

Financial Literacy and Capabilities Module

CSLO 2: Identify factors that impact learning and apply techniques and strategies to achieve personal, **financial**, academic, and career success.

2.3 Expand financial capabilities by gaining and exercising financial knowledge

Purpose: The purpose of this module is to increase students' knowledge and capabilities to make financial decisions that can affect their academic careers.

Topics:

Cost of Living Factors

Financial Aid & Paying for College

Credit & Predatory Lending

Budgeting & Saving (Liabilities & Assets)

Lesson 1: Cost of Living

Many students are unaware of the costs of living; utilize the following exercise to demonstrate. Students will visit the following link to determine how much it will cost to live their desired lifestyle. Students will also identify careers that will provide the earnings to maintain their desired lifestyles.

<http://www.cdr.state.tx.us/realitycheck/>

Closing: Students should discuss their earning needs and whether the careers they are interested in pursuing will meet those needs.

Lesson 2: Financial Aid & Paying for College

View the Paying for College power point during class. Elaborate on the types of loans and where to apply for scholarships at HCC and nationally. Utilize college tuition information to estimate the total cost of completing students' educational programs.

Lesson 3: Credit & Predatory Lending

Allow students to work in pairs to answer the Credit Quiz. View Smart Credit power point during class. Elaborate on ways to help and destroy your credit score. Explain the impact of credit scores on future plans (career, apartments, etc.).

Lesson 4: Budgeting & Saving

Allow students to visit & complete the SPENT poverty simulation website <http://playspent.org> View the Budgeting power point and discuss how to make a budget. Require students to record their spending over a one week period to determine their spending habits. Utilize the power point, analyze spending habits, and find areas to reduce spending. Create a savings plan and report savings at the end of the semester.

Final Survey

After completing all of the content in the financial literacy and capabilities module, please direct students to take the survey at the link below.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/6QH6QFZ>