

Freshman Year

- Your child should schedule a time to meet with his/her counselor to create a course plan that will meet college entrance requirements.

Sophomore Year

- Students should meet with their counselor to go over their course plan and make appropriate changes/corrections.
- Begin looking at standardized testing options. Tests like the PSAT and PLAN provide valuable practice for students. They should consult with their counselor to investigate ways to improve scores on standardized tests.
- Start searching for financial aid. Options include grants, loans, and scholarships. There are a variety of scholarships available to students of all ages.

Junior Year*September*

- Have your child meet with their ASPIRE mentor or counselor to review their course plan for the school year and plan their senior schedule.
- Make sure your students are registered for the October PSAT.

October

- Students should take the PSAT. Scores are used to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Competition and the National Achievement program.
- Have your child continue their search for scholarships and other financial aid options.

December

- Receive the results of the PSAT. Have your student consult with their counselor to consider whether an SAT prep course could be a good investment.

February

- They should register for the March SAT and/or the April ACT and contact colleges they are interested in to find out which test is required.

March

- During their spring break, visit schools that interest them.

April

- Students who have not already done so should register for the SAT and/or ACT test before the end of April
- Have your son/daughter re-evaluate their list of potential schools and eliminate those that no longer interest them.

May

- You and your student should attend any financial aid events at your school or local community college.
- Students will take AP (Advanced Placement) tests, if applicable.
- They should continue to visit colleges. Contact the campuses in advance to schedule appointments with the department of financial aid, admissions, and academic advisors.

Senior Year*September*

- Both students and parents need to register for an FSA ID in order to access the FAFSA in October. Register at fsaid.ed.gov.
- Check your student's course transcript. Do they have all the credits required by schools they are interested in applying to?
- Make sure your child has all the applications required and knows the deadlines for financial aid and admission for the schools to which he/she plans to apply.
- Have your student register for the SAT, SAT II, and/or the ACT if they have not already taken the appropriate tests.
- Students should start researching, and applying for, scholarships. Their ASPIRE mentor or counselor can provide information on where to look.

October

- The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) opens on October 1; students and parents should complete the form as soon as possible in order to establish eligibility for federal and state financial aid.**

- Undocumented and DACA students interested in receiving state grant funding should complete the ORSAA (Oregon Student Aid Application).
- The Oregon Promise Application opens on October. Students interested in attending community college in Oregon should complete this application, along with the FAFSA or ORSAA, as soon as possible.
- After completing the FAFSA, students will receive their SAR (Student Aid Report) within several days. Review the SAR, make any corrections, and return it to the FAFSA processor. If your student has not received their SAR within two weeks of filing the FAFSA, contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center.
- Students should attend college fairs to further investigate colleges where they would like to apply.

November

- Have your child meet with their ASPIRE mentor or counselor to review their final list of colleges. File early decision applications if they have already made a decision.
- Have official test scores sent by the testing agency to schools on their final list.
- Students should request letters of recommendation early, giving writers at least four weeks advance notice.
- Students should begin work on the OSAC Scholarship Application and the essays and activities chart that go with it.

December

- Students should complete their college applications (make copies before mailing).
- Mail all applications. Students should meet with their ASPIRE mentor or counselor to ensure that everything is on track.
- Students should request that their high school send their transcript to the colleges they applied to.
- Students should schedule their college admission interviews when needed.

January

- Have your son/daughter check with the schools' financial aid office to make sure no additional forms are required.
- Students should continue researching, and working on, scholarship applications, particularly the OSAC Scholarship Application and local scholarships. Contact your ASPIRE Coordinator or school counselor for more information.
- If your student has above a 2.5 cumulative GPA, have them fill out the application for Oregon Promise regardless if they plan to attend a community college or not. Be sure to have an Oregon Community College listed on their FAFSA as well.
- Students should contact the colleges and confirm that all application materials (transcripts, recommendations, and financial aid forms) have been received.

February

- Students should submit their completed OSAC Scholarship Application, with accompanying documents, by the Early Bird deadline of February 15.

March

- Final deadline for OSAC Scholarship Application is March 1.
- Final deadline for Oregon Promise is March 1.
- Students should continue applying for local scholarships.

April

- Review acceptances and compare financial aid packages.

May

- By May 1, your child should make their decision about which college they will attend and send in their acceptance of the school's offer along with any other necessary paperwork. They should notify any other colleges that accepted them that they have selected another university.
- If their first-choice college placed them on a wait list, have your son/daughter let them know that they are still very interested in attending the school.

June

- Students should ask their counselor to forward their final transcript to the college of their choice and let them know of any additional financial aid they will receive. Finally, have them contact the school and determine when fees are due for tuition, room and board, etc.