



ASPIRE Checklist

College Bound 11th Grade

Achieve

- ☐ **Maintain Grades & Attendance:** Your junior year transcripts are crucial for college applications. Talk with your counselor about ways to improve your grades if needed.
- ☐ **Join National Honor Society:** If you have good grades, consider this recognition.
- ☐ **Ask Questions:** Engage with your teachers, counselor, and ASPIRE coordinator/mentor.
- ☐ **Practice Organization:**
 - Use a calendar for assignments, events, work, and activities.
 - Set digital reminders for deadlines to prepare for college and scholarship applications.
 - Create a file (both paper and online) for college planning documents.

Explore

- ☐ **Consider Career Options:** Research education requirements, salaries, and more using resources like [CareerOneStop](#), [College Board's Career Finder](#), [My Next Move](#), or [Occupational Outlook Handbook](#).
 - Check to see if your school has [Oregon CIS](#) or [Naviance](#).
- ☐ **Job Shadow/Informational Interviews:** Learn about careers by talking to professionals in fields of interest. Talk to your counselor, ASPIRE coordinator, ASPIRE mentor, or family to find a professional willing to meet.
- ☐ **Explore Colleges:** Use search sites like Oregon Goes to College, College Score Card
 - Make a list of the top 5-7 colleges you are interested in. Include at least one Oregon Community College.
 - Research admissions requirements, costs, scholarships, academic programs, and student activities.
 - Compare and rank colleges based on what matters most to you.

Engage

- ☐ **Review Plans with Counselor:** Ensure you're on track for graduation and college admissions requirements.
- ☐ **Stay Involved:** Participate in extracurricular activities and seek leadership roles.
- ☐ **Visit Colleges:** Attend campus preview days or take virtual tours using tools like [Campus Tours](#) or [YouVisit](#).
- ☐ **Attend College Fairs:** Meet college admissions recruiters and ask questions about admissions and college life.

Prepare

- ☐ **Create Professional Email:** Use for all college and job applications. Check it 1-2 times per week.
- ☐ **Practice for Standardized Tests:** Use [PSAT/SAT](#) and [ACT](#) practice resources.
- ☐ **Prepare for AP/IB Exams:** Stay on top of these courses and exams.
- ☐ **Track Activities:** Use the [ASPIRE/OSAC Activities Chart](#) to track clubs, activities, community service, and paid work you've participated in. Keep detailed records.
- ☐ **Build Professional Skills:** Take courses in MS Office, Google Suite, Adobe Creative Suite, and improve typing speed and email etiquette.
- ☐ **Plan for Recommendations:** Identify potential recommenders and interact positively with them. Recommendations will be needed early in your senior year.
- ☐ **Create Resume:** List activities, volunteer work, and jobs. Review with ASPIRE mentor or counselor.
- ☐ **Draft Essays:** Write application and scholarship essays, make sure to get feedback.
- ☐ **Summer Plans:** Consider jobs, volunteer opportunities, and camps to enhance your resume.
- ☐ **Compare Colleges:** Use tools like the [College Scorecard](#) to assess costs, programs, and outcomes. Involve your family in the process.

Plan

- ☐ **Attend Events:** Mark calendars for career/college events, workshops, or programs.
- ☐ **College Entrance Exams:** Ask your counselor for upcoming dates
 - Fall: Register for [PSAT/NMSQT](#) and review results with your counselor.
 - Spring: Register for [SAT](#) and/or [ACT](#).
 - Consider the [ASVAB](#) test for career exploration.
 - Consider testing in spring to allow time for possible retakes.
- ☐ **Student Athletes:** Register for the [NCAA Eligibility Center](#) or [NAIA Eligibility Center](#) and ensure you meet curriculum requirements.
- ☐ **Financial Aid:** Learn about options to pay for college with resources like [OSAC webinars](#) and connect with ASPIRE Coordinator/Mentor.
- ☐ **Scholarships:**
 - Start and organize a scholarship list and note deadlines.
 - Explore [OSAC scholarships](#) and get a head start on personal statements.
 - Look ahead for other scholarships through colleges, your high school, local community, and national search platforms like [College Board Scholarships](#), [JLV Counseling](#), and [Scholarships.com](#).
- ☐ **Financial Aid:** The summer before your senior year, review the Federal Student Aid checklist.

Ready, Set, Get Organized!