



NEWS & INFORMATION ABOUT
PLANNING FOR AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

The GEAR UP Gazette

SEPTEMBER

FOR PARENTS OF 11TH & 12TH GRADE STUDENTS

FINDING THE RIGHT FIT

There are many kinds of colleges that offer different programs and degrees. There are many good college matches for each student that will allow him to be successful, but experiences and opportunities may vary at different institutions.



Your student should have already spent some time thinking about the kind of career that interests her and subsequently the type of degree she might need. That will help narrow the field – but it’s also important to think about some additional criteria that will alter a student’s experience like size and distance from home.

CHOOSING A COLLEGE

WHAT’S IMPORTANT		WHAT’S NOT
Size	Location	Boyfriend or girlfriend is going
Distance from home	Available majors	Best friend is going
Housing options	Campus atmosphere	Good sports teams (for non-athletes)
Diversity of students	Extracurricular activities	School colors

Source: College Board/BigFuture

DID YOU KNOW?

There are over 4,000 colleges and universities in the United States - use a search engine like the one on bigfuture.collegeboard.org to narrow the list! See oregongonestocollege.org for a map and list of Oregon colleges.

COLLEGE MYTHS (AND REALITIES)

MYTH: Your student should go to the most prestigious college to which he is admitted.

REALITY: Your student should go to the college that "fits" him best. If it happens to be prestigious, that's fine. However, fit has to do with how your student feels when he is on campus, the match with how your student learns and how the professors teach, and the academic pressure your student can handle. If the college and your student are not a good match, he will be unhappy regardless of the prestige.

Source: pics.collegetrends.org/myths.cfm

PARENT CHECKLIST

- Talk to your student about what he or she is looking for in a school and his or her top college choices.** Check out bigfuture.collegeboard.org with your student to search for colleges and make a plan for life after high school. Ask your student about his or her preferences on size, location, activities and more.
- Visit a college or attend a college fair with your student.** Join as a chaperone on a school field trip or attend a local college fair. You can also visit a school virtually by checking out websites, looking at student reviews on websites like unigo.com, and requesting information from colleges.
- Help your student prepare for college entrance tests.** Juniors will be taking the PSAT in October. Seniors can take or re-take the SAT or ACT this fall. Free test prep is available online or in books that can be checked out from the local or school library. Make sure your student gets a good night's sleep and healthy breakfast on the day of the test.

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



GEAR UP stands for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs and is a federally-funded program that helps rural, low-income middle and high schools prepare students for education after high school.

Visit oregongearup.org to learn more and access resources to help your students make a plan. © 2016 Oregon GEAR UP

COLLEGE. It's not a dream, it's a plan.