



# 12th Grade: Final Stretch

## COLLEGE CHECKLIST

### ACHIEVE

#### DO YOUR BEST IN SCHOOL

Academics are the most important factor in getting into and graduating from college. Build good habits now that will help you be successful.

- Go to all of your classes. Attendance matters!
- Turn in all assignments, and take all your tests.
- Use a paper or digital planner to keep track of assignments and deadlines.
- Take the right classes!  
Make sure you have the classes you need to graduate from high school and apply to college.
- Continue taking challenging courses, and electives.
- Explore opportunities for dual-credit or CTE courses.
- FALL: Take practice tests before signing up and taking the SAT or ACT If you need to.

#### APPLY TO COLLEGE

- Be prepared with the information you need.
- List and organize all the application deadlines for the colleges you will be applying to.
- Apply by the deadline. Get help at school or from a trusted adult when applying.

### ENGAGE

#### GET INVOLVED

Extracurricular activities give you the chance to explore your interests and make friends. Colleges like to see how you are involved in your school and community.

- Participate in school and community activities. Try something new!
  - Consider a leadership role.
- Volunteer for an organization or cause you care about.
- Make a plan for summer.

#### SURROUND YOURSELF WITH SUPPORTIVE PEOPLE

YOUR COMMUNITY MATTERS. BUILD A NETWORK OF FRIENDS AND MENTORS WHO INSPIRE AND ENCOURAGE YOU TO THRIVE.

- Connect with friends, organizations, and clubs who share positive goals, values, and interests.
- Seek out a mentor - whether it's a teacher, counselor, coach, trusted adult, or an experienced peer. Find someone who listens and supports YOU.

#### MAKE THOUGHTFUL AND HEALTHY CHOICES

FOCUS ON HABITS THAT PROMOTE YOUR OVERALL WELL-BEING

- Care for your body and mind. Prioritize sleep, balanced meals, and regular movement.
- Stay mindful of your digital life. Use technology and social media responsibly.
  - Google yourself. Adjust privacy settings.



# 12th Grade: Focused

## COLLEGE CHECKLIST

### MAKE YOUR PLAN

#### GET ORGANIZED AND GET HELP

Knowing how to get to college can be confusing. Get help in reaching your goals.

Use Oregon Goes To College's templates and resources to help you stay organized.

- Create a file of important documents and a list of activities that you participate in.
  - Create a resume with this information.
- Practice writing college and scholarship essays.
- Create and use a professional e-mail.

#### PAY FOR COLLEGE

THERE IS FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE TO HELP YOU PAY FOR COLLEGE.

- Determine which financial aid applications you will need to complete and apply as early as possible.
- Update your list of scholarships and set aside time each week to apply.
- Compare your financial aid offers carefully.
- Contribute to a college savings account.

#### GO TO COLLEGE

MAKE OUR DECISION AND GET READY TO GO

- Think carefully and critically in deciding where to go to college.
- Fill out forms including financial aid, orientation, and registering for classes.
- Start practicing what it takes to be a successful college student.
- Learn where to get help on campus.

### KEY DATES & RESOURCES

- August 1: Common App opens
- November 1: Early application deadlines for many 4-year colleges
- February 1: Priority application deadlines for many 4-year colleges in Oregon
- April: Many apprenticeship applications open
- November 1: OSAC Scholarship opens
- December 1: FAFSA & ORSAA open
- March 1: OSAC, Ford Scholars and many other scholarships deadline
- June 1: Oregon Promise deadline for most high school students
- May 1: Decision deadline for many 4-year colleges
- May: Register for fall classes at Oregon community colleges

#### NAVIANCE- School Resource

Students can access their accounts to take self-discovery assessments, explore colleges and careers, view the College Visit schedule, sign up for visits, and access a scholarship database.

#### OREGON GOES TO COLLEGE

Oregon's go-to resource for information about getting ready for education beyond high school. Learn how to prepare, explore, apply, pay, and attend college.

#### OSAC

Learn about Oregon's state financial aid programs including the Oregon Opportunity Grant, Oregon Promise, and OSAC scholarships.

#### COMMON APP

Apply to college, research financial aid and scholarships, and get advice from counselors, advisors, and mentors.