

ASPIRE

Digital High School Pocket Planner



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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.**

FAFSA® Free Application for Federal Student Aid	For U.S. citizens and eligible noncitizens. FAFSA® students are eligible for federal and state funds.
ORSAA Oregon Student Aid Application	For Oregon residents who have DACA or undocumented status. ORSAA students are eligible for state funds but not federal funds.

GRANTS

Grants are money for students to pay for college. Grants are typically provided by the state (OSAC) 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 undergrad 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.**
OregonStudentAid.gov/grants/oregon-promise-grant

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are money for students to pay for college. These are 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. This application opens November 1.

Early Bird deadline is February 15.
The application deadline is March 1.

Learn more and apply at OregonStudentAid.gov.

Institution Scholarships: Colleges and career schools often have scholarships available. Check the school website or their admissions office for more details.

LEARN MORE

Webinars

OSAC offers a variety of webinars throughout the year for students, parents, and career/college practitioners. Our webinars provide updated information about the programs we serve and provide timely hands-on application assistance and support. See our complete list of webinars at OregonStudentAid.Gov/Resources/Webinars

SAT/ACT Information

Oregon's public universities no longer require SAT/ACT scores for admissions. Although a college may not require test scores for admissions, many scholarships continue to require test scores.

Other OSAC Grants:

Chafee Grant: A federally-funded grant that helps Oregon's current and former foster youth pay for their higher education.

Oregon National Guard State Tuition Assistance: For current Oregon Army/Air guard members.

Oregon Student Child Care Grant: Child care funds for parents enrolled in college.

Oregon Teacher Scholars Program Grant: For candidates who have experience with diverse populations who are pursuing their preliminary licensure program for teaching, school counseling, social work, and school psychology.

Oregon Tribal Student Grant: For students attending an Oregon college/university and who are members of one of Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes.

Learn more about OSAC Grants at:
OregonStudentAid.Gov/Grants



Go To



Junior Year Checklist Senior Year Checklist



FALL

WINTER & SPRING

SUMMER

JUNIORS

- ☐ **Explore potential career paths and interests**
 - Learn about your options on OregonStudentAid.gov
 - 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 programs are visiting your school or hosting online events for interested students
- ☐ **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 a 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.) and through online search engines
 - Browse the OSAC Scholarship catalog to find which scholarships you are eligible for and what is required
- ☐ **Learn more about the programs on your list**
 - Attend virtual or in-person admissions events
 - Keep track of any grants or scholarships with early application deadlines
- ☐ **Be on track for admission**
 - Take the SAT and/or ACT within the next six months, if needed
 - Make sure your senior year class schedule has you on track for graduation and college admissions

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

Notes-

College List

College 1

College 2

College 3

College 4

College 5

College 6

College 7

College 8

SENIORS

FALL

- ☐ **Prepare for and complete your FAFSA® or ORSAA**
 - Take the pre-filter quiz at OregonStudentAid.gov
 - FAFSA®: Create [FSA IDs](#) for you and a parent/guardian
 - ORSAA: Review [Tip Sheets](#) to avoid common mistakes
 - Complete your FAFSA®/ORSAA ASAP
- ☐ **Meet with your counselor/advisor**
 - Are you on track for graduation & college admissions?
 - Are you planning to take the SAT/ACT? Register!
- ☐ **Track scholarship and admissions deadlines**
 - Start working on the earlier deadline applications
 - Request letters of recommendation
- ☐ **Begin grant and scholarship applications**
 - Use a permanent email address to create your Student Portal account at OregonStudentAid.gov
 - Start OSAC applications (Scholarships, Promise, etc.)

WINTER & SPRING

- ☐ **Continue learning about your options**
 - Speak with college graduates and admissions staff
 - Attend local/virtual college fairs and career expos
- ☐ **Complete all of your admissions applications**
 - Get your final personal statements/essays proofread
 - Submit all of your application materials to schools
- ☐ **Finish your grant and scholarship applications**
 - The OSAC Scholarship Application is due by March 1
 - Submit your Oregon Promise application ASAP
- ☐ **Check email and OSAC Student Portal often**
 - Look for updates from colleges and OSAC
 - Check your spam/junk folders for missed emails
- ☐ **Weigh your financial aid options**
 - Review your FAFSA Submission Summary and award letters
 - Make any required corrections to your FAFSA®/ORSAA and submit any verification items your school requests
- ☐ **Make a decision and accept your awards**
 - Decide which school you will attend and notify them
 - Tell the other schools you won't be enrolling there
 - Formally accept any grants or scholarships earned

SUMMER

- ☐ **Verify all of your college online accounts**
 - Follow your college's directions to set up your school portal account and email, register for orientation, etc.
- ☐ **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 lifestyle**
 - Explore the course catalog to find classes you can take
 - Check out what student activities/clubs are available

Senior Year Planner:

I will be enrolling at:

The application deadline is:

The FAFSA/ORSAA deadline is:

The institutional scholarship deadline is:

Important Information:

Admissions Counselor's Name:

Admissions Counselor's Email:

Financial Aid Department's Phone Number:

Financial Aid Department's Email Address:
