

## Senior Class of 2026

### College-Bound One-Pager

Walla Walla High School *GEAR UP: Class of 2026 – Your Roadmap to Graduation & College*

---

#### 1. Meet Your Support Team

- Meet early with your **school counselor** and **GEAR UP Student Achievement Specialist** to finalize your graduation and college plan.
- Visit **GEAR UP A131** for help with applications, essays, FAFSA/WASFA, scholarships, and academic support.

#### 2. Make Grades Count

- Senior-year grades **matter for admissions and scholarships**.
- Check **Skyward** weekly to track grades and attendance.
- Turn in all assignments and stay organized using a paper or digital planner.

#### 3. Take the Right Classes

- Stay enrolled in a **full academic schedule** including math and core electives.
- Take **AP, Dual Credit, or CTE** classes when possible.
- Review your transcript to confirm graduation requirements.

#### 4. College Admission Tests

- Make plans to take SAT/ACT.
- Visit [CollegeBoard.org](http://CollegeBoard.org) for test dates and locations.
- Complete practice tests to prepare.

#### 5. Explore & Finalize College Options

- Make a **final list of 4–6 colleges, apprenticeships, or training programs**.
- Attend college visits, fairs, and WA-HI Career Center and GEAR UP events.
- Visit campuses or take virtual tours.

#### 6. Apply to College

- **Common App opens August 1**.
- Know deadlines for each college (early action, priority, regular).
- Prepare your personal statement—get feedback from GEAR UP.
- Submit applications on time and keep copies of all documents.

#### 7. Pay for College

- **FAFSA/WASFA opens October 1**—submit as early as possible.
- Update your scholarship list and apply weekly.
- Compare financial aid award letters carefully.
- Search local scholarships on Schoollinks, visit the Career Center and GEAR UP.

#### 8. Build & Update Your Resume

- Use Schoollinks track your activities, jobs, awards, and volunteering. 10 hours/year total: 40.
- Update your resume for scholarships and college applications.

#### 9. Stay Healthy & Safe

- Maintain positive friendships and connections.
- Take care of your physical and mental health.
- Review social media privacy—Google yourself.

#### 10. Prepare to Transition to College

- Complete all college forms: orientation, housing, class registration.
- Learn campus resources—tutoring centers, advising, financial aid office.

---

---

# Senior Timeline & Success Calendar

## August – September: Start Strong

- Common App opens August 1.
- Finalize your college list.
- Begin personal statements and gather recommendation letters.
- Check senior schedule for required classes.

## October: Financial Aid Launch

- **FAFSA/WASFA opens October 1**—complete ASAP.
- Attend GEAR UP financial aid nights.
- Search and apply for scholarships weekly.
- Know Scholarship deadlines.

## November – December: Applications Continue

- **Nov 1: Early Action Deadlines** for many colleges.
- Apply to WWCC and other backup options.
- Continue campus visits and virtual tours.
- Attend fall conferences.
- Participate in INSTANT Decision events for Schools you are interested in- See GEAR UP.

## January – February: Final Deadlines

- **Feb 1: Priority deadlines** for many 4-year colleges.
- Submit all final applications.
- Keep grades strong for mid-year transcript requests.
- Attend GEAR UP Scholarship workshops.

## March – April: Scholarships & Decisions

- **Mar 1:** Many scholarship deadlines.
- Compare financial aid award letters.
- Attend GEAR UP workshops for college decision-making.

## May – June: Commit & Prepare

- **May 1: National Decision Day**—submit institute required deposit.
- Check deadlines submit Registrations for classes, orientation, and housing.
- Request final transcript to your college.
- Celebrate your achievements—you did it!

---

---

## **GEAR UP Room A131 – Open Daily**

**College Applications • FAFSA/WASFA Help • Scholarships • Tutoring • Career Planning • Field Trips**

**Senior year is your launchpad—stay on track, stay organized, and let us help you cross the finish line!**