



ASPIRE Checklist

College Bound 12th Grade

Achieve

- ☐ **Financial Aid Senior Checklist:** If you plan to go to college, review [this checklist](#) at the start of your senior year. It will help you understand the financial aid process and avoid missing important deadlines.
- ☐ **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 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, ASPIRE mentor, and family.
- ☐ **Utilize ASPIRE Resources:** Visit your ASPIRE 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.
 - For help with the FAFSA use the [How to pay for college Checklist](#).
 - For help with the ORSAA use the ORSAA Tips Sheet (available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)).
- ☐ **Scholarship Applications:**
 - [The OSAC Scholarship Application](#) opens November 1.
 - Look for other scholarships at colleges, through your ASPIRE/College Coordinator, and search platforms like [College Board Scholarships](#), [JLV College Counseling](#), [Oregon Goes to College](#), and [Scholarships.com](#).
- ☐ **College Fit:** Narrow your list of colleges to 5-7 schools including 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 ASPIRE Coordinator about possible test dates and locations.
- ☐ **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/college events, workshops, or 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:** Complete the [Oregon Promise Grant application](#)—whether community college is your first choice or your backup plan.
- ☐ **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.
- ☐ **Housing:**
 - Plan your 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:** Consider getting a part time job to help you 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!