

*Review the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Checklists & ASPIRE Calendar for more detailed and seasonal recommendations.*

*ALL Seniors planning on going to college should review the:*

- Financial Aid Senior Checklist** It's important to become familiar with the financial aid process at the beginning of your senior year so you don't overlook or miss important deadlines!

## Achieve

- Finish Strong:** Maintain grades and school attendance. Keep taking rigorous courses.
- Admissions Alert:** Acceptance can be conditional, so continue your academic excellence.  
**Practice Organization:**
  - Professional Email: Create and check it regularly for college and employment applications.
  - Use a calendar (physical or digital) for deadlines, assignments, events, and activities.
  - Set digital reminders for important deadlines.
  - Create physical and digital file systems for college planning documents.
  - Keep copies of applications and essays.
  - Create files for each school application and scholarship.
  - Save all versions of essays for potential reuse.
- AP/IB Exams:** Prepare for and take these exams.

## Explore

- Career Exploration:** Don't stress about not knowing your future career yet. Future college courses are a great way to explore interests.
- College Search:** Finalize your list using resources like [Oregon Goes to College](#) and [BigFuture](#).
- Build Resume and Leadership Skills:** Look for opportunities to enhance your resume.

## Engage

- Review Plans:** Regularly review your transcript and college plans with your high school counselor, ASPIRE Coordinator/ Mentor, and family.
- Utilize ASPIRE Resources:** Visit your ASPIRE/College Coordinator for help with applications, scholarships, and financial aid.
- Request Recommendations:** Ask teachers, coaches, and community leaders for letters of recommendation, allowing them at least 2-4 weeks to complete.

## Prepare

- Admissions and Scholarship Essays:** Write engaging and personal essays. Get help from [College Board's Big Future](#).
- Financial Aid Applications:** Complete FAFSA or ORSAA following the steps using [How to pay for college Checklist](#) FAFSA and [ORSAA Tips form English/Spanish](#).
- Scholarship Applications:**
  - [OSAC Scholarship](#) opens November 1.
  - Look for other scholarships at colleges, through your ASPIRE/College Coordinator, high school counselor, and search platforms like [College Board Scholarships](#), [FastWeb](#), [JLV College Counseling](#), [Oregon Goes to College](#) and [Scholarships.com](#).
- College Fit:** Finalize your list of colleges (5 - 7 schools with at least one Oregon Community College).
  - Research admissions requirements, costs, scholarships, programs, and student activities.
  - Compare and rank colleges based on your priorities.
- College Entrance Exams:** Register and take/re-take SAT/ACT in the fall.
  - Talk to your counselor about possible test dates at school.
- Portfolios/Auditions:** Finalize materials if required.
- Essay Feedback:** Get feedback from teachers, ASPIRE coordinator, mentor, or college advisors.
- Check Email & College Portals:** Regularly check for additional information from colleges and scholarship committees.
- Mid-Year Transcripts:** Send to colleges that request them.
- Compare Financial Aid Offers:** Assess and find ways to cover any gaps in your financial aid.

## Plan

- Attend Events:** Mark calendars for career and college events, workshops, and programs.
- Submit Applications:** Finalize and submit college admissions and scholarship applications by deadlines.
- Follow-Up:** Ensure colleges receive all required information (transcripts, resumes, recommendations).
- Oregon Promise:** [Apply](#) (GPA 2.0+) – whether community college is your 1<sup>st</sup> plan, or a back-up plan, all are encouraged to apply.
- College Choice:** Notify and place a deposit at your chosen college by National College Decision Day, May 1.

- Final Transcript:** Request it to be sent to your chosen college.
- AP/IB Scores:** Send to your final college choice.
- Placement Tests:** Check if your college requires them.
- College Portal:** Regularly check for important updates.
- Orientation:** Register and attend summer/fall orientation if required.
- Budget and Housing:**
  - Plan your finances and housing arrangements.
  - Complete roommate surveys, residence life contracts, and submit housing deposits.
  - Submit health forms, including required immunizations/vaccines.
- Create a Budget:** Work with family to plan financially.
- Travel Arrangements:** Plan affordable travel for orientation and move-in.
- Job:** Save for college and build your resume.
- Packing:** Refer to your college's checklist if living on campus.
- Quality Time:** Spend summer with family and friends; set communication expectations for college.
- Express Gratitude:** Thank your family and supportive adults who helped along the way.
- Celebrate:** Take time to celebrate your achievements and the hard work that got you here. Enjoy this milestone with family and friends!

**Senior Launch: Ready, Set, GO!**