



## 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:
  - o [OSAC Scholarship](#) opens November 1.
  - o 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).
  - o Research admissions requirements, costs, scholarships, programs, and student activities.
  - o Compare and rank colleges based on your priorities.
- ‰ College Entrance Exams: Register and take/re-take SAT/ACT in the fall.
  - o 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.

