

Review the 9th and 10th Grade Checklist.

Achieve

- Transcripts at the end of your junior year will be used for your college admissions applications.
- If you are eligible, consider joining the National Honor Society at your school
- Organization is essential as you move toward graduation
 - Use a calendar to stay on top of assignments, events, work and activities
 - Always note/capture/calendar identify deadlines and give yourself digital reminders (by phone or in calendar app) to help prepare you as you get ready to begin your college and scholarship applications
 - Create a file, paper and online, to keep your college planning documents in one place

Explore

- Continue thinking about your future career options. Research the education required for each profession and expected salary
- Job shadow or conduct informational interviews to learn more about careers you are interested in – talk with your counselor, ASPIRE Mentor, and/or family members to see if you can find an industry professional to connect with
- Use college search sites to explore your college options: [Oregon Goes to College](#)
- Make a list of your top choice colleges
 - Choose 5-10 schools if planning to apply to a 4-year university in addition to 1 Oregon Community College
 - Research specific admissions requirements to make sure you are on track.
 - Note the cost of attendance (COA?) and search for scholarships, academic programs of interest (do they require a separate application), student club/activities, etc.
 - Begin comparing/ranking colleges based on what you consider most important

Engage

- Review your transcript and college plans with your high school counselor.
- Engage with extracurricular activities at school and in your community, pursue leadership opportunities
- Visit your top 5 college campuses during campus preview days to get a feel for

the type of campus you want to attend. Consider the programs offered, size of campus, location, etc. Use: [Get the Most Out of your Campus Visit](#)

- For further away campuses you may visit virtually: [eCampusTours](#) OR [YouVisit](#)
- Attend local college fairs and meet with college admissions recruiters when they visit your high school
- Engage college admissions staff with questions you have about admissions, the college experience, etc.

Prepare

- Create a professional email to use on ALL college and employment applications, monitor regularly
- Practice for your Standardized College Tests – Use [PSAT/SAT Practice](#) & [ACT Practice sites](#)
- Prepare for Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) Exams
- Maintain and regularly update your [ASPIRE/OSAC Activities Chart](#) – clubs, activities, community service, paid work
- Build your professional skills – take HS/community courses that will give you skills using professional office applications
- Prepare your Recommendation Form. In preparation to request letters of recommendation early in your senior year
 - Consider who are the individuals that can best speak to your character, strengths, leadership, and involvement?
 - Connect and build these relationships this year – so recommenders will have lots to share in their letters of rec.
- Start thinking about who you would like to write your college/scholarship recommendation letters – make a list of potential recommenders and make sure you purposely & positively interact with these individuals during the year
- Create your resume – review with ASPIRE Coordinator, Mentor, or counselor for feedback
- Draft your application/scholarship essays, personal statements; review with ASPIRE Coordinator, Mentor, or counselor for feedback
- Consider and prepare for your summer months – employment, service/volunteer opportunities, summer camps, etc.
- Use the [College Scorecard](#) to compare costs, degree programs, and outcomes for the colleges you are interested in

Plan

- Standardized Tests. It is important to note that some colleges may not require SAT/ACT scores for admission, however scores for institutional or private scholarships are often required. Don't limit yourself, take standardized tests to cover all your bases. Fee waivers are often available for low-income students, contact your HS Counselor for information
 - Check with HS Counselor to see if the tests will be offered at your HS or if you will need to register & go to a separate location
 - Fall: Register and take your [PSAT/NMSQT](#) – after receiving results review with your HS counselor
 - Spring: Register and take your first official [SAT/ACT](#) – scores are used on your college admissions application
 - Consider taking the [ASVAB](#) Test – Career Exploration Test that is used for career exploration
- Student athletes: Register for the [NCAA Clearinghouse](#) if you want to participate in Division I or II collegiate sports teams. Connect with your HS counselor to make sure you are meeting NCAA curriculum requirements
- ASPIRE/OSAC helps Oregon students and families learn about their options to Pay for College/career training. Attend [OSAC Webinars, Resources, and Events](#) & connect with your ASPIRE Coordinator/Mentor at your HS for personal assistance. If your school does not have ASPIRE encourage your counselor or administrator to contactus@aspireoregon.org
- Search, identify, and begin your scholarship list. Note each scholarship and the deadline.
 - Apply for the [OSAC Scholarship](#) – you can begin your application as a Junior
- Look for other scholarships: At the colleges you intend to apply to, talk with your ASPIRE/College Coordinator/HS Counselor for scholarships specifically for students who attend your HS or are in your local community. Then continue look for other region, state & national scholarships using [Oregon CIS](#), [JLV Counseling](#), or [other national scholarship search platforms](#).
- Review How to Pay for College Checklist – become familiar with the financial aid process