

12th Grade: College Checklist

IT'S A PLAN

It's time to make a plan. Keep track of what you have to do and key deadlines.

ACHIEVE

Do your best in school.

Academics are the most important factor in getting into and graduating from college. Build good habits now that will help you be successful.

- Go to all of your classes. Attendance matters!
- Turn in all assignments.
- Find a system that works for you to keep track of class material.
- Use a paper or digital planner to keep track of assignments and deadlines.

Take the right classes.

Make sure you have the classes you need to graduate from high school and apply to college.

- Take a full schedule of classes, including math, a second language and electives.
- Take challenging classes. Earn college credit while you're still in high school with AP, IB, or dual credit classes.
- Try a hands-on CTE class.
- Review your transcript and your senior year class schedule.

Prepare for college admission tests.

Some colleges require or accept admissions tests like the ACT or SAT.

- FALL:** Take practice tests before signing up and taking the SAT or ACT if you need.

ENGAGE

Get involved.

Extracurricular activities give you the chance to explore your interests and make friends. Colleges like to see how you are involved in your school and community.

- Participate in school and community activities. Consider a leadership role.
- Volunteer for an organization or cause you care about.
- Make a plan for summer.

Spend time with good people.

Who you hang out with matters. Get a support system of people who want to see you succeed.

- Choose friends that share positive goals and interests.
- Find a mentor – a teacher, counselor, coach, other trusted adult or older student that you can talk to.

Make good choices.

Practice healthy, safe, and kind behaviors.

- Take care of your physical and mental health. Exercise, eat healthy and get enough sleep.
- Be safe online and on your phone.
- Google yourself. Adjust privacy settings or delete accounts you don't use.
- Avoid risky behaviors like drinking, doing drugs, and having sex.
- Be kind; treat others with respect.



MAKE YOUR PLAN

Get organized and get help.

Knowing how to get to college can be confusing. Get help in reaching your goals.

- Use Oregon Goes To College's templates and resources to help you stay organized.
- Update your file of important documents and a list of activities that you participate in. Create a resume with this information.
- Create and use a professional e-mail for all college-related activities.

Apply to college.

Keep track of deadlines and get prepared.

- Get to know your top colleges. Take a virtual tour or if possible, visit a college campus or attend a college fair.
- Make a final list of 4–6 colleges or training options that will be a good fit for you.
- Be prepared with the information you need.
- Apply by the deadline. Get help at school or from a trusted adult.

Pay for college.

There is financial aid available to help you pay for college.

- Determine which financial aid applications you will need to complete and apply as early as possible.
- Update your list of scholarships and set aside time each week to apply.
- Compare your financial aid offers carefully.
- Contribute to a college savings account.

Go to college.

Make your decision and get ready to go.

- Think carefully and critically in deciding where to go to college.
- Fill out forms including financial aid, orientation, and registering for classes.
- Start practicing what it takes to be a successful college student.
- Learn where to get help on campus.

KEY DATES

Apply

- **August 1:** Common App opens
- **November 1:** Early application deadlines for many 4-year colleges
- **February 1:** Priority application deadlines for many 4-year colleges in Oregon
- **April:** Many apprenticeship applications open

Pay

- **October 1:** FAFSA and ORSAA open
- **November 1:** OSAC Scholarship opens
- **March 1:** OSAC, Ford Scholars and many other scholarships deadline
- **June 1:** Oregon Promise deadline for most high school students

Go

- **May 1:** Decision deadline for many 4-year colleges
- **May:** Register for fall classes at Oregon community colleges

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Oregon Goes To College

oregongoestocollege.org

OSAC

oregonstudentaid.gov

Federal Student Aid

studentaid.gov

BigFuture

bigfuture.collegeboard.org

College Scorecard

collegescorecard.ed.gov

