

SENIOR YEAR CHECKLIST

September: ORGANIZE

1 Make a post high-school plan.

Make a list of three careers you are interested in and the training or education (including program or major) you will need.

- Oregon CIS: [IDEAS Assessment](#)
- BigFuture: [Exploring Careers Step-by-Step](#)

2 Figure out the perfect “fit”.

Think about the most important criteria in choosing a college. Make a list of five colleges you are interested in with deadline info.

- It's A Plan: [Google Docs](#) or Print Organizer
- BigFuture: [College Search Step-by-Step](#)
- Oregon CIS: [School Sort](#)

3 Get ready for payday.

Explore financial aid and scholarships and make a list of deadline info.

- It's A Plan: [Google Docs](#) or Print Organizer
- BigFuture: [Scholarship Search](#)
- Oregon CIS: [Financial Aid Sort](#)
- [Federal Student Aid](#); [OSAC](#); [fastweb.com](#), [scholarships.com](#)

4 Stay on track.

Review your transcript and your senior year class schedule with your counselor to make sure you have the classes you need to graduate and apply to college.

- It's A Plan: Right Classes worksheet
- Oregon Department of Education: [Graduation Requirements](#)
- Oregon University System: [Admission Requirements](#)

5 Sign up for the SAT or ACT.

Sign up for the ACT or SAT if you haven't taken it or want to re-take it.

- [SAT Registration](#)
- [ACT Registration](#)
- Free Test Preparation: [ACT](#); [SAT](#); [SparkNotes](#)
- BigFuture: [How to Prepare for Admission Tests](#)

6 Look out for special circumstances.

If you are interested in the arts, military or playing sports in college, make sure you know deadlines and special requirements for these programs.

- It's A Plan: Military (also [TodaysMilitary.com](#)), Performing & Visual Arts, and Sports Supplements

Next month: Writing college essays, creating a resume and list of activities; cleaning up your online act.

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October: PREPARE

1 Document accomplishments.

Make a list of all of the activities and awards you have received, and make a sample résumé.

- [OSAC Activities Chart](#) (PDF) or It's A Plan Activities Chart (Word)
- Oregon CIS: [Guidelines for Writing Resumes](#); [My Education and Work History/Create Resume](#)
- BigFuture: [How to Create Your Résumé](#)

2 Tell your story.

Write a personal statement about who you are and your unique qualities; practice writing college or scholarship essays.

- It's A Plan: [Essay Tips & Sample Prompts](#)
- BigFuture: [Essays](#)

3 Clean up your online act.

Create a professional e-mail and control privacy settings on social media accounts.

- Own Your Own Future: [Cleaning Up Your Online Act](#)
- [Safety & Privacy on Facebook](#)

4 Narrow the field.

Narrow your list of colleges – 3 to 5 is a good number. Always have a backup plan! Visit colleges and attend college fairs, if possible, or find student reviews online.

- BigFuture: [Campus Visit Guide](#)
- NACAC: [College Fair Tips](#)
- Talk to current students or use [Unigo.com](#) for reviews
- Continue using [Oregon CIS School Sort](#) or [BigFuture's College Search](#)

5 Request letters of recommendation.

Think carefully about whom to ask for letters of recommendation. Give them plenty of time to write them, as well as your resume or activities chart, and any instructions from the application.

- BigFuture: [How to Get a Great Letter of Recommendation](#)

6 Take or re-take the SAT or ACT.

Review practice tests and ask for help from teachers. Get a good night's sleep before the test and eat breakfast that morning!

- Free Test Preparation: [ACT](#); [SAT](#); [SparkNotes](#)
- BigFuture: [How to Prepare for Admission Tests](#)

Next month: Finalize your list of college choices and apply!



SENIOR YEAR CHECKLIST

November: APPLY!

1 Finalize the list.

Finalize your list of colleges – 3 to 5 is a good number. Always have a backup plan!

Visit colleges and attend college fairs, if possible, or find student reviews online.

- BigFuture: [Campus Visit Guide](#)
- NACAC: [College Fair Tips](#)
- Talk to current students or use [Unigo.com](#) for reviews
- Continue using [Oregon CIS School Sort](#) or [BigFuture's College Search](#)

2 Be prepared.

Check on deadlines and gather all of the information you will need to apply. This might include essays and/or a list of your activities and accomplishments.

- Oregon College Application Week: [College Application Worksheet](#)

3 APPLY!

Governor Kitzhaber has proclaimed that November is Oregon College Application Month. Celebrate with your fellow Oregonians!

Fill out and submit applications for college, job training, or other post-high school plans.

You may qualify for a fee deferral or waiver so you won't have to pay the application fee – ask your counselor how to get one.

- Oregon College Application Week: [Application fees for Oregon colleges and universities](#)
- [Fee waiver](#) information: [Oregon Public University Fee Deferral Request](#) and [NACAC Fee Waiver Request Form](#)
- [Tuition Equity for Undocumented Students FAQ](#)

4 Follow up!

Make sure that your high school transcript, test scores, letters of recommendation and other supplemental materials are sent to colleges.

Check your e-mail regularly – this will be the main way colleges contact you!

- Sending ACT Test Scores: <http://www.actstudent.org/scores/send/>
- Sending SAT Test Scores: <http://sat.collegeboard.org/scores/send-sat-scores>
- BigFuture: [CSS Financial Aid Profile](#)

Next month: Connect with alumni who are home on winter break, update your scholarship list and apply for your FAFSA PIN number.



December: CONNECT

1 Finish applying to colleges.

Fill out and submit any lingering applications for college, job training, or other post-high school plans.

You may qualify for a waiver so you won't have to pay the application fee – ask your counselor how to get one.

- [Application pages](#) for Oregon colleges and universities
- [Fee waiver](#) information: [OUS Fee Deferral Request](#) and [NACAC Fee Waiver Request Form](#)

2 Talk to current college students.

Connect with alumni from your high school who may be home on break or reach out to college students on social media.

- [Smartcollegevisit.com](#): Student-to-Student: Questions to Ask

3 Get set for scholarships.

Create an OSAC profile and begin filling out the application information.

Update your list of scholarships you plan to apply to.

- [OSAC Application](#)
- It's A Plan: [Google Docs](#) or Scholarship Organizer
- Scholarship Searches: [BigFuture](#); [Oregon CIS Financial Aid Sort](#); [fastweb.com](#); [scholarships.com](#)

4 Figure out FAFSA.

Request a FAFSA PIN number and make sure you have all of the information you will need to apply for federal financial aid – it opens January 1!

- [FAFSA PIN site](#)
- [Federal Student Aid: FAFSA](#)

Next month: File the FAFSA!

