights restored if he wants to practice law, as is his dream. More immediately, he still has to choose between staying close to home and attending the honors program at the University of Central Florida or starting anew at Berkeley or perhaps even Yale — places where he has applied but knows no one.

Shugart isn't worried. "He is immensely gifted as a leader, full of charisma," he says. "I wouldn't be at all surprised to come back years from now and find him serving as president of this place."

**Questions:**

1. What were some of the obstacles Angel Sanchez faced as a child? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. What crimes led to his incarceration? Why did he decide to be tried as an adult for an earlier arrest, when he was 14?

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3. What does Sanchez say motivated him to earn his GED, earn a certificate as a paralegal, and apply to college?

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4. What were the expectations of Kent DeGuzman, who ran the Salvation Army's transitional-living program, of what felons could be like? How did Sanchez defy those expectations?

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5. When Sanchez was turned down for federal student aid because he'd never registered with the Selective Service System, what did he do?

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6. Sanchez was accepted at Valencia College and offered a work-study position and a part-time job. He was then selected for the Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship, awarded to just 85 students. Why was he selected?

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7. What are some the obstacles and struggles Sanchez still faces?

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8. What would you say are some of the qualities Sanchez has that have enabled him to succeed despite his obstacles?

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9. Are there any aspects of Sanchez's story that you can relate to? Have you ever had any experiences similar to his?

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10. Are there lessons to be learned from Sanchez's story? What are they?

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# The Ten Most Common Reasons for NOT Going to College or Technical School

*Have you ever made an argument against going to college or technical school? Try to turn those arguments upside down! Think about what you might say to yourself or a friend in response to these common reasons for not going to college or technical school. What counterarguments can you come up with?*

## **1. Nobody in my family has ever gone to college.**

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## **2. My GED score is not very high.**

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## **3. I think the work will be too hard.**

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## **4. I don't know how to apply or who to talk to.**

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## **5. I don't know what I want to study.**

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**6. I 'm too busy to go to school full time.**

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**7. I will be older than most of the other students. I'm afraid I won't fit in.**

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**8. I just want to get a job and make a lot of money.**

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**9. I can't afford it.**

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**10. I'm afraid I can't go to college because I have a criminal record.**

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# Ten Most Common Reasons for Not Going to College or Vocational / Technical School: **COUNTER ARGUMENTS**



*Review the list of reasons frequently given for not attending college or vocational / technical school and the counter arguments. What do you think? Are they similar to your responses?*

## **1. Nobody in my family has ever gone to college.**

Being a first generation college student might make it difficult or scary for a new student. Family members might give you discouraging or encouraging feedback. Is there one person in the family who might be supportive? If family members don't have college experience and therefore can't offer practical advice, where else could you seek advice? Many colleges have programs for first generation students to help support them and answer any questions they might have.

## **2. My GED score is not very high.**

Most community colleges assess student skills to determine their ability to handle college level material. If students don't pass the assessments, most colleges provide developmental courses to build those skills. How will you feel if you had to take remedial classes? Financial aid covers these developmental classes, but only up to a point. These classes can be very helpful in building your skills so you are more likely to succeed in college. If you need to take remedial courses, your college experience may take longer than that of a person who does not need remediation, but don't be discouraged.

## **3. I think the work will be too hard.**

You may be right if you assume that some college courses will be difficult or you may not have the requisite skills. The more you can prepare for college level work before you start taking classes, the less shocked you will be by the expectations. And the more you seek support -- from adult education classes, from tutoring centers --- the more equipped you will be to handle rough patches when and if they arise.

## **4. I don't know how to apply or who to talk to.**

Most community college applications and vocational school applications can be found on line, or can be accessed by visiting a counselor. Suggesting that applying to these programs is easy, however, assumes that you have access to the internet, are comfortable using the internet to fill out applications, or are comfortable finding your way around a campus, using a phone to get information, or meeting with a counselor. Try to overcome your discomfort and ask questions - help is there if you seek it.



**5. I don't know what I want to study.**

The adult education classroom is the perfect environment for you to begin to explore their interests and talents. Make sure to examine career fields you might not have considered, take interest inventories, and watch films of people doing jobs that intrigue you. Explore your interests and skills through Florida CHOICES.

**6. I'm too busy to go to school full-time.**

Lots of college students go to school part-time. Vocational / technical schools often have part-time options. The process may take longer, but don't get discouraged, because it is better to start slowly and do a class or two at a time and be successful than to take on too much and not be able to pass your classes and perhaps jeopardize your financial aid.

**7. I will be older than most of the other students. I'm afraid I won't fit in.**

More and more students entering community college or vocational / technical school are non-traditional students; they may be women or men entering non-traditional fields; they may be older, returning students. Most college campuses are very welcoming of these students. Seek out clubs whose members have similar interests, support groups for first generation students, and tutoring groups of people working on the same subjects.

**8. I just want to get a job and make a lot of money.**

Unfortunately in today's economy, education and income are inextricably linked. Research the types of jobs that draw high salaries and the kinds of education required. With some exceptions, most high paying jobs require some post-secondary education.

**9. I can't afford it.**

Apply for financial aid early in order to see if you qualify for assistance! Consider community colleges and public vocational / technical schools because they are usually markedly cheaper than four-year or private schools. Begin now to make a financial plan for the future, examining what your needs will be and how you will pay your living expenses and work, if necessary, while going to school.

**10. I'm afraid I can't go to college because I have a criminal record.**

Many people think that people with felonies are not eligible for college or financial aid. In fact, most people with felony convictions are admitted to college and many can receive financial aid but don't apply. Talk to the Student Services and Financial Aid counselors at the local college or technical school to find out which charges make it difficult to get financial aid, what the wait periods are, and what options you have.

## Questions about Technical Education



*In small groups, develop a set of questions to ask a student from the local vocational / technical school. You may want to ask him or her about the classes he or she takes, the length of the program, the type of assignments and class work involved, the career possibilities after program completion, etc. Take notes!*

1. \_\_\_\_\_

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

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3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

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4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

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5. \_\_\_\_\_

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## Questions about College

*In small groups, develop a set of questions to ask a student from the local community college. You may want to ask him or her about the classes he or she takes, the type of assignments and class work involved, note taking, research assignments, tests, time management, etc. Take notes!*

1. \_\_\_\_\_

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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2. \_\_\_\_\_

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

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3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

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4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

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5. \_\_\_\_\_

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

# Financial Aid Eligibility for People with Felonies

*There is a misconception that people with criminal histories are not eligible for financial aid. In fact, many people with felony convictions can receive financial aid but don't apply. Don't miss your chance to go to college because you don't have the correct information.*

The first step to getting federal financial aid is to fill out the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#). The FAFSA helps determine if you can get financial aid. It also determines how much aid you are eligible to receive. The [FAFSA Drug Conviction Worksheet \(www.ifap.ed.gov/drugworksheets\)](#) will help you determine your eligibility.

## **To be eligible to receive federal student aid, you must meet these requirements:**

- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen
- Have a valid Social Security Number
- Comply with Selective Service registration, if required
- Have a high school diploma or a General Education Development (GED) Certificate or pass an approved ability-to-benefit (ATB) test
- Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a regular student working toward a degree or certificate in an eligible program at a school that participates in the federal student aid programs
- You must not owe a refund on a federal grant or be in default on a federal student loan
- You must have financial need (except for unsubsidized Stafford Loans)
- You must not have certain drug convictions

## **Drug Convictions**

If you were convicted for the possession or sale of illegal drugs and the offense happened while you were enrolled in school and receiving federal student aid (grants, loans, and/or work-study), your eligibility to receive federal student aid is suspended.

For a possession conviction, you will be eligible for financial aid after one year for a first offense, two years for a second offense, and indefinitely for a third offense.

For a sale conviction, eligibility resumes after two years for a first offense and indefinitely after a second offense.

A student may regain eligibility before the end of the specified period if he or she satisfactorily completes a drug rehabilitation program with certain criteria, or the conviction is reversed or removed.

It is very important that you meet with Student Services and Financial Aid counselors at the local college or technical school to find out what your options are depending on your situation. You might still qualify for financial aid from another source such as scholarships, or funds from the school.

*Adapted from [www.iseek.org/exoffenders/expand-skills/financial-aid-felonies.html](http://www.iseek.org/exoffenders/expand-skills/financial-aid-felonies.html)*

## Post-Secondary Vocabulary

*In the box, write the letter of the definition on the right which matches the term on the left.*

1	financial aid	A	money to help pay for school, in the form of grants or loans
2	grant	B	how much it costs to pay for classes
3	loan	C	a percentage of the money you owe which you have to pay <i>in addition to the money you owe</i> when you pay back a loan
4	interest	D	what it costs to pay for things we need to live, like food, rent, transportation costs, etc.
5	tuition	E	free money from the government to be used for tuition or other expenses, which you don't have to pay back
6	living expenses	F	to fill out the paperwork to apply for school
7	vocational school	G	school which teaches skills related to work, trade or career
8	certification	H	money borrowed from a bank or from the government which you must pay back with interest
9	register	I	educational studies in many subjects, like history, science, English, math, not necessarily related to work
10	academic	J	two year college degree
11	post-secondary	K	documentation earned by a student who has completed a vocational program
12	Associate's degree	L	education after high school, either vocational or academic
13	Bachelor's degree	M	four year college degree

**Post-secondary Vocabulary, continued**

Use these words in a sentence:

1. academic \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. vocational \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. grant \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. loan \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Write questions using these words:

1. living expenses \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. post-secondary \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. register \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. tuition \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**What to do?**

A person wants to enroll at Lively Technical School and finds out that the course she wants to take costs approximately \$3,000. She doesn't have enough money to pay for it, but it's very important to her. What should she do?

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Review of the **TECHNICAL CENTER** Catalogue

Review Leon County's Lively Technical Center catalogue (or the catalogue of the vocational / technical center in your county.) Use it to answer the following questions:

1. Which of the following courses are offered on the Lively campus?

Barbering	Automotive
Carpentry	Plumbing
Commercial / graphic design	Photography
Electrician	Phlebotomy
Medical assistant	LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse)
Culinary Arts	Cosmetology
Welding	Truck driver
Aircraft mechanic	Mechanic
Roofing	Funeral Director

2. What test do you need to take to apply to Lively Technical Center? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Whom should you talk to if you are considering attending a program at Lively?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What is Lively's mission?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. How much do Lively courses cost?

- \$2.78 per clock hour
- about \$5,000 each
- \$27.80 per hour
- \$278 per class

6. The cosmetology program takes 1200 hours to complete, so how much will it cost all together?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What should you do if you don't have enough money to pay for the courses at Lively?

- give up
- beg
- apply for financial aid
- work an extra job to pay for it

8. How many hours is the Barbering program? What does it cost?

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9. What is the room number of Electricity? How many hours is the program?

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10. What is the room number of Applied Welding Technologies? What does it cost?

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11. What is the cost of the Certified Nursing Assistant program? What are the requirements?

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12. What is the cost of Phlebotomy? What are the requirements? \_\_\_\_\_

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13. Find a program you are interested or might be interested in. Find out:

What is the program length? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the total program cost? \_\_\_\_\_

What TABE scores are required for completion? \_\_\_\_\_

What are some of the things you will learn in this course? \_\_\_\_\_

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Why does this course interest you? \_\_\_\_\_

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# How to Apply to Tallahassee Community College

## **Apply for Admission:**

- Go to the TCC website ([www.gototcc.com](http://www.gototcc.com)). (Click on Apply Now).
- To complete the online admission process, you need to have:
  - Your Social Security number
  - The dates you attended a previous college
  - If you plan to claim Florida residency for tuition purposes, you will need the following documents for either yourself (if you are over the age of 24 or claim Independent status per the IRS tax code) or from your parents (if you are under the age of 24 and are eligible to be claimed as a Dependent per the IRS tax code):
    - A Florida driver's license
    - A Florida vehicle registration
    - A Florida voter registration
- Print out the summary at the end of the application process.
- Get your TCC email address and TCC ID # and check it often.

## **Apply for Financial Aid:**

- **Go to the FAFSA website at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).**
- For summer courses, complete the current year's application.
- For fall courses, complete the correct year's application.
- Apply for a PIN #.
- Complete the FAFSA yourself if you are over the age of 24 or claim Independent status per the IRS tax code. If you are under the age of 24 and are eligible to be claimed as a Dependent per the IRS tax code, your parents must complete the FAFSA.
- **Fill out the TCC Financial Aid Form on the TCC website using your TCC Student ID#.**
- You will be notified by email and by letter within 72 hours if you are eligible for a Pell grant or a loan.
- Pell grants pay for classes required for your degree. The tuition payment goes to the school and the student receives the remainder. Students use their TCC ID card to buy books.
- Students are awarded grants based on income eligibility.
- Apply soon. There is a limited amount of funds available. The sooner you apply, the better your chances of receiving financial aid.

- Bring your GED Scores to TCC:** Bring a copy of your passing GED scores to Enrollment Services (in the Student Union.)
  
- Take the Florida College Placement Test (F-PERT)** to determine whether or not you will need to take Developmental Education Courses.
  - You may take the F-PERT test before you receive your GED results.
  - Go to the Fine and Performing Arts Center at TCC as a walk-in (no appointment necessary.)
  - The F-PERT is given Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:40 p.m.; Friday, 12 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.; call for Saturday times.
  - Bring your photo ID.
  - The F-PERT is free; students can retest once for a \$4.00 retest fee.
  - Call 201- 8282 for more information.
  
- Attend Orientation:**
  - After you apply, you will get a post card telling you how to register for orientation.
  - You will need to decide on the program of study you want to pursue.
    - **Associate of Arts (AA)** programs transfer to four-year colleges.
    - **Associate of Science (AS) and Associate of Applied Science (AAS)** programs are two-year degrees.
  - During the orientation meeting, you will register for classes that you need for your program and you'll find out your schedule.
  - You'll also be able to talk to a counselor to ask questions about courses.
  
- If you need to take Developmental Education Courses:**
  - If you have to take Developmental Education courses, financial aid will pay for up to 30 remedial hours (approximately 10 classes, worth 3 hours of credit each.) Full time students take three or four courses each semester.
  - If you are eligible, you may take Developmental Education courses and regular college courses at the same time.
  
- Prepare to be successful in college:**
  - Students need to complete 67% of their courses to keep financial aid.
  - Financial aid requires attendance verification. Keep your attendance up in order to keep financial aid.
  - Students need to maintain a 2.0 minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) in order to keep their financial aid.
  - If you withdraw from or drop all your courses, *you may need to pay back a portion of your financial aid.*

## How to Apply to T.C.C. -- QUIZ

Fill in each blank with the word on the right that best completes the sentence.

1. To complete the on-line application, you need your _____	72 hours
2. To apply for financial aid, you need to go to _____	photo ID
3. To prove you are a _____, you need a Florida driver's license, vehicle registration or voter registration card.	Social Security number
4. After you apply to TCC, you will get a _____	receive your GED test results
5. You will find out if you are eligible for federal financial aid in approximately _____	www.fafsa.edu.gov
6. You can use federal grant money to _____	buy books
7. Money you have to pay back with interest is called a _____	grant
8. Financial aid that does not have to be paid back is called a _____	TCC email address and Student ID #
9. Whether or not you receive federal financial aid depends on _____	grade point average
10. Federal Pell grant money is _____, so apply early.	Florida resident
11. You may take the PERT test before you _____	Associate of Arts degree
12. Go to the _____ to take the PERT test.	orientation
13. When you go to take your PERT, you should bring your _____	Associate of Science degree
14. If you want to transfer to a four-year college, you will need to earn an _____	income eligibility
15. If you enter a two-year certificate program, you will earn an _____	Fine and Performing Arts Center
16. You will develop your schedule of classes with a _____ when you go to _____.	loan
17. To keep financial aid, you need a _____ of 2.0.	limited
	counselor

1. What is the TCC website address? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the federal government's financial aid website address? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the oldest you can be and still be declared a dependent on your parents' tax returns? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How long will it take to be notified if you are eligible for financial aid? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Can you use Pell grant money for living expenses? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Does everybody who applies for federal aid receive it? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Do you need to wait till after you receive your passing GED scores before you can apply to TCC? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Do you have to wait till after you receive your passing GED scores before you can apply for financial aid? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Do you have to wait till after you receive your passing GED scores before you can apply to take the College Placement test (PERT)? \_\_\_\_\_
10. How much does the College Placement Test (PERT) cost? \_\_\_\_\_  
Do you need to make an appointment to take the PERT? \_\_\_\_\_
11. What do you need to bring when you take the PERT? \_\_\_\_\_
12. Where do you need to bring a copy of your GED scores once you have passed? \_\_\_\_\_
13. What percent of your classes do you need to pass in order to keep your financial aid? \_\_\_\_\_
14. If you withdraw from all your classes, do you need to pay back your financial aid? \_\_\_\_\_
15. What degree should you earn if you want to transfer to FSU? \_\_\_\_\_
16. What degree should you earn if you want to transfer to FAMU? \_\_\_\_\_
17. What type of degree would you earn if you want get a 2-year certificate? \_\_\_\_\_
18. What are some examples of 2-year certificate programs? \_\_\_\_\_

## Post-Secondary Catalogue Exploration & Presentation

Based on what you have learned about your interests, skills and talents as well as what you now know about post-secondary options, choose a program at one of the local institutions that interests you (for example: you might select a certificate program from Lively Technical Center, a TCC Associate of Arts degree program, TCC certificate program, or a FAMU four-year degree.) Go to the website of the institution which offers a program that interests you to answer the following questions. If you do not have internet access, use the print catalogues from the local college and vocational / technical center. Prepare to present your information to the class.

1. What is the name of the website? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the name of the program of study that interests you? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. How many credit hours or clock hours is the program? \_\_\_\_\_

4. How long will it take in weeks, months or years to complete the program? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What does the program cost? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Does the program accept financial aid? \_\_\_\_\_

7. What are the entrance requirements of the program? (TABE scores? GED? ACT or SAT? Other tests or requirements?)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. What are some of the classes you will have to take in this program?

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

9. What do graduates of this program typically earn? \_\_\_\_\_

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10. What questions would you ask of a student who is currently involved in this program?

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11. What questions would you ask of a counselor in student services about this program?

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12. If this program is right for you, what do you need to do to prepare for it so that you can be successful? (Be specific: what do you need to accomplish academically, financially and personally before you apply?)

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