

All dates are subject to change, especially due to COVID impacts. Visit the linked page for the latest updates.

September

- 4 - [SAT Registration Deadline](#) (for 10/3 test)
- 12 - [ACT Test Date](#)
- 13 - [NACAC Virtual College Fair](#)
[ACT Test Date](#)
- 15 - [PNACAC Fall Virtual College Fair](#) (open until December 31)
[SAT Late Registration Deadline](#) (for 10/3 test)
- 16 - Paying for College Night (English) with Jenn Satalino
- 18 - [ACT Registration Deadline](#) (for 10/24 test)
- 19 - [ACT Test](#)
- 25 - [ASPIRE Fall Conference](#)
- 26 - [SAT Test](#)
- 30 - Paying for College Night (Spanish) with Jenn Satalino

October

- 1 - [FAFSA Open](#) and [ORSAA Open](#)
- 2 - [ACT Late Registration Deadline](#) (for 10/25 test)
- 3 - [SAT Test](#)
- 7 - [SAT Registration Deadline](#) (for 11/7 test)
- 10 - [ACT Test](#)
- 12 - [NACAC Virtual College Fair](#)
- 17 - [ACT Test](#)
- 18 - [NACAC Virtual College Fair](#)
- 20 - [SAT Late Registration Deadline](#) (for 11/7 test)
- 24 - [ACT Test](#)
- 25 - [ACT Test](#)

November

1 -

Scholarship/Grants

[OSAC Scholarship Application opens](#)
[Oregon Promise Deadline, Winter Term](#)
[Clackamas Community College](#)

- 5 - [SAT Registration Deadline](#) (for 12/5 test)
- 6 - [ACT Registration Deadline](#) (for 12/12 test)
- 7 - [SAT Test](#)
- 15 - [University of Oregon, Stamps Foundation Scholarship Deadline](#)
- 17 - [SAT Late Registration Deadline](#) (for 12/5 test)
- 20 - [ACT Late Registration Deadline](#) (for 12/12 test)

College Early Action Deadlines

[Oregon State University](#)
[University of Oregon](#)
[Oregon Tech](#)

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December

- 5 - [SAT Test](#)
- 12 - [ACT Test](#)

January

- 8 - [ACT Registration Deadline](#) (for 2/6 test)
- 15 - [ACT Late Registration Deadline](#) (for 2/6 test)

February

- 1 - [Oregon Promise Deadline, Spring Term](#)
- 6 - [ACT Test](#)
- 12 - [SAT Late Registration Deadline](#) (for 3/13 test)
- 15 - [OSAC Scholarship Application Early Bird Deadline](#)
- 23 - [SAT Late Registration Deadline](#) (for 3/13 test)

March

- 1 - [OSAC Scholarship Application Deadline](#)
- 12 - [ACT Registration Deadline](#) (for 4/17 test)
- 13 - [SAT Test](#)
- 16 - [NW Youth Careers Expo](#)
- 26 - [ACT Late Registration Deadline](#) (for 4/17 test)

April

- 8 - [SAT Registration Deadline](#) (for 5/8 test)
- 17 - [ACT Test](#)
- 20 - [SAT Late Registration Deadline](#) (for 5/8 test)

May

- 1 - Decision Day
- 6 - [SAT Registration Deadline](#) (for 6/5 test)
- 7 - [ACT Registration Deadline](#) (for 6/12 test)
- 8 - [SAT Test](#)
- 18 - [SAT Late Registration Deadline](#) (for 6/5 test)
- 21 - [ACT Late Registration Deadline](#) (for 6/12 test)

June

- 1 - [Oregon Promise Deadline, Fall Term](#)

9th Grade - Your Freshman Year

- Get to know your school's career counselor or see if there's a college and career center available in your school. [ASPIRE](#) is the State of Oregon's mentoring program that helps students access education and training beyond high school. Ask if ASPIRE is available at your high school. Use ASPIRE online resources all through high school.
- Take challenging classes in English, mathematics, science, history, geography, a foreign language, government, civics, economics, and the arts. If you are planning on going to college, most colleges require a C- or better in these classes: 4 English, 3 Math, 3 Science, 3 Social Studies, and 2 Foreign Language.
- Get off to a good start; get good grades. The grades you earn in ninth grade will be included in your final high school GPA and class rank. Graduation, college, and career might seem a long way off now, but grades really do count towards reaching career goals, college admissions, and scholarships.
- Get involved in your classes: ask questions, speak up, discuss, and study!
- Let everyone know your plans for after high school: your parents, your teachers, and your school counselor. The sooner they all know you want to go to college or what career you are interested in, the more they can help you reach that goal.
- Think about your talents and special interests: music, science, politics, etc. Join a related club or activity. Have fun and develop your talents. Student government is good way to learn leadership skills, which look good on applications for colleges, jobs, and scholarships.
- Volunteer! Pick a community service project and stick with it.
- Keep track of anything you do during high school, both in school and outside activities:
 - Start a student portfolio, resume, or activities chart
 - Keep a file of awards, honors, or recommendation letters you receive
 - Record clubs, activities, community service, and paid work
 - Keep track of dates, hours, and descriptions of your activities (including leadership duties and other responsibilities)

- Explore career possibilities. Use your school's available resources: [Career Information Systems \(CIS\)](#), [Naviance](#), [College Navigator](#), or [CollegeBoard's Big Future](#). Talk to teachers, family, or other adults in a variety of professions to determine what they like and dislike about their jobs and what kind of education is needed for each kind of job.
- Look into summer enrichment programs. Keep your brain active during the summer and have fun learning something new. Find a paid summer job if you can.

Career Bound

- Attend virtual career fairs.
- Interested in a trade? Begin researching community colleges, career-technical schools, and apprenticeship programs to learn about their fields of training.

College Bound

- Sign up for SAT Practice Question of the Day and ACT Question of the Day.
- Consider taking an SAT or ACT prep course.
- Attend virtual college and career fairs.
- Visit college campuses (virtually or in person) on open house days or a scheduled tour
- Begin researching colleges, universities, career-technical schools and their majors or fields of training. Learn about school admission requirements to get an idea of what classes to take in high school.
- Explore OregonStudentAid.gov to learn about Oregon's grants and scholarships.
- The [Oregon College Savings Plan](#) is a 529 savings account that has special tax advantages to help people save for educational expenses like tuition, computers, supplies and more. Keep saving for college each year.

10th Grade -Your Sophomore Year

- Review and complete the 9th Grade Career and College Bound Checklist**
- Meet with your career counselor or school counselor to discuss careers or colleges and their requirements. You need to do this each year. Ask if your school has [ASPIRE](#).
- Take challenging classes in English, mathematics (geometry, if you haven't), science, history, geography, a foreign language, government, civics, economics, and the arts.
- Ask your counselor about postsecondary enrollment options and Advanced Placement (AP) courses. These courses may apply toward college credit or help you place higher on admission tests. A "B" in an advanced class is better than an "A" in a lower class.
- Read, read, and read. Read as many books as possible from a comprehensive reading list. Ask your English or Literature teacher for help in picking books. Read news articles every day to learn about current affairs.
- Stay on track. The classes you take may seem tough, but you can handle them. Get help if you need it. Find out about tutoring available at the school.
- Stay involved in activities outside the classroom.
 - Become involved in community service and other volunteer activities that provide you leadership opportunities.
 - Keep doing the things you enjoy and try something new. How about the school newspaper? Dance? Photography? Sports?
- Continue to keep track of your activities:
 - Student portfolio, resume, and/or activities chart
 - File awards, honors, or letters you receive
 - Record clubs, activities, community service, and paid work
 - Keep track of dates, hours and description of your activities
- Continue to explore your interests and careers you think you might like.
- At the end of the year, think about your goal. Remind yourself and your school counselor that you are building your bridge to a career or college.
- Get a summer job to increase your experience and knowledge.

Career Bound

- Consider taking the ASVAB Aptitude Test.
- Contact business owners and professionals in your area to inquire about job shadowing opportunities.
- Still thinking about a trade? Begin researching community colleges, career-technical schools, and apprenticeship programs to learn about their fields of training.
- Take advantage of opportunities to visit companies and talk to employees.
- If you are interested in attending a military school, now is the time to start planning and getting information.

College Bound

- Make a plan for standardized tests
 - Sign up for SAT Practice Question of the Day
 - Take the [PSAT/NMSQT](#). Register early! If you need help 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.
 - Consider taking the ASVAB Aptitude Test.
- Visit college campuses in-person or virtually. Read all of the mail and emails you receive from colleges.
- Begin zeroing in on the type of college you would prefer (two-year or four-year, small or large, rural or urban, public or private).
- Review college websites and their academic requirements for admission. If you are interested in attending a military school, now is the time to start planning and getting information.
- Take advantage of opportunities to visit colleges and talk to students.
- Explore OregonStudentAid.gov to learn about paying for college
- Continue to save money for college.

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](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 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

12th 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.
- 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

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- Scholarships:
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 - 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.
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 - 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
 - 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