

## 12<sup>th</sup> Grade - Your Senior Year

- Complete the Career and College Bound Checklist for grades 9, 10, and 11.**
- Find out if [ASPIRE](#) is available at your high school. ASPIRE volunteers meet with students to help them explore college and career options, choose the best fit for their goals, and help apply for grants and scholarships that can pay for technical training.
- Don't stop now! Keep taking those challenging classes in English, mathematics, science, history, geography, a foreign language, government, civics, economics, the arts, and advanced technologies. Hard work in your senior year can mean a smooth and successful launch into a career or college.
- Talk with counselors, teachers, ASPIRE mentor, and parents about your final career and college choices.
- Fill out request forms for letters of recommendations to give to teachers, counselors, and/or employers. Give the letter writers at least 4 weeks advance notice.
- Keep copies of everything.
- Complete the ASPIRE Senior Exit Survey, if you participated in ASPIRE
- Review sample student budgets to set financial expectations for yourself ([1](#)) ([2](#)) ([3](#))
- Earn money for college and develop your skills by working part time in the summer.

### Career Bound

- Meet with your counselor early in the year to discuss your plans and find the right career for you. Talk with counselors, teachers, and parents about your career choices.
- Visit company websites to request information and review applications for employment.
- Attend virtual career nights, workshops and events.

### College Bound

- Testing
  - Take Advanced Placement (AP) exams while the information is still fresh
  - Sign up for SAT Practice Question of the Day
  - Register and take ACT and/or SAT
  - Consider taking the ASVAB Aptitude Test
  - Inquire about exams required for college admissions. SAT or ACT scores: Check your scores and see if you need to retake the tests (or take for the first time) and register Carefully review your Student Aid Report (SAR).
  - If community college-bound, take necessary placement tests
- Meet with your counselor early in the year to discuss your plans and find the right college for you. Talk with counselors, teachers, and parents about your final college choices.

- Request letters of recommendations and give at least four weeks' notice. Talk to your recommendation writers about your goals and ambitions. Give them [recommendation forms](#) to fill out (along with stamped, pre-addressed envelopes if needed).
- Verify with your school counselor the schools to which transcripts, test scores, and letters are to be sent. Give your counselor any necessary forms at least two weeks before they are due or whenever your counselor's deadline is, whichever is earlier.
- Begin work on college admissions and scholarship essays; have your counselor, teacher, or ASPIRE mentor proofread your work
- Submit any remaining applications and financial aid forms before winter break. Make copies of everything. Prepare your application carefully. Follow the instructions, and pay close attention to deadlines!
- Visit college websites to request information and review applications for admission. Be sure to ask about financial aid, admissions requirements, and deadlines.
- Attend college visitation events and tour your chosen campus
- Check and monitor college priority application and regular application deadlines
- Keep a planner with application deadlines for admission, financial aid, and scholarships.
- Attend whatever college-prep nights are held at your school or by local organizations.
- 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.

## Applying

- Planning on attending a private college? Find out if they accept the Common Application; check the list of participating schools at [CommonApp.org](http://CommonApp.org).
- Submit applications to at least three colleges; monitor deadlines
- Follow up to make sure that the colleges have received all application information, including recommendations and test scores. Be sure to request your year-end transcript is sent to the college you will be attending
- Check to see if mid-year transcripts have been sent to colleges applied to

## Post-Application

- Notify all schools of your final decision by their deadlines
- Create/verify student account in school's online portal
- Register for housing, orientation, and classes
- If you are on a college waitlist, notify that school if you are still interested in attending

## 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](https://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](https://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 1<sup>st</sup> 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
    - Write thank you notes to scholarship donors

- Reviewing, correcting, and accepting financial aid awards
  - Carefully review your Student Aid Report (SAR).
  - Make corrections to your financial aid if needed.
  - Provide your college with any required financial documents (tax data, household size, # in college, for example) if you are selected for verification.
  - Order a Tax Transcript if your FAFSA is under review: [irs.gov/individuals/get-transcript](https://irs.gov/individuals/get-transcript)
  - Check your email and OSAC Student Portal for notifications
  - If requested, send your selected college's financial aid office a copy of your diploma or transcript with graduation date
  - Be mindful of deadlines for accepting financial aid awards
  - Accept financial aid offer from the college you will be attending