



SMART STARTS: PAYING FOR COLLEGE

In this lesson, students will learn about expenses related to gaining a college education along with the options available to finance college. Students will participate in interactive games and review lesson content with challenge questions. This lesson can be delivered as a standalone lesson or as part of LifeSmarts competition practice.





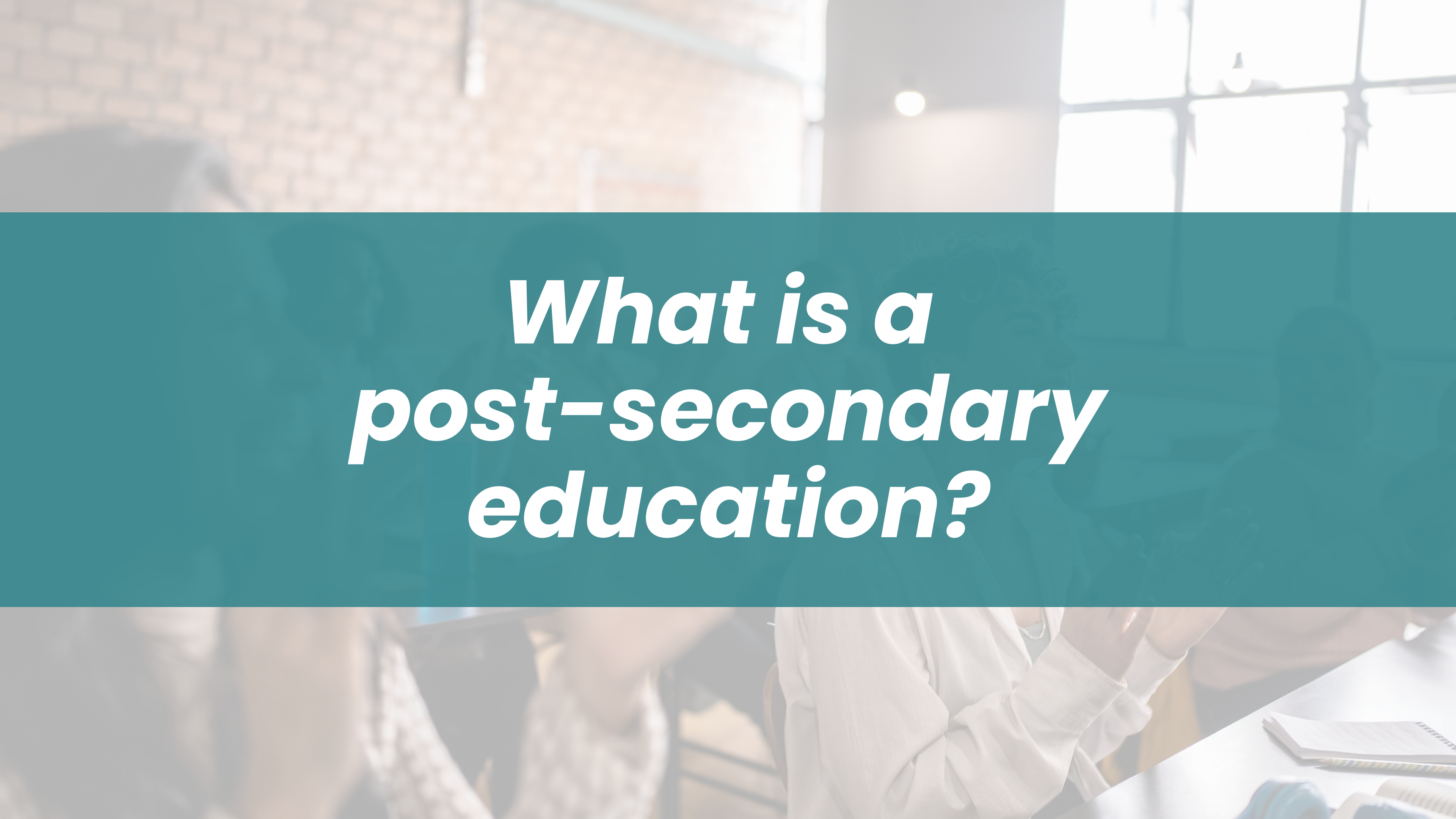
LifeSmarts

Learn it. Live it.

LifeSmarts, the nation's premier consumer program, has never been more relevant. For 30+ years, LifeSmarts has provided real-world education for students who learn about core consumer topics and develop critical thinking skills. Participants focus on five key topic areas: consumer rights and responsibilities, the environment, health and safety, personal finance, and technology. The goal of LifeSmarts is to create consumer savvy young people who will be well equipped for adult life in today's complex, global marketplace.

This lesson was developed in collaboration with LifeSmarts and 4-H. For more information and LifeSmarts resources, checkout: www.lifesmarts.org





What is a post-secondary education?



POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

- Four-year colleges and universities
- Community colleges
- Trade schools and technical programs
- Certificate and apprenticeship programs
- Online or career training schools



FIND YOUR HIGHER EDUCATION CHECKLIST:

WWW.STUDENTAID.GOV/RESOURCES/PREPARE-FOR-COLLEGE/CHECKLISTS



ACTIVITY:

RAPID FIRE

WRITE DOWN AS MANY COSTS AS YOU CAN THINK OF RELATED TO COLLEGE OR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION. YOU CAN BRAINSTORM WITH YOUR GROUP MEMBERS, BUT YOU AREN'T ALLOWED TO USE ANY OTHER RESOURCES.

EDUCATION EXPENSES

- Tuition and Fees
- Room and Board
- Books and Supplies
- Technology
- Transportation
- Personal Expenses
- Application Fees
- Health Insurance
- Course-Specific Fees
- Campus Fees
- Study Abroad or Travel Programs





WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

In-State Tuition

In-state tuition is the lower tuition rate offered to students who are legal residents of the same state as the public college or university.

Out-of-State Tuition

Out-of-state tuition is a higher rate charged to students who live in a different state.



ACTIVITY:

MINGLE MATCH

***EACH CARD CONTAINS A TERM OR DEFINITION.
CAN YOU FIND THE MATCHING PAIR?***



APPLYING TO COLLEGES....?

Don't forget to consider
the application fees!





STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

Grants



**Work-Study
Programs**



Scholarships



& Loans!



START WITH THE FAFSA!



Do the Prep Work:

Completing the FAFSA takes a little time to prepare, and you will need to have some specific items ready when you complete it. These include:

- Your Social Security Number
- Your A-Number (if you're not a U.S. citizen)
- Federal income tax returns
- Records of child support received
- Your current records of cash, savings, checking and investment accounts
- Records of untaxed income (if applicable)
- An FSA ID (account username and password) to log in to StudentAid.gov and start the FAFSA form electronically
- List of schools you want to receive your information



www.studentaid.gov



GRANTS

Most types of grants are sources of financial aid that generally do not have to be repaid.



LOANS

A loan is money you borrow and must pay back with interest.

- Direct subsidized loans
- Direct unsubsidized loans
- Direct PLUS loans
- Private loans.



WORK-STUDY PROGRAMS

Offer part-time jobs to undergraduate, graduate, and professional students with financial need, allowing them to earn money to help cover education expenses.



SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are gift-based financial aid that doesn't need to be repaid and can come from a wide range of sources, including schools, employers, nonprofits, and community organizations.



CHOOSING WHAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU...

- ☒ Will I need a meal plan, or if my house or dorm room has a kitchen, can I buy groceries and cook for myself?
- ☒ Do I need to buy a laptop or specific supplies for my program?
- ☒ Do I (or my parents) have money saved up for expenses?
- ☒ Will I work while I go to school?



FINAL ACTIVITY:

CHALLENGE QUESTIONS

***LET'S PUT YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF TODAY'S
LESSON TO THE TEST WITH A SET OF
CHALLENGE QUESTIONS!***



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