

## Introduction to College Studies — a free class at CCV

**Objective:** Students will understand what Introduction to College Studies (ICS) is and will find out how to sign up for a class in their area.

**Grade level:** 9–12

**Teacher prep time:** 5–10 minutes

**Class time:** One class period

### Materials

- Start Where You Are magazine (volume 1, 2010), page 3 (included here)
- Internet access
- worksheet (attached)
- paper and pencils

**Format:** group and individual work within the classroom

### Procedure

1. Have students read the bottom of page 3 of Start Where You Are magazine.
2. Discuss reasons why students might want to take Intro to College Studies while still in high school. List reasons on the board.
3. Have students review the ICS Web site at [www.gotocollegevt.org](http://www.gotocollegevt.org) and complete the worksheet on page 3 of this file.
4. Have students complete the online “How do I fit this in?” questionnaire at [www.gotocollegevt.org/how-do-i-fit-this-in](http://www.gotocollegevt.org/how-do-i-fit-this-in).
5. Facilitate a group discussion to answer students’ questions on the sign-up procedure and the advantages of ICS.

### NCDA guidelines for educational achievement and lifelong learning

- attain educational achievement and performance levels needed to reach personal and career goals
- participate in ongoing, lifelong learning experiences to enhance the ability to function effectively in a diverse and changing economy

### Vermont’s Framework of Standards vital results

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Section 1 | <b>Communication Standards</b>   |
| 1.18      | Students use computers, telecommunications, and other tools of technology to research, gather information and ideas, and represent information and ideas accurately and appropriately. |
| Section 3 | <b>Personal Development Standards</b>  |
| 3.7       | Students make informed decisions.  |



**VTSCA career standards**

**Academic Development Domain, Standard A:** Students will acquire the attitudes, knowledge, and skills that contribute to effective learning in school and across the life span.

A:A1.2                    display a positive interest in learning

**Academic Development Domain, Standard B:** Students will complete school with the academic preparation essential to choose from a wide range of substantial postsecondary options, including college.

A:B1.5                    organize and apply academic information from a variety of sources

# Be a "freeloader"

Ever wonder what it's like to be an engineering major in college? Or to take a class on the philosophy of art? Now you can find out — for free, and on your own time — through online "open courseware."

Stanford University in California sponsors the Stanford Engineering Everywhere (SEE) program, offering some of its most popular classes in computer science, electrical engineering, and artificial intelligence — all online, all for free. You can listen to lectures via YouTube and iTunes podcasts, and you can take online tests and network with other "freeloaders." You don't have to worry about grades, you'll learn something new, and you can connect with other members of the global nerd herd.

The idea isn't original. Back in 2003, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) began providing its course notes, schedules of reading assignments (called "syllabi"), and audio/video lectures online for free. Now, more than 200 colleges and universities offer free online lectures and content on everything from biology to art history.

## TRY IT!

"Drop in" on three open courseware classes that interest you. They could be three different classes at the same school or three classes on the same subject that are offered by different schools. Start at [www.oedb.org/library/features/236-open-courseware-collections](http://www.oedb.org/library/features/236-open-courseware-collections). The list of offerings isn't all-inclusive, but the site provides links to classes on everything from physics and Chinese language to the history of the Civil War. Other sources? Try [www.AcademicEarth.org](http://www.AcademicEarth.org), [www.youtube.com/edu](http://www.youtube.com/edu), iTunes U, or the Open Courseware Consortium [www.ocwconsortium.org](http://www.ocwconsortium.org) to see what might interest you.

## Virtually visit a classroom

Open courseware can introduce you to college academics before you ever step onto a campus. Though it costs schools a bundle, it's a win-win for everyone. Schools get to advertise their professors and curriculum, and they attract interested applicants as a result. Meanwhile, you get a feel for typical college classes and the kind of material college students study; plus, you can look into the different ways that instructors approach their material. One teen even used open algebra courseware to raise his high school grades.

## Your first college class for FREE

How would you like to acquire great skills *and* earn a voucher worth hundreds of dollars in tuition savings? Take Introduction to College Studies (ICS) — a *free* class at Community College of Vermont — to develop strategies for success in college and beyond.

Once you successfully complete ICS, you can apply for a voucher to take *one college course, tuition free*, at:

- Burlington College
- Castleton State College
- Champlain College
- College of St. Joseph
- Community College of Vermont
- Green Mountain College
- Johnson State College
- Lyndon State College
- New England Culinary Institute
- Southern Vermont College
- University of Vermont
- Vermont Technical College

Learn more, get class schedules, and apply at:  
[www.gotocollegevt.org](http://www.gotocollegevt.org) or  
[www.ccv.edu/intro\\_to\\_college\\_studies](http://www.ccv.edu/intro_to_college_studies)

Here's some of what you'll do in ICS, for free:

- participate in activities that teach communication skills
- explore your best learning style and develop study habits that work for you
- set goals for college, work, and life
- explore ways to pay for college and develop money management skills
- develop stress management techniques and apply them to various situations
- meet with a CCV academic advisor who will help you decide on the appropriate next step, whether it's taking a foundational skills course or a college-level course

## the ICS buzz:

"The most important thing I learned in ICS was about financial aid. I didn't ever think I could go to college. It made me realize there were ways I could cover the cost."

Matt Lajeunesse

"Intro to College Studies is a great chance to get your stuff together and prepare for the real world."

Greg O'Connor

"I took Intro to College Studies because I wanted to get a better understanding of how college works ... Most kids think they know how college works because they've been accepted, but that doesn't mean they understand the many aspects of college. Students lead the class, which I loved. I was able to ask every question I had, and that led to many good discussions."

Nick Cain

Now attending The Cooper Union, one of most selective American colleges, mainly because it offers full-tuition scholarships (valued at \$140,000 as of 2010) to every admitted student.



What is Introduction to College Studies (ICS)?

List three things you'll do in an ICS course.

How much does ICS cost?

What is the location and time of the class that would be most convenient for you?

List three steps you need to complete in order to sign up for ICS.

Who is the contact person in your area if you have questions about the enrollment process?

What are other ways you can earn college credit while still in high school?

How can you win a **prize** on the CCV site?

