

So You're a Soph/Junior, Now What?

How to Set Yourself Up for College and Making it More Affordable

The most common question we get asked by students and parents is:

What should I be doing now to get ready for college?

**Start by
Understanding
How College
Admissions Work**

The BIG FOUR

Many colleges have a multi-pronged approach to evaluating an applicant. Harvard, for example, looks at 8 different factors, but for most colleges, it boils down to 4 main things:

1. **Minimum GPA**
2. **Minimum Subject-area Requirements**
3. **Strength of Schedule**
4. **Essay and/or Multiple Short Answer Questions**

Minimum GPA Requirement

- Every college sets a minimum GPA requirement
- To give yourself the best chance at being accepted into a college or university, it's important that you keep your GPA above a 3.0 (for most colleges)
- However, GPA is not the sole determinant of admissions, so if your GPA is not where it needs to be, it doesn't mean you wouldn't be considered – it means you need to shine in other areas of your application
- Advanced Placement (AP) courses give students a weighted GPA and can help elevate their GPA over a standard course
- Some colleges ask students to only report their GPA for Core Subject Areas, so it's really important to do well in those subjects

Minimum GPA for Admission at Oregon Public Universities

	EOU	Oregon Tech	OSU	OSU Cascades	PSU	SOU	U of O	WOU
Min. GPA	2.75	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.5	3.0	3.0

Minimum Subject-Area Requirements

- Probably the most important of the Big Four
- Every college sets their own Minimum Subject-Area Requirements, so it's essential that students look ahead to make sure they will be able to meet those requirements before they graduate

Generally, students need:

- **4-years of Language Arts**
- **3-years of Math (but many prefer 4 years)**
- **3-years of Laboratory Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)**
- **2 or 3 years of Social Science**

Where things can vary:

- **2-years of Secondary (foreign) Language**
- **Fine Arts or Career Technical Education (CTE)**
- **Electives**

Hot off the Press – New Math Requirements

In the state of Oregon, the public universities worked with the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) and the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to provide more flexibility in math requirements for college admissions in Oregon.

- Effective for enrollment after fall 2023, students interested in attending a State of Oregon Public Higher Education Institution should take at least three years of high school math.
 - **The third year could be satisfied by any math course with a primary focus on concepts in algebra, calculus, data science, discrete mathematics, geometry, mathematical analysis, probability, or statistics.**
- Prospective students are **encouraged to take a fourth math course in their senior year of high school**. Those intending to study a **STEM major** (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) or another field for which calculus is required are **strongly encouraged to take pre-calculus and, if possible, calculus in high school**.

Strength of Schedule

Strength of Schedule means:

- A. A full schedule of classes
- B. The most challenging courses offered at the student's high school
 - AP courses, foreign language, STEM
 - Core classes such as **math**, science, and social science

The strength of a student's schedule is essential for a "Reach" school, i.e., a highly competitive school with a lower acceptance rate

Also consider that many of these challenging courses offer college credit

Essay and/or Multiple Short Answer Q's

- Gives the applicant a chance to tell his/her story.
- It is also a measure of a student's ability to write. Don't underestimate this.
- The essay can reinforce how a student looks on paper, it can also show if a student is more talented than what's reflected on the academic record, and, conversely, it can show if a student's academic record is over-inflated (this is bad).

Additional Factors

If you're on the bubble or applying to a competitive school (lower admissions rate), then these additional factors will strengthen your application:

- Community Service and/or Volunteer Experience
- Extracurricular Activities, including:
 - Leadership Organizations
 - Student Organizations
 - Community Organizations
- SAT/ACT scores
- Work and Internship Experiences

**Should You Take
the SAT or ACT?**

It Depends.

- **All Oregon public universities are Test Optional = Do not require test**
 - SOU, Western Oregon, U of O, OSU, Portland State, Oregon Tech, Eastern Oregon
- Private Colleges/Universities and some out of state schools may still require the test
- Always look at the university's Admissions Requirements
- A good SAT/ACT score can strengthen a student's admission application, especially if the student is "on the bubble" – **see Minimum GPA for Admissions**
- Some scholarships require SAT/ACT scores

Bottom line, taking the SAT/ACT can only strengthen your application & will not hurt your chances of being accepted.

Register for the SAT at collegeboard.com

SAT Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration
October 5th	Sept. 20th	Sept. 24th
November 2nd	October 18th	October 22nd
December 7th	November 22nd	November 26th
March 8th	February 21st	February 25th
Juniors Should Look Forward to the Dates Below		
May 3rd	April 18th	April 22nd
June 7th	May 22nd	May 27th

**How do You
Make College
More
Affordable?**

**Take Advantage of
Early College
Credit
Opportunities**

Two Ways to Earn College Credit Now

For FREE or for a Fraction of the cost

1. Dual College Credit
 - Offered in-person at the HS and taught by a HS teacher
 - Student receives both HS and college credit at the same time
 2. Early College Credit
 - Offered both in-person or online at a community college or university
 - Some courses may be used for HS credit; restrictions apply
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Dual College Credits

High School Classes w/College Credit

- Not just for AP classes – many upper division and elective classes offer Dual College Credit
- Teachers articulate Dual College Credit through:
 - a. Southern Oregon University
 - b. Klamath Community College
 - c. Rogue Community College
- Crater offers 48 unique Dual College Credit classes
 - a. See handout: **2024-25 Crater Dual College Credit Options**

Advantages of Dual College Credit

- Cost
 - Many classes are offered for a fraction of the price (SOU credits)
 - Most are FREE to students (KCC, RCC)
 - Fewer Requirements
 - Generally, there are no placement exams or prerequisites
 - It's the best of both worlds
 - Students receive both HS and college credit at the same time
 - Access to teachers and peers in person
 - Looks good on college applications
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Earning College Credit at Crater has Never Been Easier!

All three Crater academies offer Dual College Credit options that are accessible to all students on campus

BIS Dual College Credit Course Options

College	College Course ID	College Course Title	Credits Earned	BIS Course	Teacher
Agriculture & Horticulture Science					
KCC	ANS121	Introduction to Animal Science	4	Animal Science	Kristin Kostman
KCC	CSS150	Introduction to Horticulture	4	Intro to Horticulture/Plant Production	Kristin Kostman
KCC	CSS150L	Introduction to Horticulture Lab	1	Horticulture/Plant Production	Kristin Kostman
College Guidance & Success					
KCC	CGS100	College Survival & Success	3	College Success	Rianna Lee & Kyle Gillette
Business					
KCC	BUS101	Introduction to Business	4	Crater School of Business (CSB)	Mike Rogan
KCC	BUS150	Entrepreneurship	3	Crater School of Business (CSB)	Mike Rogan
KCC	BUS214	Business Communication	3	Crater School of Business (CSB)	Mike Rogan
KCC	BUS218	Personal Finance	3	Crater School of Business (CSB)	Mike Rogan
KCC	BUS223	Principles of Marketing	3	Crater School of Business (CSB)	Mike Rogan
Multimedia					
KCC	MMT240	Digital Photography & Photoshop w/Lab	4	Crater School of Business (CSB)	Mike Rogan
Math					
SOU	MTH243	Probability and Statistics	4	AP Statistics	Kierra Huggins
SOU	MTH251	Calculus I (differential)	5	AP Calculus (semester 1)	Kierra Huggins
SOU	MTH252	Calculus II (integral)	5	AP Calculus (semester 2)	Kierra Huggins
Science					
KCC	CHE104 & 104L	General Chemistry I & Lab	5	Chemistry	Marcella Six
KCC	CHE 105 & 105L	General Chemistry II & Lab	5	Chemistry	Marcella Six
KCC	BIO 101 & 101L	Biology I & Lab	4	Biology	Kyle Gillette
KCC	BIO 102 & 102L	Biology II & Lab	4	Biology	Kyle Gillette
KCC	BIO 103 & 103L	Biology III & Lab	4	Biology	Kyle Gillette

CAHPS Dual College Credit Course Options

College	College Course ID	College Course Title	Credits Earned	CAHPS Course	Teacher
Computer Information Systems					
KCC	CIS 211 & 211 L	Digital Game Development 2 & Lab	4	Digital Game Development	Eric Hamilton
Health & Wellness					
KCC	HEA 252	First Aid Basics & Beyond	3	First Aid & CPR	Erik Kenner
Humanities/Arts & Letters					
SOU	ENG 104	Introduction to Literature	4	AP Literature	Ed Easton
SOU	ENG 105	Introduction to Literature	4	AP Literature	Ed Easton

Early College Credits (online)

Taking College Courses Concurrently

- Primarily through KCC as Distance Education courses
- Students are fully admitted KCC Students
- Follows the KCC Academic Calendar
- Course tuition is FREE to students
- Students pay for books & materials, but many courses provide the course materials within Canvas
- Students can do the coursework at home or during a “Special Options” period

Advantages of Early College Credit

- Allows students to have a flexible schedule while taking HS and college classes
 - Allows students to “fill in the gaps” when going for an AAOT
 - Challenging coursework that looks good on a college application
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Associative Arts Oregon Transfer Degree (AAOT)

- The AAOT degree (90 credits) prepares students to transfer to an Oregon university with the guarantee that the student has met all of the lower-division general education requirements for the Oregon universities
- Upon acceptance at an Oregon university, the student is given “junior status” for registration purposes
- Many out-of-state colleges and universities also accept an AAOT degree with the same benefits
- High School students who earn an AAOT degree by the time they graduate HS still apply as a First Year College Student
- Transfer credits and/or degrees are assessed after the student commits to a university and sends official transcripts

The Pathway to Earning an AAOT

By taking advantage of Dual and Early College Credit Opportunities, students can earn an AAOT by the time they graduate.

See the handout *“Associate of Arts, Oregon Transfer Degree (AAOT) – A General High School Plan”* for the AAOT degree requirements

KCC Associate of Arts, Oregon Transfer (AAOT)

90 Credits

The Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer (AAOT) degree prepares students to transfer to an Oregon university with the guarantee that the student has met all of the lower-division general education requirements for the Oregon universities. Upon acceptance at an Oregon university, the student is given “junior status” for registration purposes. The AAOT does not guarantee admissions into specific departments or programs and does not guarantee admission into the student’s Oregon university of choice.

Required Courses		Credits	Completed	Remaining
Oral Communications				
Students must complete a minimum of four credits in this general education requirement.			0	4
COM 111Z - Public Speaking	4	Speech & Debate		
Total Required		4		
Writing				
Students must complete eight credits of writing.			0	8
WRI 121Z - Composition I	4	AP English Lang. & Comp. S1		
WRI 122Z - Composition II	4	AP English Lang. & Comp. S2		
Total Required		8		
Health and Wellness				
Student must select one course in this requirement. 3 credits			0	3
HPE 225 - Nutrition	3	KCC ECC Online Only		
HPE 295 - Health & Fitness for Life	3	KCC ECC Online Only		
Total Required		3		
Computation				
Students must complete four credits in this general education requirement.			0	4
MTH 105Z - Math in Society	4	Math in Society S2		
MTH 111Z - Precalculus I: Functions	4	Precalculus S1		
STA 243Z - Elementary Statistics I	4	AP Statistics S1		
Total Required		4		
Arts & Letters				
Students must complete nine credits chosen from at least two disciplines in this general education requirement.			0	9
SPA 201 Second Year Spanish	4	Spanish IV S1		
SPA 202 Second Year Spanish	4	Spanish IV S1		
ENG 104Z Intro to Fiction	4	AP English Lang. and Lit. S1		
<i>* Additional Course Options Available</i>				
Total Required		9		
Social Sciences				
Students must complete 12 credits chosen from at least two disciplines in this area.			0	12
HST 201 - United States History I	4	AP United States History S1		
HST 202 - United States History II	4	AP United States History S1		
HST 203 - United States History III	4	AP United States History S2		
PSY201A General Psychology	3	AP Psychology S1		
Total Required		12		

\$32,274

Is what an AAOT degree can save a student going to the University of Oregon

*Tuition & Fees for 1 year \$16,137 – excludes housing, food, books and supplies

Transferability

Every College Treats Transfer Credits Differently

- This is especially true for out-of-state colleges/universities
- Most colleges honor transfer credits, but they may not transfer as 1-to-1 courses that fulfill General Education Requirements
- Instead, they may transfer as “Undergraduate General Electives” or as department electives
- Some universities have unique 1st year experiences that are required despite the number of transfer credits a student has
- Always check with the university’s transfer credit policies for more specific information

Credit Transfer Equivalency Tool

Many colleges utilize this type of tool on their website. It's a great resource to ballpark potential transfer credits, but keep in mind, the University's Registrar has the final say when you submit official transcripts from another college or university.

Transfer Equivalency Search

The transfer evaluation page allows you to search for courses that have been evaluated previously. If you are unable to find a particular course from your school, please fill out an [evaluation request](#) so that we can add it to our list. Please note the following:

- **Grades:** Transfer courses with grades of P or C- and higher can fill most BYU general education and major requirements
- **Elective Credit:** For courses listed as "elective credit" in the search tool, please contact your [major advisement center](#) to see if it may be used within your degree program.
- **Updates to Equivalency:** Every effort is made to provide accurate and timely information regarding transfer courses and equivalent credit, however, BYU reserves the right to make updates.

Please check this site regularly for updates and changes. If you have questions about anything you find here, please contact us at 801-422-8522 or transfer@byu.edu.

Search for Transferable Credit

State School

Search by Transfer Institution course number
 Search by BYU course number

Course

Show only courses approved for the BYU GE

Next Steps

Schedule an Appointment to Make a Plan

Learning Pathways Coordinator

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