

SENIOR/PARENT TIMELINE



Summer

- Participate in enrichment activities. Volunteer, attend academic, sports and leadership camps.
- Talk about college choices and narrow them down to 3-5 colleges. Complete the FAFSA forecaster to find out what your Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) will likely be. www.fafsa.ed.gov
- Visit the colleges you're most interested in.
- Take practice tests and study to improve SAT/ACT scores.
- Search and apply for scholarships

September

- Register for the SAT/ACT. 4-year colleges require you to take one of these. Take practice tests and study to improve your scores!
- Talk about college choices and narrow them down to 3-5 colleges. Complete the FAFSA forecaster to find out what your Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) will likely be. www.fafsa.ed.gov
- Visit the colleges you're most interested in.
- Search and apply for scholarships

October

- Create a student and parent FSA ID: <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm> Both the student and parent will have to use the same FSA ID to sign their FAFSA each year, so keep a copy of the ID and Password.
- File your FAFSA as soon as possible after October 1st. www.fafsa.ed.gov Remember that it's free! Watch out for scams and NEVER pay to file a FAFSA.
- Talk to your student about financing college; what's realistic for each to contribute?
- Pay close attention to college application deadlines, especially for 4-year colleges.
- Some colleges have rolling or open deadlines. However, if you want to be considered for institutional scholarships, there are deadlines!
- Search and apply for scholarships.

November

- Students should start collecting letters of recommendation for both admission and scholarship applications.
- Find out when your school's Financial Aid night is and plan to attend (early January).
- Search and apply for scholarships.

December

- Use your previous year's tax returns to estimate your earnings and be ready to file the FAFSA (FREE Application for Financial Student Aid).
- Begin working on scholarship essays for the OSAC (Office of Student Access and Completion—Oregon scholarships). www.oregonstudentaid.gov
- Search and apply for scholarships.

January

- Finalize college applications that are due after January 1st.
- Search and apply for scholarships.

February and Beyond!

- Check to be sure all application materials have been received by each college the student has applied to. Follow up on any missing information. This includes transcripts, SAT/ACT scores, FAFSA, letters of recommendation, etc.
- Make corrections to your FAFSA after you complete current taxes. www.fafsa.ed.gov
- Don't make a final decision until you receive financial aid award letters from each college.
- Search and apply for scholarships.
- Compare financial aid packages, quality of schools, and decide on what school you will attend.
- Check your email and mail regularly and help your student promptly respond to all communication sent out.
- Check the financial aid tabs in your college account to see if they need any additional information beyond the FAFSA.
- Send in your deposit to attend, housing application, final transcript, and any other paperwork the school requires.
- Keep track of your student ID, user names and passwords.
- Attend a new student orientation, meet with an advisor and register for fall classes.
- Check for cheaper textbook options before buying for full price at the school bookstore.