



NEWS & INFORMATION ABOUT
PLANNING FOR AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

The GEAR UP Gazette

NOVEMBER

FOR PARENTS OF 11TH & 12TH GRADE STUDENTS

THE #1 THING COLLEGES LOOK FOR: GRADES

Colleges care most about the work your student has done in high school. They look for students who have earned strong grades in challenging courses.

Your student's school might offer Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) classes, or dual enrollment options with a local community college. These will be more rigorous options for your student and might even result in college credit.

Some colleges have a minimum grade point average (GPA) for acceptance. If a student does not meet the minimum GPA, the college may review applications individually and choose to admit students based on test scores, extracurricular activities or other merits.

Different colleges require other items as part of the application for admission, so be sure to encourage your student to check what he or she will need. These might include specific classes or number of credits, successful completion of state standardized tests, college admission tests (the SAT or the ACT), essays, letters of recommendation, or portfolios.

Stellar grades and challenging courses are also used in determining some scholarships, so encourage your student to do the best they can!

Source: [BigFuture](#)

Minimum High School GPA at Oregon Public Universities 2016-17	
Eastern Oregon University	2.75
Oregon Institute of Technology	3.00
Oregon State University	3.00
Portland State University	3.00
Southern Oregon University	3.00
University of Oregon	3.00
Western Oregon University	3.00

DID YOU KNOW?

College admission isn't as selective as you might think. 77% of applicants are admitted to Oregon's public universities.

COLLEGE MYTHS (AND REALITIES)

MYTH: It's better to get good grades than take challenging courses.

REALITY: Even modest success in advanced or accelerated courses indicates to a college that your student seeks and can handle challenging courses - like those your student will find in college. A challenging college preparatory program, advanced placement courses, or dual enrollment options might help your student get into more selective schools or even get college credit.

Source: pics.collegetrends.org/myths.cfm

PARENT CHECKLIST

- Talk to your student about their top college choices and go over admission requirements.** Talk to a school counselor to make sure your student is on track to graduate and enter the postsecondary institution of their choice. Check out bigfuture.collegeboard.org to compare colleges and view application requirements.
- 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, and requesting informational brochures from colleges.
- SENIORS – Encourage your student to apply to college during the school's College Application Week event.** Your student will get dedicated time and support in school to complete college applications so make sure he or she is prepared to participate. Your student might be eligible for a fee deferral or waiver for college applications – talk to the school counselor.

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.