



ASPIRE Checklist

College Bound 10th Grade

Achieve

- ☐ **Maintain Grades & Attendance:** This is important for transcripts and college applications.
- ☐ **Ask Questions:** Engage with your teachers, counselor, and ASPIRE coordinator/mentor.
- ☐ **Practice Organization:** Develop a system to manage assignments and deadlines. Understand your learning style.
- ☐ **Practice now for College Tests:** You may want to talk to your counselor about possible pre-tests including [PSAT10](#) and/or [PreACT](#). Consider independent [SAT](#) and [ACT](#) prep resources.

Explore

- ☐ **Identify Interests:** Use high school classes to discover subjects you enjoy.
- ☐ **Career Exploration:** Job shadow, conduct informational interviews, and use resources like [CareerOneStop](#), and [Roadtrip Nation](#).
 - Ask your counselor if your school has career/college exploration platforms like [Oregon CIS](#) & [Naviance](#).
- ☐ **Research Schools:** Narrow down college and career-technical school choices. Identify admission requirements.
- ☐ **Attend Events:** Participate in career and college fairs. See ASPIRE Calendar for Oregon events.
- ☐ **Visit Campuses:** Visit colleges in person or take online virtual tours using websites like [eCampusTours](#) or [YouVisit](#).

Engage

- ☐ **Plan Courses:** Review your academic plan with your counselor and consider honors, AP/Dual credit, or IB courses.
- ☐ **Stay Involved:** Participate in clubs, activities, and service projects. Seek leadership roles.
- ☐ **Consider Part-Time Jobs & Community Service:** These can help you gain experience, build responsibility, and save money for college.

Prepare

- ☐ **Meet Your Mentor:** Discuss future goals and next steps with your ASPIRE coordinator/mentor.
- ☐ **Track Activities:** Use the [ASPIRE/OSAC Activities Chart](#) to log clubs, activities, community service, and paid work.
- ☐ **Test Preparation:** Study for [PSAT](#) using resources like [Khan Academy](#) for potential National Merit Scholarships.
- ☐ **Manage Social Media:** Keep your online presence positive and focused on achievements.

Plan

- ☐ **Discuss Goals with Parents:** Talk about college plans and how to pay for college using resources like the [College Affordability and Transparency Center](#).
- ☐ **Learn About Financial Aid:** Explore how [state](#) and [federal](#) opportunities can help you pay for college.
- ☐ **Save for College:** Consider and talk to your family about the [Embark Savings Plan](#), a 529 account with tax advantages for educational expenses.
- ☐ **Summer Opportunities:** Work or volunteer in fields of interest.
 - Example: If interested in teaching, consider becoming a summer camp counselor

Continue to learn and begin making specific goals!