

11th Grade - Your Junior Year

- Complete the Career and College Bound Checklist for grades 9 and 10.**
- Meet with your career or school counselor to discuss your career and college choices and their requirements. Review the courses you've taken, and see what you still need to take. Check your class rank. Even if your grades haven't been that good so far, it's never too late to improve.
- Review your high school transcript: Are you on track for graduation? Make a plan for senior year. Think about the choices that will keep you headed toward your career choice. Take classes to learn more about subjects that interest you. Think about subjects you need more work in, and strengthen your weak spots.
- ASPIRE helps Oregon students and families learn about their options to pay for college or career training. See if it is available at your high school.
- Record any participation in activities, clubs, or community service and awards or honors on your student portfolio, or resume, or activity chart.
- Stay involved with your extracurricular activities. Keep volunteering in your community. Colleges and scholarship committees look for consistency and depth in activities.
- Continue to read books, magazines, and news articles
- Consider people to ask for recommendations (teachers, counselors, employers, etc.) because you'll need these for completing applications. Think about asking teachers who know you well and who will speak positively about you. Letters from a coach, activity leader, or an adult who knows you well outside of school (mentor, volunteer work supervisor, religious community leader, etc.) are also valuable.
- Create a rough draft of your resume. Have a teacher, ASPIRE mentor, or counselor read and discuss it with you.

Career Bound

- AmeriCorps provides fulfilling service opportunities in communities around the US. You will earn money for your education, gain professional skills, and develop a strong sense of civic responsibility. Must be at least 18 years old.
- Job Corps is the largest free residential education and job training program for young adults ages 16-24.
- Attend virtual career nights, workshops, and events.
- List your top-five career choices. Visit organizations (in-person or virtually) and ask about getting a job shadow or internship for experience.

College Bound

- Standardized Tests
 - Take Advanced Placement (AP) exams while the information is still fresh
 - Sign up for SAT Practice Question of the Day
 - Take the PSAT/NMSQT. Register early! If you have difficulty paying the registration fee, see your school counselor or ASPIRE mentor about getting a fee waiver.
 - If you took the PSAT, review your results with your counselor or mentor
 - Register and take ACT and/or SAT
 - Consider taking the ASVAB Aptitude Test
 - Inquire about exams required for college admissions
- Compose rough drafts of your college essays. Have a teacher read and discuss them with you. Polish them, and prepare final drafts. Proofread your final essays at least three times.
- Collect information about college application procedures, entrance requirements, tuition and fees, room and board costs, student activities, course offerings, faculty composition, accreditation, and financial aid. Begin comparing the schools by the factors that you consider to be most important.
- If planning on attending a 4-year school, put together a list of 10 colleges of interest. Plan on applying to 3-6 schools during senior year.
- Attend campus preview days
- Decide which colleges most interest you. Contact these schools to request information and review their application for admission. Be sure to ask about special admissions requirements, financial aid, and deadlines. Talk to college representatives. Take advantage of opportunities to visit colleges either in person or virtually.
- Attend virtual college/career nights, workshops, and events. Attend college visitation events at your school.
- Visit the campuses of your top-five college choices, either in-person or virtually.
- If you want to participate in Division I or Division II sports in college, register for the NCAA Clearinghouse. Check with your counselor to make sure you are taking a core curriculum that meets NCAA requirements.
- Continue to save for college. Talk with your parents about paying for college; start learning about financial aid.
- See your counselor to apply for on-campus summer programs for high school students.
- Apply for a summer job. Earn money and develop your skills by working part time in the summer. Be prepared to pay for college application and testing fees in the fall.

Paying for College

Learn about the availability of financial aid from federal, state, local, and private sources. Develop a financial aid application plan, including a list of the aid sources, requirements for each application, and a timetable for meeting the filing deadlines.

- Financial Aid Overview:** Attend an OSAC Finding Funds presentation or watch the video online
- Financial Aid Applications: FAFSA & ORSAA
 - FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid): StudentAid.gov. Questions? Call the Federal help line at 800-433-3243 or the local college financial aid office. Opens October 1. Both the student and parent/guardian are **required to create FSA IDs** to complete the FAFSA.
 - ORSAA (Oregon Student Aid Application): This application is the state's alternative to the FAFSA and is the application for the Oregon Promise, Oregon Opportunity Grant, and OSAC Scholarships. The application is for Oregon residents who have undocumented status, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status, and/or Temporary Protected Status (TPS). Opens October 1.
- State Grants & Scholarships:
 - Create account in OSAC Student Portal at OregonStudentAid.gov and learn about Oregon's grants and scholarships.
 - Start OSAC Personal Statements and Activity Chart. OSAC Scholarship opens November 1 and final deadline is March 1.
 - If you are attending a community college complete the Oregon Promise Grant application. Deadline is June 1st for most high school seniors.
 - Current or former foster youth: check whether you are eligible for the Chafee Education and Training Grant.
- Scholarships:
 - Check resource books, websites, and your guidance office for information on scholarships and grants. Attend any workshops held at nearby colleges or in your community. Ask colleges about scholarships for which you may qualify.
 - Start investigating private scholarships and other student aid programs from corporations, labor unions, professional associations, religious organizations, and credit unions. Scholarships for underserved populations are also available.
 - If you plan to apply for an ARMY ROTC Scholarship, remember that your application is due by February 4, 2021
 - Create an account with The Ford Family Foundation and apply for their scholarships if you are eligible.
 - Ask your counselor or ASPIRE coordinator for a list of local scholarships so you can work on scholarship essays over the summer