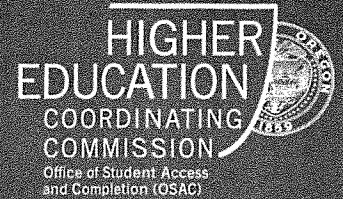


The College Pocket Planner is a collaboration of:



The Independent Living Program at DHS works with OSAC to administer Oregon's Chafee Education and Training Grant, which helps foster youth pursue postsecondary education.

If you are a current or former foster youth, you can apply for the Chafee grant from November 1 to March 1.

Learn more and apply at:  
[OregonStudentAid.gov/chafee-etg.aspx](http://OregonStudentAid.gov/chafee-etg.aspx)

## ADMISSIONS TESTS

**Oregon's seven public universities will no longer require students to submit SAT or ACT scores.** If you tend to do better in the classroom than you do on standardized tests, you can opt not to take the SAT or ACT.

If you will apply to an out-of-state school or an Oregon private college, check their admissions website to see if test scores are required.

Most students take the SAT or ACT during their junior year or in the fall of their senior year. Be sure to register early to secure a seat for your desired test date.

## APPLYING FOR AID

To apply for any federal or state financial aid, you will need to complete either the FAFSA or the ORSAA.

To maximize your chances of getting a financial aid award, **you should apply as soon as possible after October 1.**

<p><b>FAFSA</b> Free Application for Federal Student Aid</p>	<p>For U.S. citizens and eligible noncitizens. FAFSA filers are eligible for federal and state funds.</p>
<p><b>ORSAA</b> Oregon Student Aid Application</p>	<p>For Oregon residents who have DACA or undocumented status. ORSAA filers are eligible for state funds but not federal funds.</p>

## GRANTS

Grants are money for students to pay for college. Grants are typically funded by the state or federal government. In most circumstances, **grants do not have to be paid back.**

**Pell Grant:** A federal grant for undergraduate students with financial need. To apply, submit your FAFSA.

**Oregon Opportunity Grant:** A need-based state grant for undergraduate students. To apply, submit your FAFSA/ORSAA.

**Oregon Promise:** A state grant for students going straight from high school or a GED® program to a community college. To apply, submit an application and FAFSA/ORSAA *before your graduation date.* Full details at [oregonpromise.org](http://oregonpromise.org).

Find more grants at: [oregonstudentaid.gov/grants.aspx](http://oregonstudentaid.gov/grants.aspx)

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are money for students to pay for college. These can be funded by individuals, schools, foundations, employers, membership organizations, and much more. Like grants, **scholarships do not have to be paid back.**

**OSAC Scholarships:** Access 600+ scholarships through a single application. The application is open annually from November 1 to March 1.

Learn more and apply at [oregonstudentaid.gov](http://oregonstudentaid.gov).

**Institution Scholarships:** Colleges, departments, and career schools often have scholarships available. Check with the school website or admissions office for details.

# JUNIORS

- Explore potential career paths and interests**
  - Use the “Student Resources” on ASPIREOregon.org
  - Take career assessments through CIS, Naviance, etc.
- Meet with your counselor/advisor**
  - Take challenging courses, stay on track to graduate
  - Do you need to take the SAT and/or ACT? Register!
- Add college/career events to your calendar**
  - Find local/virtual career expos and college fairs
  - Know when colleges are visiting your school
- Learn about financial aid opportunities**
  - Attend FAFSA/ORSAA events and workshops
  - Start tracking your activities for scholarship apps

- Research programs and create an interest list**
  - What are you looking for in college/career program?
  - Use online search tools to find schools matching your interests, values, and career goals
- Identify your financial aid options**
  - Find scholarships through your school or community organizations (employers, service groups, etc.)
  - Browse the OSAC Scholarship catalog and identify which scholarships you are eligible for
- Learn more about the programs on your list**
  - Attend virtual or in-person admissions events
  - Map out grant and scholarship application deadlines
- Be on track for admission**
  - Take the SAT and/or ACT within the next six months, if schools you are interested in require it
  - Make sure your senior year class schedule has you on track for graduation and college admission

- Have a productive summer**
  - Find a summer job to save money for the future
  - Intern or volunteer to learn about a field and/or add activities to your admissions and scholarship apps
- Narrow your list of college/career programs**
  - Visit campuses to see if you can “see yourself” there
  - Finalize your list of programs that you will apply to
  - Check their early and final admission deadlines

## WHERE I AM APPLYING

College/Career Program	Application Deadline
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

# SENIORS

- Prepare for the opening of the FAFSA/ORSAA**
  - Take the pre-filter quiz at OregonStudentAid.gov
  - Create FSA id (FAFSA) or review Tip Sheets (ORSAA)
  - After Oct 1, complete your FAFSA/ORSAA immediately
- Meet with your counselor/advisor**
  - Are you on track to graduate?
  - Are you meeting colleges’ admissions requirements?
- Track scholarship and admission deadlines**
  - Start working on the earlier deadline applications
  - Request letters of recommendation now
- Begin financial aid applications**
  - Use a permanent email address to create your Student Portal account at [oregonstudentaid.gov](http://oregonstudentaid.gov)
  - Start your OSAC applications (OSAC Scholarships, Oregon Promise, Chafee grant, etc.)

- Continue learning about your options**
  - Speak with college admissions staff and alums
  - Attend local/virtual college fairs and career expos
- Complete all of your applications**
  - Finish your personal statements and essays
  - Submit all of your admissions and aid applications
- Check email and OSAC Student Portal often**
  - Look for updates from OSAC and colleges
  - Check your spam/junk folders for missed emails
- Weigh your financial aid options**
  - Review your state/federal Student Aid Report
  - Compare financial aid award letters from colleges
  - Settle any financial aid verification issues
- Make a decision and accept your awards**
  - Decide which program you will attend in the fall
  - Notify the other programs of your decision
  - Formally accept any grants or scholarships earned

- Verify your new college online account**
  - Follow your college’s directions to create an online account, set up your email, and register for orientation
- Save money and thank your supporters**
  - Find a summer job to save up money for college
  - Send “thank you” notes to your scholarship fund’s donors and your recommendation letter writers
- Imagine yourself in college**
  - Visit the campus and local area, in-person or virtually
  - Set up your on-campus or off-campus housing
- Preparing for your new home**
  - Make a list of housing essentials to find or purchase
  - Learn what the move-in process will look like
- Get excited for the college/career lifestyle**
  - Explore the course catalog to see what you can take
  - Check out what student activities/clubs are available

FALL

WINTER & SPRING

SUMMER