

Video Title:	Community College 101 – Parts One and Two
Video Length:	Part One – 11:32 minutes Part Two – 9:49 minutes
Audience:	Basic Studies Students, High School Students
Curriculum Correlation:	Transition Portfolio – Activity 5.c Videos
Part One Summary:	Vanessa Reed, South Seattle Community College Director of Student Outreach, discusses the types of students served and the advantages of choosing community college as a next educational step.
Part Two Summary:	Vanessa Reed, South Seattle Community College Director of Student Outreach, outlines the steps to enroll and the degrees that can be earned at a community college.
Vision Statement:	By watching this video, viewers will... LEARN what a community college is, the degrees and certificates they offer, how they are different from universities and high schools, and reasons for attending the community college; UNDERSTAND that community colleges are flexible while providing high quality instruction; FEEL that the community college has a place for everyone on the education continuum, inclusive of short and long-term goals.
Learning Objectives:	LISTENING: Viewers will identify the advantages of studying at a community college and the types of certificates and degrees available. They will also learn the steps in the process. SPEAKING: Viewers will share and compare information from the video and from personal experience. READING: Viewers will read sentences extracted from the video and select and write appropriate synonyms to replace italicized words.

WRITING: Viewers will practice note taking and paragraph writing skills.

Instructional Time: Pre-Viewing Activity – Discovery (Video Parts One and Two):
Approximately 30 minutes

Pre-Viewing Activity – Vocabulary (Video Part One):
Approximately 30 minutes

Viewing Activity (Video Part One): Approximately 1 hour

Pre-Viewing Activity – Vocabulary (Video Part Two):
Approximately 30 minutes

Viewing Activity (Video Part Two): Approximately 1 hour

Post-Viewing Activity (Video Parts One and Two): Approximately 2 hours, depending on choice of in-class or out-of-class assignments

Answer Key: Page 5

Video Transcripts: Part One – Page 12
Part Two – Page 16

Instructional Guidelines

Community College 101 is divided into two parts. It is possible to use Part One without Part Two; however, it's best not to use Part Two without using Part One first. Upon completing Community College 101– Part One, individual instructors will determine whether they will continue with the second part. If so, they should continue with the Pre-Viewing Activity – Vocabulary for Community College 101 – Part Two. If not, they should go directly to the Post-Viewing Activity.

Instructional Guidelines: Pre-Viewing Activities

- Instructor introduces the video (Parts One and Two) by asking students to define “community college.”



- Instructor distributes Pre-Viewing Activity – Discovery and asks students to write five questions about community colleges.
- Questions are shared (and corrected for grammatical accuracy, if desired), but they are not answered.
- Because this video has two parts, there are two Pre-Viewing Activity – Vocabulary handouts. Instructor distributes the appropriate handout and asks students to work with a partner to complete the activity.

Instructional Guidelines: Viewing Activity

- Instructor reviews note-taking skills as necessary.
- Instructor distributes Viewing Activity handout for Community College 101 – Part One or Part Two as appropriate. Instructor plays the video. The video may be played repeatedly until the students have successfully completed the note-taking outlines and chart.
- Instructor encourages students to compare their notes with a partner between and after video viewings.
- Instructor guides correction on overhead or computer projection with student input.

Instructional Guidelines: Post-Viewing Activity

- If only Community College 101 – Part One is being used, the Post-Viewing Activity follows immediately after the Viewing Activity. However, if both Community College 101 – Parts One and Two are used, it is important to complete vocabulary and viewing activities for both before proceeding to the Post-Viewing Activity.
- Instructor asks students to reread the questions they wrote for the Pre-Viewing Activity, and, if possible, write the answer to each question in Part 1.
- If unanswered questions remain, students are asked to do Part 2 as homework. Or, this work could be completed in a classroom equipped with a computer and internet access.

- In Part 3, students are asked to write a paragraph answering the question: Is community college the right choice for you? Normal writing process is encouraged: brainstorming, drafting, peer-editing, and revising. This could be completed in class or at home.
- Alternative speaking assignment: Students could prepare note cards and give a short talk that addresses the question in Part 3.



(Responses will vary.)

You will be watching a video titled: COMMUNITY COLLEGE 101. Do you have any questions about community colleges? Please write your questions below. Be sure to use correct question formation.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____



You will hear the words on the left in the video that you will view. Please match each word on the left with its synonym on the right by writing the synonym in the space provided. The first has been done for you.

Match the synonyms without reading the sentences from the video. Read the sentences after you have finished. Does the synonym work in the sentence without changing the meaning of the sentence? If not, try again!

Ex.	Forging = <i>Building</i>	
1	Assurance = <i>Guarantee</i>	
2	Merely = <i>Only</i>	
3	Potential = <i>Possible</i>	
4	Affordable = <i>Inexpensive</i>	
5	Inclusive = <i>Comprehensive</i>	
6	Exclusive = <i>Limited</i>	
7	Accessibility = <i>Openness</i>	
8	Diversity = <i>Variety</i>	
9	Tap into = <i>Access</i>	
10	Tutoring = <i>Assistance</i>	

Access
Assistance

Building
Comprehensive
Guarantee
Inexpensive
Limited
Only
Openness
Possible
Variety

Sentences from video:

- Ex. By *forging* private sector partnerships, community colleges can offer students the education and training they need to find a good job when they graduate.
1. And it helps offer businesses the *assurance* they need that graduates will be ready for the jobs that they're hired to do.
 2. To understand how all of these students, from so many different backgrounds, cultures and ages got to this final day of college, we turn the clock back to a time not so long ago when a group of students were *merely* considering community college as an option.
 3. This tour group of *potential* students is looking at why Community College might make sense for them.
 4. One of the best benefits of a community college is the fact that they tend to be more *affordable*.
 5. Community colleges are also accessible, *inclusive*—not exclusive.
 6. Community colleges are also accessible, inclusive—*not exclusive*.
 7. The other main reason people tend to come to the community college is *accessibility*.
 8. Another pro is the *diversity* that you can find at a community college.
 9. There are going to be a variety of services that they can go and *tap into* to get resources.
 10. *Tutoring* is a big service that a lot of our students take advantage of.

Part 1

What types of students will you find at a community college? You will hear five types mentioned. Please write them below.

1. **Running Start students**
2. **Laid off workers**
3. **Recent high school graduates**
4. **60-year-old students**
5. **Precollege level – ESL and Adult Basic Education students**

Part 2

What are the advantages of studying at a community college? You will hear six advantages discussed. Please write them below and provide examples where spaces are provided. Some answers have been done for you.

1. **cost savings**
2. **accessibility, open-door policy**
3. **smaller class sizes**
4. **diversity**
 - a. **ages (average age 30)**
 - b. **cultures (one of the most diverse campus in Washington state)**
 - c. _____ *languages*
 - d. **religions**
5. **student resources**
 - a. **women’s center (scholarships, childcare or health referrals)**
 - b. _____ *culture center*
 - c. **career center (WorkSource)**
 - d. **health center**
 - e. **club center**
 - f. **fitness center**
6. **tutoring**
7. **access to computer technology**

(Responses may vary.)

You will hear the following sentences in the video that you are about to watch. Please read these sentences with a classmate and write a synonym or short definition for each word in italics. Try to *guess* the meaning of the italicized words without using a dictionary.

1. One of the best things that students can do is to find out what funding *options* are available at the community college.
options: **choices, possibilities**
2. It could be based on their *passion* to get into a particular program.
passion: **desire**
3. You've *secured* your financial aid and taken your placement test.
secured: **obtained, gotten**
4. Once you've taken these steps, another important step for you to take is to meet someone who will play a major role in helping you *navigate* as you travel the path of college education.
navigate: **find your way**
5. A nice thing about talking with your advisor *consistently* is you're going to get the opportunity to make sure that you're going on the best route that is going to be *appropriate* for you.
consistently: **regularly, repeatedly**
6. *appropriate:* **suitable, right**
7. There are transfer degrees, which get you started toward a *baccalaureate*, or bachelor's degree.
baccalaureate: **bachelor's degree**
8. A transfer degree is usually a degree that a person who is thinking about going to a university would probably *pursue*.
pursue: **follow, go after**
9. South Seattle Community College has recently been *accredited* by the Northwest Commission of Colleges to offer baccalaureate level, or four-year-level degrees.
accredited: **qualified, certified**
10. South Seattle Community College has a number of these *partnerships*.
partnerships: **affiliations, collaborations, working relationships**

Part 1: Getting Started

What are the three steps to going to community college? Write the steps in the correct order.

Step 1: **plan how to pay (specialized funding, financial aid, scholarships, payment plan)**

Step 2: **take college placement test (COMPASS as SSCC)**

Step 3: **meet with an advisor**

Part 2: Types of Degrees

In the box below, please write all the different types of certificates and degrees students can earn at a community college. Can you divide the box in a way that shows the different types of degrees?

<p><u>Professional and Technical Degrees and Certificates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Short-term certificates</i>• <i>Long-term certificates</i>• <i>Associate of Applied Science degrees (AAS)</i>	<p><u>Transfer Degrees:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Associate of Arts (AA)</i>• <i>Associate of Science (AS)</i>• <i>Specialized transfer degrees</i>	<p><u>Bachelor's Degrees</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS)</u>• <u>University partner BA and BS degrees</u>
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(Responses will vary.)

Part 1

Before watching video, you wrote some questions that you had about community colleges. Were your questions answered on the video that you watched?

Please review your Pre-Viewing Activity handout. Write an answer to each of your questions on the appropriate line below. If you cannot answer your question, leave the line blank.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Part 2

Do you have any blank spaces in Part 1 above? That means that your question(s) on your Pre-Viewing Activity handout were not answered for you. Please go to your campus website and try to find the answers to your questions. (For South Seattle Community College, the website is: www.southseattle.edu.) Write your answers on the lines above.

Part 3

Now that you have answered all your questions about community colleges, please write one paragraph that answers the following question:

Is community college the right choice for you? Why or why not?

President Barack Obama (Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria, Virginia, March 30, 2010):

Community colleges like NOVA are incredibly important because they serve a varied group of learners, from recent high school grads seeking a pathway to a college degree, to adults seeking training for the jobs of tomorrow. By forging private sector partnerships, community colleges can offer students the education and training they need to find a good job when they graduate. And it helps offer businesses the assurance they need that graduates will be ready for the jobs that they're hired to do.

Narrator:

This is Graduation Day at South Seattle Community College. If you look at the faces, the smiles, and watch the rush of it all, it's obvious this is a big day. It's the turn of a corner, a new beginning, the next step on a long imagined path. This is what it looks like when childhood dreams of higher education are realized. On Graduation Day the excitement is all around us, everywhere we look.

To understand how all of these students, from so many different backgrounds, cultures and ages got to this final day of college, we turn the clock back to a time not so long ago when a group of students were merely considering community college as an option.

This tour group of potential students is looking at why Community College might make sense for them. Let's meet our tour guide on campus, and our guide through this video, an expert on choosing community college. Vanessa Reed is the director of student outreach and recruitment at South. Vanessa can tell you just about everything you need to know to get started in the community college system. So welcome to Community College 101. We hope to answer all of your questions about whether it's the right choice for you. But should you have any further questions, Vanessa will be the first to tell you there's plenty of information available to help you make a good decision.

Vanessa Reed (Director of Student Outreach)

So a community college... the main focus is providing a lot of resources towards the community. And whenever you say community, it's kind of a general thing, so you could have a variety of different people coming to a community college. You could have a student trying to do Running Start coming to community college, so they're trying to get college credit while also getting high school credit, and that student could be sixteen even. You could have somebody who has just been laid off coming to the community college trying to find a new way to gain some experience in another field. You could have a person coming straight from the high school, so this is their transition after they've graduated and are planning to either go into a technical field or they're thinking about going to a university later. You could also have

someone in their sixties trying to come back, trying to take a class for fun. So it's providing education from a variety of different pathways.

Narrator:

And there is another significant advantage to attending a community college over other colleges or a four-year university.

Vanessa Reed:

Also, it's a place where people can get pre-college level courses. So if English isn't their first language and they want to learn the language better, they can come and get ESL classes, English classes, to get better, and then take college classes after that. Also, adult basic education classes. Usually you can't find those types of classes at other types of colleges. You couldn't find those at a university as easily.

Narrator:

There are many other advantages or reasons for choosing to attend community college. Let's talk first about something we can all appreciate: cost. This is where community colleges hold a significant advantage over public and private four-year schools.

Vanessa Reed:

One of the best benefits of a community college is the fact that they tend to be more affordable. So compare a community college to a university, most community colleges could even save you about half of what you'd pay at a university. So, for instance, if you were going to do something like a transfer degree, you could do your freshman and sophomore year at the community college, which would be the same at a university, but you'd be saving half the tuition cost, and then you do your junior and senior year, and you come out with the same type of degree.

Narrator:

Community colleges are also accessible, inclusive—not exclusive.

Vanessa Reed:

The other main reason people tend to come to the community college is accessibility. We are an open door campus. So what that means is that we're not going to put you in competition to another student. As long as you go through the process of enrolling, you get all the things done that you need, and you enroll in your classes and pay for them, then you're accepted. The only thing we look at is that you've graduated and that you take our placement test. And so we're not going to compare your grades. We're not going to compare your SAT scores. We're not going to look at that kind of thing because we are an open door campus. So our main focus is to

provide accessibility which means we're going to provide anyone who wants to go to college a way to get started.

Narrator:

You'll find fewer students in each community college classroom in comparison to most universities. A smaller class size means that students can more easily get help from their instructor. Many universities have classrooms that hold as many as 700 students!

Vanessa Reed:

One of the highlights of the community college is the fact that we keep the classes small. On average, you're going to find around 30 students per classroom. So if you compare that to what you might find at a university, especially in freshmen type classrooms, you could possibly have up to 500 people in one classroom. So if you're trying to share one teacher to 500 students, you might not get as much one-on-one time as you would in a smaller class size. So smaller class sizes mean you're going to get more of a chance to have those one-on-one conversations with your teacher. You're going to have more time to actually get to know hopefully all of your classmates that are in that classroom.

Narrator:

Community colleges are also the most diverse higher education institutions. And diversity can mean a lot of things.

Vanessa Reed:

Another pro is the diversity that you can find at a community college. Usually the average age of a community college student is around thirty. So it's really nice if you're trying to not only be around people your own age, but you're also going to get the opportunity to be around a lot of people coming from all different walks of life. So that could be variety in age. That could be diversity in culture. For South Seattle, we're one of the most diverse campuses in Washington right now and you can hear various languages spoken, various religions represented on the campus, various different cultures that just make the richness of the community college a bit different compared to what you're going to find at a university.

One of the nice things about a student going to college is that they're not just on their own. There are going to be a variety of services that they can go and tap into to get resources. So, for instance, at the campus I work at, it has a women's center where the focus is women's issues. It's open to everybody. They'll provide things like scholarships, information for people looking for scholarships maybe outside of the school, health related referrals, so if they were looking for places child care. A lot of times the women's center will just be a safe space for people to walk in and feel comfortable and have people to talk to if they have questions about finding resources in the community and on campus.

The same idea with cultural centers or multicultural centers. The main focus will be things like culture. So if somebody wants to learn more about their own culture, they want to learn things about the cultures around them, or they want to do educational things based on culture as the focus. Many times they offer things like quiet places to do studying, computers, those types of things.

Also, for students who are kind of transitioning there are places like career centers. So if you looking to find, get ready to start that job, once you're done with your school, you can actually start that kind of thing while you're in school. Go to the career center get help with your resume; get help with your cover letter.

Many colleges have places like health centers. So if you're trying to get health information, whether that would be mental health information or physical activities, those types of things, there are a lot to choose from.

My school in particular has things like the Club Center, where many of our clubs will come together and learn how to run the club, learn how to get resources to do the activities that their clubs want, get leadership training, lots of different options. So there are a lot of different options when choosing resources for campus.

Tutoring is a big service that a lot of our students take advantage of. This could be tutoring that's arranged on a one-on-one basis. This could be tutoring that's arranged in a group setting where you just drop into a room that has a bunch of tutors all around and then you just raise your hand whenever you need help. And that could be in things like math, that could be in things like writing, a lot of different types of subjects to meet the needs of what you're studying at that time.

Narrator:

If you don't have access to a home computer, no worries, there is plenty of free access available to you on campus at community college.

As you can see, no matter what kind of academic support you need, you will find many options for support, often for free, at a community college.

Narrator:

Now that you have heard many reasons why community college is a great choice, Vanessa offers great advice about how to get started as a student. One of the first things you'll want to consider is how to pay for your education.

Vanessa Reed:

One of the best things that students can do is to find out what funding options are available at the community college. There could be a variety of different options from specialized programming, things like worker retraining, or things where if they were on Food Stamps, they may be eligible for a specialized program.

There's also financial aid where they have opportunities, by filling out a form, they get the opportunity to get things like grants. They can get things like loans. They could possibly even get work study and work on campus. There are also a variety of scholarships that are usually offered through the community colleges. And these scholarships vary. They could be based on academics. It could be based on their passion to get into a particular program. So there's a variety of different scholarships even available at the community college.

A nice thing that community colleges are starting to do as well is many have things like payment plans where they can gain access to paying for their college, but they can split up their payment into three, so they don't have to pay for everything all at once. So we try to make it convenient for students to find those kinds of resources.

Narrator:

You will also need to take a placement test. At South Seattle Community College this test is called COMPASS.

Vanessa Reed:

This is not a pass or fail test. It's the big thing to remember. It's a test that lets us know what classes you can start at once you begin here at the community college. And what I mean by that is a lot of times students will have to take additional classes so that they're prepared for college level courses.

Narrator:

You've chosen your community college. You've secured your financial aid and taken your placement test. Once you've taken these steps, another important step for you to take is to meet someone who will play a major role in helping you navigate as you travel the path of college education.

Vanessa Reed:

So as a new student, it is going to be very important for the student to see an advisor. They will have already taken the Compass test, which is the placement test to get into the community college, or whatever community college test is required at that school, so you'll have your scores, but in order to have those scores interpreted so that you know what kind of classes you're going to take, you need to go see an advisor. So the advisor will basically get you started. They'll give you an idea of what kind of classes you're going to be taking throughout your time at the college. They'll make sure you're taking the correct classes, so that you're not paying for classes that you don't need. They're there to get you that good start, so that you know what to expect as you move forward.

And as a returning student, it's going to be important to check in with your advisor as well because you're going to want to make sure that you're on the right track with your classes and that you know what classes are going to be the right ones in order to reach your degree. A nice thing about talking with your advisor consistently is you're going to get the opportunity to make sure that you're getting, that you're going in the best route that is going to be appropriate for you.

Narrator:

Advisors can help students make good choices from the many degree offerings available to them. Community colleges offer a true range of degrees and certificates. There are transfer degrees, which get you started toward a baccalaureate, or bachelor's degree. There are also professional and technical programs that award certificates and degrees for training in specific areas. And there are even some new opportunities you may not have heard about yet. Of course, depending on your future career goal, you may want to choose a transfer degree.

Vanessa Reed:

A transfer degree is usually a degree that a person who is thinking about going to a university would probably pursue. You would do your freshman and sophomore year at the community college, and you would fulfill all of the classes that would fit that degree. And then you would transfer to a university to finish your junior and senior year, and at that point you would finish with your Bachelor's Degree.

Usually the Professional/Technical degrees are going to be very specific fields. So, for instance, a person interested in automotive, day one they are going to be studying the automotive field. Or, if somebody was thinking about doing nursing, nursing could be another field where day one that is what they are going to be studying. So, it's a very specific field. Usually it's shorter term training, so you could do anything from a couple months all the way up to a couple years, depending on what field it is that you want to go into.

Narrator:

And, as promised, now we'll cover some of the new opportunities. We'd like you to meet Malcolm Grothe, Executive Dean at South Seattle Community College and an expert in Baccalaureate programs in community colleges.

Malcolm Grothe, PhD (Executive Dean - Professional Technical Education):

South Seattle Community College has recently been accredited by the Northwest Commission of Colleges to offer baccalaureate level or four-year-level degrees. We're really excited about that. The whole school is accredited as a four year institution, although we're still called the community college. That's kind of confusing to some folks, but we are accredited to offer baccalaureate level degrees that would then be transferable to many institutions if people are interested in Masters degrees.

Narrator:

In addition to Bachelor of Applied Science degrees, there are many other ways to get a four-year degree. Many community colleges also partner with four-year institutions to offer their baccalaureate degrees on community college campuses. This helps students who can't move away to finish their four-year degree in their own backyard.

South Seattle Community College has a number of these partnerships. Students can earn their two-year degree, then continue, on the same campus, to take upper division classes towards a four-year degree from partner universities.

So now, finally, in closing, let's review a couple of the main points in our introduction about community colleges.

There are many reasons to choose a community college, but one of the most significant advantages is cost savings. The typical community college tuition is much less than the cost of what you would pay at a public university, and it can be a fraction of the cost of what you'd pay at a private university. That's a huge cost saving with a result which is the same in the end: A degree!

There are transfer degrees such as an Associate of Arts and an Associate of Science, which means two years spent at a community college and then on to finishing the degree at a four-year university.

Professional and technical degrees such as the Associate of Applied Science or Certificates from professional and technical programs would allow completion in several quarters to two years, and then off to work.

And there are, of course, as we mentioned, also Bachelor's degrees available, either from the community college or from the four-year university partners on campus.

Remember what Vanessa has told us too: to get started at a community college, be sure to plan how you will pay for school, whether it is with financial aid, scholarships or even savings. And take the placement test and see an advisor to enroll for classes.

Vanessa Reed:

I think that's the beauty of college is you get to explore, you get to have all these different experiences, not only academically but personally and even in extracurricular activities that are going to shape who you're going to be in the future. It's just a very, very exciting time. If you're ready to go to school, the best thing that you can do is just figure out what your resources are, figure out your options, and just tap into your heart and figure out what it is that you could see yourself doing day to day and what would make you happy.

And most of the teachers you're going to find are talking about something they're passionate about, especially the good teachers that you get in school are the ones who are passionate about what they are talking about, and it just shines through. So the more you can do to find your passion the better, and I think college is a beautiful way to do that.