

# WILSON HIGH SCHOOL

## COLLEGE HANDBOOK

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW  
IN GRADES 11 & 12



# Welcome!

Applying to college is an exciting time in your life filled with new experiences and self-discovery. This College Handbook will help you navigate the next phase of your educational journey. It contains application timelines, schedules, college checklists, testing requirements, financial aid and scholarship information, and other useful materials to help you in your search.

The application process is just that: a process. It takes time, organization, and motivation. We encourage you to familiarize yourself with this guide and refer back to it as you make your choices. We hope this resource answers many of your initial questions. We are here to support you so please don't hesitate to visit us in the College Center in room 149.

—Kelly Milford, College Coordinator, kmilford@pps.net

## Why College?

These are some of the reasons students give for choosing not apply to college: College is expensive. The application process is overwhelming. There are too many tests to take before I can even apply. I already have a diploma. I'm tired of studying. I just want to work at a job. It's too competitive. My grades aren't good enough. College doesn't matter.

**"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."**

—Nelson Mandela

**"All I want is an education,  
and I am afraid of no one."**

—Malala Yousafzai

**"A good education is a foundation for a better future."**

—Senator Elizabeth Warren

**"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest."**

—Benjamin Franklin

Here are some statistics that might change your mind:

- College graduates earn 73% more than students who only have a high school diploma.
- College graduates have more marketable skills and are better prepared for the job market.
- College graduates have more job opportunities.
- College graduates have more job satisfaction and job security.

Here are more reasons to go to college:

- You can expand your interests. If you really liked that high school psychology class you took, you can dive in deeper at college. Learn about abnormal psychology, sports psychology, or happiness psychology.
  - You can explore new opportunities. How do you know what you may or may not like without trying it? Maybe you'll find that you are really good at sociology, or classics, or urban studies, but since you never had a class in those subjects in high school you will never know.
- You'll become more independent. Living on your own, in an unfamiliar environment, going to school, figuring out how to manage your time, teaches life skills that are important to have as an adult.
  - You get to meet new people. Colleges accept such a diverse group of students from all over the world it will open your eyes to new ideas, cultures, beliefs, and it will be exciting.
  - You will be investing in your future self. This is the most important reason of all.

**YOU CAN DO THIS!**

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This College Handbook has been researched, written, and compiled by Tina-Marie Baskin, Wilson College & Career Center. Every effort has been made to include the most up-to-date and accurate information, however, you should always check school and testing websites for any changes since printing.

# Criteria For Considering College Options

1. **Location.** Do you want to be close to your family or far away? Do you prefer a rural, urban, or suburban setting? Do you care about the location's climate? What cultural/recreational opportunities are important to you?
2. **Public/Private.** Do you have a preference for public or private school? What about two-year versus four-year schools?
3. **Academics.** What are the academic programs that interest you? Do you want a school with a broad liberal arts and sciences curriculum or a career-oriented school? Are you potentially interested in academic research? Do you want to be academically challenged? Do you want a rigorous and intense or less pressured atmosphere? Is the name of the school important? Are there support programs, career advising, and academic advising available? What are required courses/distribution requirements? What are the breadth and depth of courses offered in your areas of interest? Does the school run on a semester/trimester/quarter system?
4. **Size.** Do you want a small college experience where everyone knows, or knows of, everyone else? Or, do you want to attend a big school so you'll always have the chance to meet new people? Are geographic, political/religious views, race/ethnic diversity important to you? What about class size? Do you like large lectures or small discussion seminars, or both? Do you want course variety that you would find at a large school? Do you have a specialized major that might be only available at a large school? Is having access to teachers important to you? Are study abroad/internships/exchange programs important?
5. **Social life.** Do you want to attend a school with school spirit? Is a prominent Greek life important? Do you want a school that has more of a social scene on-campus or off-campus? How do you like to spend your weekends? Do you want a school with a lot of on-campus school clubs and extra-curricular options? Are you interested in Student Government? Are sporting events or cultural events or political events important? Is a strong school athletic program important to you? Do you want to play intramural sports? Are you interested in art, music, or theater?
6. **Finances.** How much can your family or you realistically afford to spend per year on your college education? Consider tuition, room and board per year, transportation costs, books, supplies and other costs of attendance. Does the school offer need-based financial aid, need blind/need sensitive aid, or merit-based financial aid? Are there work study or other work options on campus?
7. **Housing/Food.** Can you/do you want to live on-campus all four years? Would living off-campus in the surrounding area be affordable? Are there predominantly large dorms, theme houses, or apartment style living options? What are the requirements for Freshmen? Are there dorms that are mixed age, single-sex, or coed dorms (by floor or room) with coed bathrooms? Do you have specific dietary or religious needs? Does the quality of the school's dining halls make a difference to you? Is it centralized/decentralized dining/eating clubs? What are the options for other special needs?
8. **School Culture.** Are you looking for traditional, intellectual, arts-focused, conservative, liberal, alternative, Greek system, or athletic culture? Are there controversial campus issues? What is the level of student engagement? What are student interests in service, politics, religion, athletics, arts, other areas?

NOTE: Make sure to have a balance between safety, match, and reach schools. Safety schools are schools where you're likely to get accepted. Reach schools are schools that might be hard get into or have admission standards (GPA, test scores, etc.) that are a bit above yours. Match Schools have standards between thesafety schools and reach schools.

Compiled from OES College Handbook, Fair Opportunity Project (FOP), College Match, by Steven Antonoff

# Gathering Information On Colleges

## Resources

It is important to obtain information from multiple sources when researching college options. Here are some broad categories to consider:

- Wilson's College and Career Center
- Wilson's Counselors
- College Admissions Representatives. Attend presentations at school/other high schools/organizations, and ask questions. Wilson has over 100 colleges visit every fall.
- College Visits (at colleges or on the web): Visit the colleges that you are interested in or take virtual tours using [campustours.com](http://campustours.com), or [youvisit.com/collegesearch](http://youvisit.com/collegesearch).
- College Fairs. National Association for College Admission Counseling (fall), Pacific Northwest Association for College Admission Counseling (spring), Performing and Visual Arts College Fair (fall), National Portfolio Day (winter). Meet college representatives and gather information on colleges.
- College Websites or Print Materials
- College Search Engines. [Naviance.com](http://Naviance.com), [bigfuture.collegeboard.org](http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org), [nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator](http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator), [college-insight.org](http://college-insight.org),
- College Guidebooks (print or online): Fiske Guide to Colleges, Princeton Review Best Colleges, [Collegeresults.org](http://Collegeresults.org).
- Family, friends, teachers, current students, recent graduates, professionals in a career of interest

## Some Tips To Stay Organized

- **Start the application process early** in the summer before senior year. Procrastination adds unnecessary pressure and you want to be able to do your best error-free work. Aim to submit applications two weeks before deadlines to allow time to fix any problems that might arise.
- **Keep track of the information** on colleges as you research and visit. Many students use a divided binder system, a computer spreadsheet, or file folder system that includes the name of the college, research notes, contact information, college materials, etc. There are also apps and web tools, so find what works for you.
- **Develop a management system.** Many students use a computer spreadsheet with key requirements of the various tasks involved in the college application process, and dates for completing them. Some categories to include might be: send standardized test score report, request teacher recommendations, submit art supplement, edit personal statement, complete supplemental essays.
- **Follow up** with college admissions, financial aid, your counselor, and teachers on a regular basis to trouble-shoot any problems that might arise and meet your deadlines.
- **Check email and spam** on a frequent basis. This is how counselors and college representatives will communicate with you. Consider having a designated email address for college communications.

# The Application Process

## Admission Application Options

There are five general admission choices for applying to schools. These include:

- **Early Action (non-binding).** This allows students to apply to a school early and receive a decision early. Typically, the application deadline falls in November and students hear back in December about their admission status.
- **Restrictive Early Action.** Students apply to a school early and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying early decision or early action. Check the school's policy. Typically, the application deadline falls in November and students hear back in December about their admission status.
- **Early Decision (binding).** Early decision tells a college that they are the first choice school. The student must sign a contract to attend the school if accepted. The student cannot apply to any other school unless rejected. Typically, the application deadline falls in November and students hear back in December about their admission status.
- **Rolling Admission (non-binding).** Rolling admission means that the school will take qualified applicants until the class is filled. A student can apply any time after a certain date and will hear back within a particular number of weeks on their admission status.
- **Regular Decision (non-binding).** This is the most common method to apply. Typically, the application deadline falls in early January and students hear back in late March or early April about their admission status.

## Admission Decision Letters

There are four types of letters that colleges use to notify students of decisions. These include:

**Acceptance Letters.** Great job, you have been offered admission.

**Deferral Letters.** This means that you were not accepted or rejected but will be reevaluated later in the regular admission cycle. Usually this decision corresponds with Early Admission Applications. Sometimes colleges will ask for supplemental information. Colleges vary in their deferral policy so check to see if you are allowed to send in more information to supplement your application if it is not requested. Talk with your counselor about options.

**Rejection Letters.** Of course you will feel disappointed if you are rejected from a college of interest. Remember that admission is subjective and don't let a rejection dictate your worth as a student or as an individual.

**The Wait-List.** This is a complex situation because it is often impossible to predict if you will be accepted at a later date. If you are happy with the schools where you were offered admission and want to attend one, then you should take your name off the wait-list. If you are still interested in the wait-list school, keep your name on the wait-list but have an alternative plan. You could demonstrate your continued interest in the school if they accept supplemental information. Talk with your parents and counselor about options.

## College Admission Components Checklist

There are certain components that make up the application process to four-year colleges regardless of the admissions options you choose. Below is a brief checklist:

- Standardized Tests.
  - Usually students take SAT or ACT, although some colleges require SAT Subject tests as well.
  - Order and send Score Reports to colleges of interest from [collegboard.org](http://collegboard.org), [act.org](http://act.org).
- Letters Of Recommendation.
  - Usually required by private schools.
  - Two are typically required from teachers, and one from your school counselor.
  - Learn about the process by attending a Wilson required Letter of Recommendation Workshop.
- Send Transcripts.
  - Request official transcripts be sent to your schools of interest through Naviance.
  - Requests are received electronically by Wilson’s counseling secretary who will send them to your schools of interest within 1-2 days.
- Finalize And Input Your College List In Naviance.
  - Naviance is required to keep your counselor updated on your college plans, and to send recommendations and transcripts.
- Application Forms.
  - Complete through Common Application website or the college’s website.
  - In addition to general background information, applications may also require a personal statement, essays, supplemental questions, extracurricular activity lists, honors, awards.
- Financial Aid Forms.
  - Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) (if applicable).
  - Oregon Student Aid Application (ORSAA) (if applicable).
  - College Scholarship Service Profile CSS Profile (if applicable).
  - Apply for Scholarships.

In the following pages, we have provided specific and detailed information as well as useful resources for each of the above listed application components. We encourage you to carefully review each section of this handbook before beginning your applications.

## College Application Tools

Naviance. Naviance is an online comprehensive college planning and career exploration tool for PPS high schools. Naviance is accessed through Wilson’s website via a link on the home page. Typically, the user name is your personal email and the password is your student id. There are many useful features, a few of which are outlined below:

- Look up information about thousands of individual colleges including admissions information, academics, financial aid, tuition, etc.
- Compare colleges by entering criteria such as size, location, major, cost, and search the database for lists of schools that meet your specifics.
- View scattergrams to see past Wilson students’ acceptance to individual colleges based on your SAT/ACT scores and GPA. Gauge your chances of acceptance by comparison to past applicants.
- Manage college choices.
- View and sign up for college representative visits.

- Research career options.
- Coordinate teacher recommendations.
- Order transcripts.
- Keep records of activities, grades, college interests, and career interests.

## The Common Application (Common App)

The Common App allows students to apply to over 700 colleges through one online platform eliminating the need to enter the same information repeatedly when applying to multiple schools. The website provides guided help and students can check the progress of their applications to ensure everything is submitted on time.

Here is a brief overview of the application steps:

- Create a student account.
- Search for colleges based on individualized criteria (location, distance, name, etc.).
- Add colleges of interest to “My Colleges List” which tracks applications, and allows students to manage specific requirements and due dates for each college.
- Gather and input personal information including:
  - High school transcript (self-report courses and grades).
  - Extracurricular activities (internships, awards/honors, community service, employment, etc.).
  - Standardized test reports (dates and scores).
  - Family information (background, education, etc.).
- Respond to one Common App essay prompt. There are seven to choose from.
- Respond to any supplemental school-specific questions and/or short-answer essay prompts.
- In Naviance, link your Naviance account to your Common App account by entering your Common App login information to send transcripts and letters of recommendation.

The application opens in full on August 1. However, limited access is available before this date to set up an account, search for schools, familiarize yourself with the resources available, and obtain the Common App essay prompts. In general, the Common App essay prompts change every other year (2018-19 will be the same as 2017-18). See [commonapp.org](http://commonapp.org) for more information.

## College Gap Year

Some students opt to take a year off after graduating from high school to engage in internships, academic study, work, or other activities before attending college. This is called a gap year. Students either apply to college as a senior and defer enrollment for a year, or apply to college during the gap year. We strongly advise that you have a plan before taking a gap year.

- Talk about options with your parents, counselor, and students who have taken a gap year
- Check that the college of interest has a gap year policy as some do not

### RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES SUCH AS:

- [gapyearassociation.org](http://gapyearassociation.org)
- [yearoutgroup.org](http://yearoutgroup.org)
- [gapyear.com](http://gapyear.com)
- [usagapyearfairs.org/programs](http://usagapyearfairs.org/programs)
- [teenlife.com/category/gap-year/](http://teenlife.com/category/gap-year/)
- [nacacnet.org/studentinfo/articles/pages/gap-year.aspx](http://nacacnet.org/studentinfo/articles/pages/gap-year.aspx)



# College Application Timeline

Most schools have a regular admission deadline (usually in early January with a decision in late March or early May), as well as an early admission deadline (usually in November with a decision in December). If you are applying for early admission (EA), some steps in your timeline will be different. **Look for the boldface type in the gray box throughout the timeline for specifics.**

## JUNIOR YEAR: APRIL/MAY

- Register and take standardized tests: SAT/ACT/SAT Subject Tests ([collegboard.org](http://collegboard.org), [act.org](http://act.org)) if the following conditions apply:
  - you plan to apply to a 4-year college/university.
  - you have not already taken one of these tests.
  - you are not satisfied with your scores.
  - they are required by your schools of interest.
  - **Early Admission: you plan to apply for early admission**
- Have conversations about college affordability with your parents/guardians.
- Use a college's net price calculator to get ballpark figures on costs.
  - The website Big Future can help determine federal aid ([bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college](http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college)).
- Meet with your counselor to start a conversation about the college application process.
- Investigate colleges and careers of interest
  - Attend Wilson's College Night—all juniors considering college should attend with parent/guardian
- Determine if your colleges of interest require Teacher/Counselor Recommendation Letters.
  - Attend a required College Recommendation Letter Workshop.
  - If you have a college list and are applying through the Common Application, think about attending a workshop in the spring.
  - Complete the Letter of Recommendation Workshop Packet including questionnaires and surveys
  - Ask teachers to write letters of recommendation. Some teachers have many recommendations to write and prefer to write in the summer. We suggest contacting your recommenders before summer break to discuss your application plans
  - Set a reminder to meet with your counselor for a Letter of Recommendation request appointment in the fall.

## JUNIOR YEAR: JUNE/JULY

- Register and take standardized tests if you have not already done so.
- Continue to build a college list in Naviance.
  - Research colleges.
  - Have conversations, ask questions.
- Search for scholarships.
- Prepare/revise a resume and upload to Naviance ([connection.naviance.com/fc/signin.php?hsid=wilsonor](http://connection.naviance.com/fc/signin.php?hsid=wilsonor)).
- Create a Common Application account ([commonapp.org](http://commonapp.org)).
  - If you apply to a private college.
  - If your college accepts it.
  - You can create an account as early as you'd like, and will have limited access to some of the website's resources, including the essay prompts. Supplemental writing requirements will not be available until August.

- Start personal essay portion of the application by choosing one of seven prompts. We recommend you begin drafting this essay early because it takes time.
- Create a calendar of due dates to complete for each school.

#### SENIOR YEAR: AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

- Register and take standardized tests if you have not already done so.
- Continue the Common Application registration/application process (full access opens August 1).
  - Create account if you have not already done so, or rollover prior year's account.
  - Start application's personal essay if you have not already done so.
  - Create My College List.
  - Begin supplemental writing requirements.
- Create your "List of Colleges I'm Applying To" under the "College" tab in Naviance.
- Begin applications/essays for public colleges that don't use the Common App.
- Create a calendar of due dates for each school.
- Determine if your colleges of interest require Teacher/Counselor Recommendation Letters.
  - Attend a required College Recommendation Letter Workshop if you have not already done so.
  - Complete the Letter of Recommendation Workshop Packet including questionnaires and surveys if you have not already done so.
  - Ask teachers to write letters of recommendation. Allow at least three weeks before application is due for teachers to write letters.
  - Complete/revise a resume if you have not already done so.
- Schedule your Letter of Recommendation request meeting with your counselor.
  - After completion of Packet, resume, questionnaires.
  - At least three weeks prior to first application deadline.
- Attend college visits at Wilson (register in Naviance; if the college is in your list, you will get an email announcing their visit).
- Attend Wilson's Financial Aid Night – all seniors considering college should attend with parent/guardian.
- Apply for financial aid.
  - Prepare documents for the FAFSA (or ORSAA) ([oregonstudentaid.gov/fafsa-orsaa.aspx](http://oregonstudentaid.gov/fafsa-orsaa.aspx)).
  - Register for FAFSA ID ([fsaid.ed.gov](http://fsaid.ed.gov)).
  - Continue to apply for scholarships.
- If you need extra assistance with figuring out your plan after high school, request an Aspire Mentor through the College Center and you will be paired with an adult volunteer.
- **Early Admission: Have college and scholarship essays reviewed by the College Center editor.**

#### SENIOR YEAR: OCTOBER

- Attend Wilson's College Application Week.
- Complete and submit your FAFSA ([fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafsa.ed.gov)), or ORSAA (application opens October 1).
- Apply for the CSS Profile if required ([cssprofile.org](http://cssprofile.org)).
- Finalize your college list.
- Continue to work on applications, essays for colleges and scholarships.
- Attend the National College Fair.
- Interview with schools of interest if applicable.

## Early Admission

- **Complete and submit college applications this month for an early November deadline.**
  - **If you have made any changes to your list update your counselor so recommendations and transcripts will be sent.**
  - **Request SAT/ACT/Subject Test scores sent to colleges if you have not already done so. Don't forget about AP Exams and request scores be sent to the colleges of interest.**
  - **Follow up with recommenders so materials are submitted on time.**
- **Complete and submit your FAFSA (fafsa.ed.gov), or ORSAA (application opens October 1).**
- **Apply for the CSS Profile if required by your school (cssprofile.org).**
- **Request transcripts sent to colleges (through Naviance).**
- **Interview for Early Admissions if applicable.**
- **SAT/ SAT Subject/ ACT Tests, request scores sent to colleges (collegeboard.org, act.org).**
- **Follow up with all recommenders to make sure materials are submitted and received on time.**

## SENIOR YEAR: NOVEMBER

- Update Naviance and your counselor with any changes to college list.
- Request transcripts (through Naviance).
- Start OSAC scholarship application (osac.state.or.us).
- Complete and submit your FAFSA (fafsa.ed.gov), or ORSAA if not already done so.
- Watch for your SAR (Student Aid Report) which should come about four weeks after filing the FAFSA.
- Follow up with all of your recommenders to make sure that recommendation letters are submitted on time and received by colleges.
- Complete SAT/SAT Subject/ACT tests and request SAT/ACT/Subject Test scores sent to colleges through collegeboard.org, act.org.
- Have college and scholarship essays reviewed by the College Center editor.

## Early Admission

- **Complete and submit college applications mid-month for end of November deadline.**
- **Check Common App and/or your college email accounts that all material was submitted successfully and for any updates, requests for more information, and next steps.**

## SENIOR YEAR: DECEMBER

- Complete and submit college applications this month.
  - If you have made any changes to your list update your counselor so recommendations and transcripts will be sent.
  - Request SAT/ACT/Subject Test scores sent to colleges through collegeboard.org, act.org if you have not already done so.
  - Follow up with all recommenders to make sure that recommendation letters are submitted on time and received by colleges.
- Make sure your FAFSA is submitted successfully; check your FAFSA account to correct any errors.
- Watch for your SAR (Student Aid Report) which arrives about four weeks after filing the FAFSA.

## Early Admission

- **Watch for notifications of admission or denial from your colleges.**
  - **If you applied Early Decision and were admitted, complete required materials.**
  - **Notify your counselor and enter into Naviance any admission decisions and scholarships you are offered.**
  - **Apply for school-specific scholarships if not automatically considered.**
- **If you apply to additional colleges notify your counselor so recommendations/transcripts will be sent.**

### SENIOR YEAR: JANUARY

- Make sure applications, test scores, recommendations have been received by colleges.
- Continue to work hard in all classes. Admission decisions can be altered if grades fall.
- Request that your counselor send in mid-year grades and reports through Naviance if required by your colleges of interest.
- Continue to apply for scholarships; many March 1 deadlines, including OSAC, PCC.
- Once college applications have been submitted check your college email accounts for any updates, requests for more information, and next steps.

### SENIOR YEAR: FEBRUARY

- Complete and submit your OSAC application by February 15 for the Early Bird Scholarship.
- Do not drop classes at the semester; keep up grades.
- Submit updates if requested by colleges, or if you have new information to supplement your application.
- Register for AP Exams if taking advanced courses ([aptestservice.com/pps](http://aptestservice.com/pps)).

### SENIOR YEAR: MARCH

- Many scholarships are due March 1, so check requirements:
  - OSAC for regular submission.
  - PCC Future Connect, PCC Foundation.
- Watch for notifications of admission or denial from your colleges.
- Notify your counselor of any admission decisions and scholarships you are offered.

### SENIOR YEAR: APRIL/MAY

- Watch for notifications of admission or denial from your colleges.
- Visit colleges for sponsored "Admissions Weekends" if still unsure about your final decision.
- Review and compare financial aid awards.
- Continue to apply for scholarships.
- Make your college decision by May 1:
  - Notify colleges of your acceptance or rejection of their admission and financial aid offers.
  - Submit registration, tuition, and housing deposits to your school of choice.
- Complete Wilson documentation in Naviance:
  - Three-question graduation survey.
  - Update scholarships received.

- Update college results.
- Send final transcript to school of choice if required.
- Update scholarships, college results, and request final transcript sent to school of choice (if required) in Naviance.
- Complete the PPS Exit Survey.
- Take appropriate AP exams and request scores be sent to the college you will attend.
- Make sure all requirements are completed and submitted for graduation.

The application process is your responsibility! Check regularly and fix any problems with submission and receipt of materials. We are available to help you so visit the College Center for any assistance you may need.

# NCAA Information Overview

For an overview of playing college sports visit [ncaa.org/student-athletes/future](http://ncaa.org/student-athletes/future).

Students need to be certified by the NCAA Eligibility Center to compete at an NCAA Division I or II school. They also need to be registered with a Certification Account before making official visits or signing a National Letter of Intent in Division I or II.

Choose from two account types to get started: Certification Account or Profile Page. If you plan to compete at a Division III school or are currently unsure in which division you want to compete, create a Profile Page, and see [fs.ncaa.org/Docs/eligibility\\_center/Student\\_Resources/Registration\\_Checklist.pdf](http://fs.ncaa.org/Docs/eligibility_center/Student_Resources/Registration_Checklist.pdf).

## NCAA Division I Initial-Eligibility Requirements

### ***Initial full-time collegiate enrollment on or after August 1, 2016:***

- Sixteen (16) core courses are required (see [ncaa.org/student-athletes/future/core-courses](http://ncaa.org/student-athletes/future/core-courses) for subject-area requirements).
- Ten (10) core courses completed before the seventh semester; seven (7) of the 10 must be in English, math or natural/physical science. These courses/grades are “locked in” at start of the seventh semester (cannot be repeated for grade-point average (GPA) improvement to meet initial-eligibility requirements for competition).
- Students who do not meet core-course progression requirements may still be eligible to receive athletics aid and practice in the initial year of enrollment by meeting academic redshirt requirements.

### **Test Scores (ACT/SAT)**

- Students must present a corresponding test score and core-course GPA on the sliding scale. o SAT: critical reading and math sections. Best subscore from each section is used to determine the SAT combined score for initial eligibility. o ACT: English, math, reading and science sections. Best subscore from each section is used to determine the ACT sum score for initial eligibility.
- All ACT and SAT attempts before initial full-time collegiate enrollment may be used for initial eligibility.

Enter 9999 during ACT or SAT registration to ensure the testing agency reports your score directly to the NCAA Eligibility Center. Test scores on transcripts will not be used.

Core Grade-Point Average: Only core courses that appear on the high school’s List of NCAA Courses on the NCAA Eligibility Center’s website ([eligibilitycenter.org](http://eligibilitycenter.org)) will be used to calculate your core-course GPA.

### ***Initial full-time collegiate enrollment on or after August 1, 2016:***

- Students must present a corresponding test score (ACT sum score or SAT combined score) and core-course GPA (minimum 2.300) on Sliding Scale B.
- Core-course GPA is calculated using the best 16 core courses that meet both progression (10 before seventh semester; seven in English, math or science; “locked in”) and subject-area requirements.

NOTE: Requirements are subject to change so talk with your coaches and visit these NCAA websites for more information: [web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/](http://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/) or [ncaa.org/d1](http://ncaa.org/d1) or [ncaa.org/d2](http://ncaa.org/d2) or [ncaa.org/d3](http://ncaa.org/d3).

# Tips For Visual & Performing Arts Students

Students who wish to study visual or performing arts should consider a variety of options in their college search.

## A Difference of Degree

Prospective arts majors have two degree options: A Bachelor of Arts (BA) with a major in the arts and a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) for artists/performers or Bachelor of Music (BM) for musicians. The BA degree is the typical liberal arts degree, students who major in English, history, and other humanities majors also earn BA degrees. The BFA or BM degree is more focused and intense. If you are committed to art as a career, a BFA or BM makes sense. If you want to study additional subjects, then a BA might be a better option.

## Types of Colleges

For visual and performance arts, conservatories and stand-alone specialized music or arts schools offer an immersion-type experience for students earning BM or BFA degrees. Some larger universities offer BFA/BM degrees as well as BA degrees in the arts. For example, a university-based arts program might give you the option of pursuing a double degree, such as a BM in music and a BA in history. A double degree would likely require more than four years, however. Check with each school for requirements.

## The Application Process

Some schools require completing a typical college application in addition to submitting a resume, portfolio, or audition. Many arts programs will also consider your academic record and test scores. Each arts program has different requirements so make sure to carefully review them. Allow plenty of time to create and prepare materials.

## Solicit Opinions of Experts

If you're interested in pursuing an arts major and career, seek objective opinions of your abilities from experts in the field. Ask for honest advice and evaluation from high school and private teachers, get outside assessment from musicians at a local symphony, dance company, theatre, etc. Visual arts students can also receive portfolio evaluations and college information at one of the National Portfolio Days sponsored by an association of arts schools and art departments at universities. For more information, talk to your counselor or art teacher or visit [portfolioday.net](http://portfolioday.net).

## Additional Factors

Consider location when choosing art schools. Important factors to think about: the access to professional venues, educational instructors who bring regional, national, international talent, the opportunity to perform or exhibit, the ability to participate in internships. Additionally, the facilities where you will craft your art are also important. These include studios, practice rooms, darkrooms, performance or exhibit venues, and other resources specific to your field of study. Finally, learn about the program's reputation. It may not be necessary to attend the best known program if the emphasis is not what suits your talent. For example, a music program that specializes in classical when you are interested in jazz, or a dance program that focuses on ballet when you are interested in hip hop might not be the best fit. It is important to also understand intensity, workload, competitiveness and culture, as well as career opportunities for graduates.

Compiled from an article by Jennifer Gross, see [3fn72f6h8343uvxzx2v9bk6-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/The-Art-of-Choosing-a-College-Tips-for-Visual-and-Performing-Arts-Students.pdf](http://3fn72f6h8343uvxzx2v9bk6-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/The-Art-of-Choosing-a-College-Tips-for-Visual-and-Performing-Arts-Students.pdf) for more information.

## See Also:

- US NEWS [usnews.com/education](http://usnews.com/education)
- National Association for College Admission Counseling [Nacacfairs.org](http://Nacacfairs.org)
- Niche [niche.com/colleges/search/best-colleges-for-music/](http://niche.com/colleges/search/best-colleges-for-music/)
- Educational and Theater Association [schooltheatre.org](http://schooltheatre.org)
- Association of Independent Colleges of Art and Design [aicad.or](http://aicad.or)

# Tips For Applications & Essays

Think about what you want to communicate to colleges through your essays, activity lists, and other materials. Learning how to present yourself in a positive, authentic, compelling, and concise manner is important in this process. Make sure that each piece of writing tells a different story about you. Work on one application and essay at a time so as not to get overwhelmed. Start early so you have enough time to do your best work.

## Start with the “Creative Think”

- Begin by brainstorming: significant event/success/failure/influential person/achievements.
- Make lists and notes about topics meaningful to you.
- Read other essay examples for inspiration online, or in college guidebooks.

## Write, Write, Write

- Don’t be afraid to go over the word limit in your early drafts.
- Get all thoughts down first and polish later.
- Tell the story that only you can tell.

## Revise

- Visualize your audience: a tired overworked reader with a stack of essays.
- Use an engaging opening: make the reader want to continue (start in the middle of the story, or with a surprise, or a confession, or a conflict).
- Add sensory imagery and rich detail.
- Show, don’t tell: “I am a rock climber” vs. “I carefully attach my ropes then cinch the yellow harness tightly.”
- Use a personal tone, not a scholarly style.
- Select a small slice of the story to emphasize an experience.
- Reflect on the significance, important lesson learned, or meaningful event.
- Think about how you want the reader to feel after reading your essay.

## Edit

- Use active, not passive voice.
- Eliminate weak verbs and needless words.
- Avoid cliché and overstatement.
- Be specific.
- Don’t forget transitions.
- Check word count, spelling, and punctuation.

## Polish

- Read the essay out loud to see if it needs any tweaks.
- Have someone who does not know you read it – do they know more about you now?
- Have a family member read it – does it sound like you?
- Have the College and Career essay editor review it even if you think it is perfect.



# Standardized Testing Overview

The college testing process can be confusing because there isn't a "one-plan-fits-all-students" approach. In this section we provide an overview of standardized tests and basic advice on testing and preparation.

## Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT)

- During October sophomores and juniors take the PSAT at Wilson during a school day (sophomores do not need to register but juniors do).
- The PSAT is a practice test; scores do not go to colleges, but the test is a good predictor of how the student will score on the SAT.
- Scores will be available in mid-December.
- PSAT scores earned by juniors are used to determine qualification for the National Merit Scholarship program (a program for students who score in the top 98-99%), so if the student scored in the top 70% as a sophomore it is recommended to take the PSAT as a junior.
- The PSAT consists of sections on Math and Evidence-Based Reading and Writing.

## College Admission Tests

All colleges have guidelines for standardized testing. The two most commonly required tests are the SAT and the ACT. Most students take either the SAT or the ACT. Neither test is regarded as more impressive or "legitimate" than the other.

Most students take these tests in their junior year. There are many ways to approach testing. Some students decide to only take one test and take just the free ACT test offered to the junior class at Wilson in February, while others will sign up to take both the ACT and an SAT to see which test they do best on. Many students will also decide to retest a second time to improve scores.

We recommend taking practice tests for both the SAT and ACT, to see which fits you best. With respect to the essay, check your schools of interest to see if it is needed. We also recommend studying for whichever tests you take. There are many options for test prep such as free websites, prep courses, apps, books, or private tutors, so pick the plan that suits your specific needs. See [compassprep.com/compass-guide](http://compassprep.com/compass-guide) for more information. Wilson offers practice tests twice during the year on teacher planning days when students are not in class.

## SAT

- Three Sections: Evidence-Based Reading and Writing, Math, and an optional Essay.
- Testing time: 3 hours and 50 minutes (includes 50 minutes for optional Essay section).
- Reading Test: 52 questions/65 minutes.
- Writing and Language Test: 44 questions/35 minutes.
- Math Test - No Calculator (Multiple Choice + Student Produced Response): 20 questions/25 minutes.
- Math Test - Calculator Permitted (Multiple Choice + Student Produced Response): 38 questions/55 minutes.
- Optional Essay: 1 prompt/50 minutes.
- Scores on Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and Math range from 200-800 (total of 400-1600).
- The SAT Essay is scored by two different people. Each scorer awards 1 to 4 points for each dimension: reading, analysis, and writing. The two scores for each dimension are added. You'll receive three scores for the SAT Essay, one for each dimension, ranging from 2 to 8 points.
- Students taking the SAT should consider the optional essay, it may be required by some colleges.

## ACT

- Five sections: English, Math, Reading, Science Reasoning, and Writing (optional).
- Testing time: 3 hours and 25 minutes (with writing).
- English: 75 questions/45 minutes.
- Mathematics: 60 questions/60 minutes.
- Reading: 40 questions/35 minutes.
- Science: 40 questions/35 minutes.
- Optional Writing: 1 essay prompt/40 minutes.
- Each subject area is given a scaled score between 1 and 36. Those area scores are then averaged into a composite score, which also ranges between 1 and 36.
- Each ACT essay (Writing) is scored by two graders on a scale of 1 to 6 across four different domains, for a total score out of 12 in each domain. These domain scores are then averaged into a total score out of 12.
- Students taking the ACT should consider the optional writing test as some colleges require this section.
- Some colleges that require both the SAT and SAT Subject Tests will accept the ACT in place of both tests.

## SAT SUBJECT TESTS

These exams test a specific subject and are best taken at the end of the school year, right around the time when you're studying for other final exams or AP exams, so that you can draw on that knowledge.

- Twenty-one different tests are offered in literature, math, science, history, and language.
- Each test is 1 hour in length, and you can take up to three tests on one test date.
- You can't take the SAT and SAT Subjects Tests on the same day.
- Subject Test scores range from 200-800.
- Schools that require Subject Tests typically ask for two tests. Check with your schools of interest.
- Some colleges that require or recommend both the SAT and SAT Subject Tests will accept the ACT in place of both tests.
- Some colleges specify which tests you should take. For example, if you are applying to a math, science, or engineering program at a college that requires Subject Tests, you may be asked to take tests in math and/or science, but most allow you to choose.
- If you wish to take a test in a subject that you will not be continuing the following year (e.g. Physics, Chemistry, or Biology, AP Language), you should take that test in May or June as you complete the class.

Note that over 900 schools do not require standardized test scores, or are test flexible (you must meet a minimum grade-point, or another requirement), or are test optional. For more information, see [fairtest.org/university/optional](http://fairtest.org/university/optional). However, your college list is almost certainly going to change throughout junior and even senior year. Don't limit yourself prematurely by ruling out standardized tests, since you want to keep your options open.

## SUBMITTING TEST SCORES

Students are responsible for knowing the testing requirements of their colleges and for having scores sent to colleges from the testing agencies.

- When you register for SAT and ACT tests, you will have the opportunity to send scores to four colleges at no cost. Most students wait until they receive their scores or until their senior year and pay the fee.
- To be safe, we encourage students to order score reports at least one month before the college deadline.
- For the ACT and SAT, you can take both tests more than once and can usually just report your highest total score to the school, referred to as your 'superscore' – your highest possible score in each section of the test. If your top reading score is from a March test, and your top math score is from a June test, you'll have to send the entire test scores for both tests. The colleges will tabulate your 'superscore' by recording the best scores of each subject.
- Students should consult with their counselor regarding which scores to send and when to utilize score choice. Most colleges will mix scores from various test dates to acknowledge your highest scores, while some colleges will consider your highest combined score from a single date. Keep in mind that not all colleges allow score choice, so refer to their individual websites for more information.

## Advanced Placement Tests (AP)

AP scores are not required by colleges as part of the admission process. It is up to the student to decide whether or not to self-report AP scores in college applications.

- Advanced Placement Exams are given off site during the school day in a variety of subjects over two weeks in May.
- Students register for the exams between January and March through PPS.
- Typically, exams are two to three hours.
- They are scored on a 1 to 5 point scale.
- Satisfactory performance on AP Exams may earn a student college credit and/or entrance to upper level classes. Policies about when and whether or not to grant credit for AP exams vary at colleges so check requirements at your schools of choice.
- AP exams taken prior to the senior year can be used as an admissions credential for students who wish to report scores in their college applications.
- Students seeking college credit will need to have the College Board send AP scores to their college at the end of the senior year.

## Community College Testing

You do not need to take an ACT or an SAT exam to be admitted to a community college. Community colleges do require either submitting English and math grades or taking a college placement test. Check each community college for specific requirements. PCC accepts both ACT and SAT as placement tests.

Compiled from pps.net, and OES', and FOP's college handbook guides.

## Additional Notes

If you might be eligible for the Federal Free/Reduced Lunch Program speak with your counselor about applying in the beginning of your senior year. Keep the eligibility letter. It may be used for:

- Fee waivers for college entrance exams.
- College application fees.
- Financial aid profiles such as the CSS Profile.
- Sending standardized test score reports to colleges.
- AP Exam fees.

If you have learning or other disabilities talk to your counselor about qualifying for extra time or other accommodations on standardized tests at least six weeks in advance of exams.

# 2018-19 SAT/ACT Test Dates & Registration Deadlines

Wilson CEEB Code 380937

## SAT

Fee without essay: \$46 with essay: \$60

Register online at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

SAT & Subject Test Dates	Registration Deadline*	Late Registration Deadline
June 2, 2018	May 3, 2018	May 23, 2018
August 25, 2018	July 25, 2018	August 31, 2018
October 6, 2018	September 6, 2018	September 24, 2018
November 3, 2018	October 3, 2018	October 21, 2018
December 1, 2018	November 1, 2018	November 19, 2018
March 9, 2019**	February 9, 2019	February 27, 2019
May 4, 2019	April 4, 2019	April 22, 2019

\*Online and phone only, paper deadlines are 4 days earlier. \*\*No Subject Tests.

NOTE: Dates and Fees are subject to change. These are projected dates and fees so make sure to check the website for official information.

## ACT

Fee without writing: \$46

with writing: \$62.50 Register online at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline (Late fee required)
July 14, 2018	June 15, 2018	June 16-22, 2018
September 8, 2018	August 5, 2018	August 17, 2018
October 27, 2018	September 21, 2018	October 5, 2018
December 8, 2018	November 2, 2018	November 16, 2018
February 9, 2019	January 11, 2019	January 18, 2019
April 13, 2019	March 8, 2019	March 22, 2019
June 8, 2019	May 3, 2019	May 17, 2019

NOTE: Dates and fees are subject to change. Make sure to check the website for official information.

# Preparing for Interviews, Campus Tours & Visits with College Representatives

As you continue your search for schools that interest you, there will be many opportunities to ask questions, and be asked questions. Some colleges include the personal interview in the application process, while others just offer opportunities for you to learn about the school from a college representative or admission officer who visits your school or holds an information session in your area.

## The Interview

The personal interview is either conducted on campus by college admission officers or by representatives or local alumni in the area usually in coffee shops. They are general discussions about background, educational achievements, and interests. While interviews are rarely the deciding factor in accepting or rejecting an applicant you should still come prepared. Interviews also offer an excellent opportunity to learn more about a school of interest.

In preparing for the interview, give some thought to how you will answer questions about common topics:

- Why are you interested in this college?
- Describe an intellectually stimulating class/experience that you have had in high school.
- What qualities and strengths will you bring to the campus community?
- What extracurricular activities have been the most meaningful to you and why?
- What books have you enjoyed reading in the past year?
- How did you spend the last two summers?
- Describe a challenge you have faced and overcome.
- What do you do for fun?
- Describe some of your goals for college.
- Who is someone you look up to?
- Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
- Is there anything else you would like the school to know that is not in your application?
- Do you have any questions for me?

## What Sorts Of Questions Should I Ask?

Interviews, campus visits, and college representative information sessions are opportunities for you to obtain information. Come prepared with thoughtful questions about the college.

You can ask the following questions of students, college admission officers, representatives, alumni, or faculty:

- What is unique about your college?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of the college's location and setting?
- Describe the strengths and weaknesses of this college.
- Talk about the diversity of the students and faculty. In relation to issues of diversity, what challenges does the school face and what strengths does it have?
- What opportunities do students have to interact with the administration?
- What are some current issues of concern on campus among students? Among faculty?
- What are the main reasons why students who are admitted decide to enroll here? Why do students leave the college?
- Describe the relationship between faculty and students.
- How active is the school in helping students with career planning?
- Would you describe the campus culture as competitive or cooperative?

- Do professors teach all classes or are there graduate students involved in teaching or leading sections?
- What are the most popular majors?
- Tell me about your \_\_\_\_\_ Department (depth and breadth of courses, areas of concentration, facilities, opportunities for research and internships, co-op programs).
- What percentage of your students go on to graduate school?
- How well have recent alumni fared in the job market?
- What portion of students participate in study abroad?
- Are internships common? What resources does the college have to assist with internship placement?
- What ways do students connect with and volunteer in the community?

Compiled from College Match, FOP, OES guides.

See [cappex.com/hq/articles-and-advice/blogs/columns/100-Questions-to-Ask-on-a-College-Visit](http://cappex.com/hq/articles-and-advice/blogs/columns/100-Questions-to-Ask-on-a-College-Visit), [blog.prepscholar.com/good-questions-to-ask-on-a-college-tour](http://blog.prepscholar.com/good-questions-to-ask-on-a-college-tour) for more information and questions.

## A Few More Tips

- Dress comfortably. Business casual is usually suggested for interviews.
- Bring a resume, and a pen/pencil and paper for notes.
- Arrive ten minutes early.
- Introduce yourself, smile, shake hands.
- Make eye contact, be an active listener, speak slowly.
- Ask questions.
- Get names, business cards, contact information of people helpful to you.
- Leave a good final impression: thank the interviewer, and/or those who were helpful to you.
- Email a thank you note to the interviewer, and/or those who were helpful to you.
- Take notes about each school.

Remember: Be yourself. It's normal to feel nervous but if you prepare beforehand you will be confident and connect with your interviewer.

## Oregon Postsecondary Entrance Requirements

College entrance requirements vary based on the type of college, how selective it is, and other factors. Although not required, colleges also look for involvement in school and community activities such as sports, clubs, student government, volunteering and part-time jobs. Each college may have slightly different admission requirements; be sure to check each college website for specific requirements.

Requirement	Community College in Oregon	4-Year Public University in Oregon	4-Year Independent, Not-for-Profit University in Oregon
High School Diploma or GED	✓	✓	✓
Minimum High School GPA	varies	2.75-3.00	varies
High School Courses		C- or better in all core classes	A's and B's in rigorous courses for selective colleges
English	4 credits	4 credits	4 credits
Math	3 credits (Algebra I and above)	3 credits (Algebra I and above)	3+ credits (Algebra I and above)
Science	3 credits (2 labs)	3 credits (2 labs)	3+ credits
Social Science	3 credits	3 credits	3+ credits
Second Language		2 credits	3+ credits
SAT or ACT		may be required	may be required
Personal Essay		may be required	may be required
Letter(s) of Recommendation			may be required

See [oregongoestocollege.org](http://oregongoestocollege.org) for more information.

# Financial Aid & Scholarships

## Types of Financial Assistance

College payment assistance typically comes in two forms: money you don't have to pay back (also known as gift aid), and money you do have to pay back. This classification is further divided into four general types of financial assistance:

Money you don't pay back:

- **Scholarships:** gift aid from federal and state governments, colleges, and private organizations. They may be awarded for academic or athletic ability, interest in a certain subject, volunteer work, or membership in an ethnic or religious group.
- **Grants:** gift aid from federal and state governments, colleges, and private organizations. Most grants are need-based, which means they are usually given based on you or your family's financial circumstances.
- **Work Study:** a federal program that provides students with paid part-time employment during the school year, usually on campus.

Money you do pay back:

- **Loans:** financial aid from the federal or state government, college, or private lenders that must be repaid with interest.

## Three Steps For Effective Scholarship Searches

1. **Create your personal profile.** For example, your hobbies, extracurricular activities, club affiliations, talents, college / major choices, work experience, unique traits, heritage, religion, career interests, and so on. Don't limit yourself. This roadmap will be useful in determining scholarship search options that best fit your strengths.
2. **Consider geographical location.** Students often have more success with scholarships that come from local sources (Portland or Oregon) or from a parent's place of work than from scholarship programs that are national in scope.
3. **Find your targeted categories and apply.**
  - **Merit-based scholarships:** These awards are based on academic achievement, a special talent, trait, or interest. Many colleges that offer merit-aid consider all applicants automatically for these awards, but at some colleges some or all of their merit scholarships require a special application.
  - **Athletic Scholarships:** NCAA Division I, II, and NAIA schools all offer athletic scholarships so it is important to get advice from your coaches. While NCAA Division III do not offer athletic scholarships, they do offer non-athletic scholarships to athletes they want on their team.
  - **Scholarships for Specific Groups:** Scholarships for gender, ethnic groups, disabilities are some examples.
  - **Need-Based Scholarships:** Based on family income. This is the most common type of financial aid. Federal grants include: Federal PELL Grant, Federal Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG), Federal Teach Grant, Iraq/Afghanistan Service Grant, and others. State grants include: Chafee Education and Training, Oregon Promise Grant, Oregon Opportunity Grant, and others.



## How To Find Scholarships

There are a number of scholarship websites available to you. Complete a profile, and the search engine will run it against a huge body of scholarships and you receive notification of scholarships that match your profile.

### Recommended Free Scholarship Search Websites

Scholarship Search Experts:	<a href="http://unigo.com/scholarships#/fromscholarshipexperts">unigo.com/scholarships#/fromscholarshipexperts</a>
College Board's Big Future:	<a href="http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search">bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search</a>
College Net:	<a href="http://collegenet.com/elect/app/app">collegenet.com/elect/app/app</a>
Fast Web:	<a href="http://fastweb.com/">fastweb.com/</a>
Scholarships:	<a href="http://scholarships.com/about-us/">scholarships.com/about-us/</a>
Scholarshipmonkey:	<a href="http://scholarshipmonkey.com/">scholarshipmonkey.com/</a>
Cappex:	<a href="http://cappex.com/scholarships/">cappex.com/scholarships/</a>
Adventures in Education:	<a href="http://aie.org">aie.org</a>
Student Aid:	<a href="http://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/grants-scholarships/finding-scholarships#types">studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/grants-scholarships/finding-scholarships#types</a>
Scholarship experts:	<a href="http://scholarshipexperts.com">scholarshipexperts.com</a>
College Plan:	<a href="http://collegplan.org">collegplan.org</a>
Career Information System (CIS)	<a href="http://oregoncis.uoregon.edu">oregoncis.uoregon.edu</a> (user name: 1Wilson password: WHS12)
Good Call:	<a href="http://goodcall.com/scholarships/search">goodcall.com/scholarships/search</a>
College Express	<a href="http://collegexpress.com">collegexpress.com</a>
Salliemae	<a href="http://salliemae.com/college-planning/">salliemae.com/college-planning/</a>
Finacial Aid Scholarships	<a href="http://finaid.org">finaid.org</a>

### Other Sources For Scholarships

- High school counselor, college and career center, and other local school websites.
- RaiseMe ([raise.me](http://raise.me)) micro-scholarships are awarded for high school achievements if you enroll in one of the participating colleges.
- The financial aid office at your intended college or career school.
- Foundations, religious or community organizations, local businesses, or civic groups.
- Organizations (including professional associations) related to your field of interest.
- Ethnicity-based organizations.
- Your employer or your parents' employer.
- If you are open to serving our country in exchange for scholarship funding, check out: Army ROTC, Navy ROTC, and Air Force ROTC.
- Insurance, banks, credit unions, unions, veterans' groups.
- Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) is a group of public colleges in western states that have agreed to charge reduced tuition to qualifying students from within those states ([wiche.edu/wue](http://wiche.edu/wue)).

NOTE: Be alert for scholarship scams. Never pay for a scholarship. See [studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/scams](http://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/scams) for additional information.

### Schools that Meet Financial Need

For a list of US colleges/universities that meet 100% financial need see [cappex.com/hq/articles-and-advice/college-search/college-lists/Colleges-that-Meet-100-Percent-of-Financial-Need](http://cappex.com/hq/articles-and-advice/college-search/college-lists/Colleges-that-Meet-100-Percent-of-Financial-Need).

# Oregon Financial Aid Opportunities

## OFFICE OF STUDENT ACCESS AND COMPLETION (OSAC)

OSAC administers over 500 scholarships. While the name OSAC suggests that scholarships are limited to Oregon colleges, there are OSAC scholarships that may be used at many U.S. colleges. Find scholarships by searching the OSAC Catalog from the link on their homepage and filter your search by high school, interest, FAFSA status, etc. Based on your specific criteria and application information a scholarship recommendation list will be generated.

- Applicants complete one common application online.
  - Must be an Oregon Resident.
  - First-time applicants need to create a login for a Student Profile.
  - Complete the Activities Chart and Personal Statement.
  - Submit Transcripts and other supplemental documents.
- Applications are available online beginning in November and are accepted through March 1 for the approaching academic year. Submit by February 15th to be eligible for a free application review, an opportunity to correct errors, and entry for a \$1000 drawing.
- See [oregonstudentaid.gov/scholarships.aspx](http://oregonstudentaid.gov/scholarships.aspx), and [oregonstudentaid.gov/scholarships-eligibility.aspx](http://oregonstudentaid.gov/scholarships-eligibility.aspx) for more information.

## THE FORD FAMILY FOUNDATION

The Ford Scholarships are several renewable scholarships including 90% of unmet financial need from \$1000-\$25,000 each year. Apply through OSAC. FAFSA or ORSAA and OSAC application is required. See [tfff.org](http://tfff.org) for more information.

## OREGON OPPORTUNITY GRANT

The application for the Oregon Opportunity Grant is the FAFSA or ORSAA. OSAC awards Oregon Opportunity Grants to qualified students for up to four years (12 quarters or 8 semesters) of full-time enrollment, provided they maintain satisfactory academic progress, continue to meet eligibility and award requirements, and file a new FAFSA (or ORSAA) each year.

Students may be subject to eligibility requirements based on their Expected Family Contribution (EFC). Students are awarded based on financial need, beginning with students who have a 0 EFC, then moving up until all funds are exhausted. In 2017-18 the EFC for applicants was \$4,000. New applicants who are above the EFC limit will not be eligible for an award. EFC eligibility requirements are subject to change.

### Eligibility Criteria

- Student/family adjusted gross income of \$70,000 or less. Only students with student/family incomes at or below the limit are considered for the grant.
- Students must be enrolled at least half time fall term to receive Oregon Opportunity Grant funds and maintain their grant eligibility for the rest of the academic year.
- Students must submit a new FAFSA (or ORSAA) for each academic year they plan to attend a college or university.

## OREGON PROMISE

Oregon Promise is a state grant that covers up to 12 credits at any Oregon Community College for recent high school graduates and GED recipients. Apply for the Oregon Promise in the OSAC Student Portal.

### Eligibility Criteria

- Complete an Oregon Promise Grant Application by the appropriate deadline.

- File a FAFSA or ORSAA application and list at least one Oregon community college.
- Be a recent Oregon high school graduate or GED recipient.
- Document a 2.5 cumulative high school GPA or higher; or a GED score of 145 or higher on each test.
- Plan to attend at least half-time at an Oregon community college within 6 months of high school graduation or GED completion.
- Be an Oregon resident for at least 12 months prior to college attendance.
- Must not have more than 90 college credits completed or attempted.
- Application deadline June 1.

See [oregonstudentaid.gov/oregon-promise.aspx](http://oregonstudentaid.gov/oregon-promise.aspx) for more information.

## FUTURE CONNECT FOR PCC

Future Connect is a PCC scholarship support program for first-generation or low-income students. PCC provides scholarship money, career guidance, personalized advising, and some free classes. Application deadline March 1. See [pcc.edu/future-connect/](http://pcc.edu/future-connect/) for more information.

## FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Most colleges and universities, including community colleges, offer Foundation Scholarships every year to students who may not otherwise be able to afford an education. To be eligible you will need to have filed a FAFSA or ORSAA and submit a separate scholarship application. Check each school's website for more information.

## PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY (PSU) FOUR YEARS FREE

PSU covers tuition and fees for income-eligible Oregon freshmen. See [pdx.edu/four-years-free](http://pdx.edu/four-years-free) for more information.

### Eligibility and Requirements

- Current resident of Oregon.
- Graduate from an Oregon high school.
- Admissible to PSU as a first-year freshman for fall term.
- Have a 3.4 cumulative unweighted high school grade point average.
- Eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Enrolled full-time at PSU, 12 to 15 credits per term.
- Submit the FAFSA by February 1.
- Apply to PSU by May 1.

## UNIVERSITY OF OREGON (U OF O) PATHWAYOREGON

PathwayOregon ensures that academically qualified, federal Pell Grant-eligible Oregonians will have their tuition and fees paid for by the U of O through a combination of federal, state, and university funds.

### Eligibility and Requirements

- Oregon residency.
- Graduation from an Oregon high school in the last two years.
- Admission as a first-time freshman.
- A minimum 3.4 cumulative high school grade point average.
- Eligible for a Federal Pell Grant as determined by the FAFSA.

- Submit the U of O Admission application by January 15.
- Submit FAFSA by February 15.

Students who earn less than a 3.4 high school GPA but meet all other program eligibility criteria will be considered for the program on a space and funding available basis.

See [pathwayoregon.uoregon.edu/content/award-overview](http://pathwayoregon.uoregon.edu/content/award-overview) for more information.

## OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY (OSU) BRIDGE TO SUCCESS

Bridge to Success ensures that qualified students receive aid to cover their annual tuition and fees at OSU.

### Eligibility and Requirements

- Oregon resident.
- Complete application by February 1 admissions priority deadline, and is admitted to OSU.
- Submit FAFSA by OSU's February 28 financial aid priority deadline.
- Pell Grant eligible (based on annual FAFSA results).
- Qualifies for and receives Oregon Opportunity Grant funding.

Awards are based on available funding and are not guaranteed. Student eligibility is reviewed each year based on annual FAFSA results and renewal criteria tied to the aid/scholarships received.

See [admissions.oregonstate.edu/bridge-success](http://admissions.oregonstate.edu/bridge-success) for more information.

## Additional Information

- Submitting a FAFSA (or ORSAA) does not guarantee an award. OSAC authorizes Opportunity Grant awards only for eligible applicants who have an error-free FAFSA (or ORSAA). Students who have errors on their FAFSA (or ORSAA) should correct those errors as soon as possible to remain eligible for the grant. See [oregonstudentaid.gov/oregon-opportunity-grant.aspx](http://oregonstudentaid.gov/oregon-opportunity-grant.aspx) for more information.
- We strongly recommend that you keep close track of college applications and financial aid due dates because they most likely will differ even for the same school.
- Each school has a different financial aid process so check their website and if you can't figure out what is required then call the school directly. Some financial aid awards require special applications, while some are automatically attached to your college application based on your qualifications.
- We have listed only a few financial aid programs. Remember that colleges offer many different financial aid opportunities. Make sure to review the financial aid and scholarship section on the individual school's website.
- If you win an outside scholarship it can impact the rest of your need-based financial aid package. Schools differ in how they factor in those outside scholarships so make sure to contact the office of financial aid for more information.

# What Forms May Be Required For Financial Aid?

## Financial Aid Form Options

Applying for financial aid takes time, attention to detail, and patience. The financial aid application process has its own forms, deadlines, and requirements. Since you don't have to wait to be admitted to a college before you apply for financial aid it is a good idea to start early in your senior year. Even though there are a number of forms to complete don't let that deter you from applying. Remember: To be considered for financial aid you have to apply.

### TO APPLY FOR FEDERAL AID

You must submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA collects information about you and your family, then determines how much your family is expected to contribute to your education (EFC-Expected Family Contribution) ([fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafsa.ed.gov)).

### TO APPLY FOR GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- You'll most likely have to fill out the FAFSA (or ORSAA).
- There may also be grant/scholarship specific application forms and financial application forms so check each organization's requirements carefully.
- Additional financial aid forms may also be required such as the CSS/Financial Aid Profile (CSS Profile) which is an application used by more than 400 colleges and Universities and private scholarship programs to award financial aid.
  - First-year applicants whose parents live in the U.S. may be eligible for a CSS Profile fee waiver.
  - Fee waivers are provided to students who used an SAT fee waiver; or to students whose parental income reported on their CSS Profile falls within the federal reduced-price or free lunch program guidelines; or to students who are an orphan or ward of the court and under the age of 24.

See [cssprofile.org](http://cssprofile.org) for more information.

### STATE OF OREGON AID

- The Oregon Student Aid Application (ORSAA) is an alternative to the FAFSA for undocumented Oregon students, including students who have Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status or Temporary Protected Status (TPS).
- The ORSAA gives eligible undocumented students the ability to apply for the Oregon Opportunity Grant the Oregon Promise Grant, and certain OSAC scholarships.
  - Contact the financial aid office at your colleges of interest to find out if you should complete both the FAFSA and ORSAA.
  - Do NOT complete the ORSAA if you are a U.S. citizen, legal noncitizen with Alien Registration number, or international student in the U.S. with a valid visa.

See [oregonstudentaid.gov/osac-doc/orsaa-guide.pdf](http://oregonstudentaid.gov/osac-doc/orsaa-guide.pdf) for more information.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- FAFSA, ORSAA and CSS Profile open on October 1 each year. Financial aid dollars are limited, and in many cases are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.
- You and your parents will need to gather tax returns, income statements, and lists of assets to fill out the FAFSA, ORSAA, CSS Profile, and other aid applications. The College Center has worksheets.
- The Department of Education requires that U.S. male students seeking Federal financial aid must register at age 18 for Selective Service.
- Deadlines for aid vary and are often set earlier than college application deadlines.

# Understanding Financial Aid Award Letters

## **What is a Financial Aid Award Letter?**

A school's financial aid award letter tells you what financial aid you can receive at a particular college.

## **How Do I Receive One?**

If you listed a school on your FAFSA (or ORSAA) and have been offered admission by that school, the financial aid office at the school will send you an aid award (often electronically).

## **What's Contained in an Award Letter?**

The aid award includes the types and amounts of financial aid you may receive from federal, state, private, and school sources. This combination of aid is your financial aid package.

- Your financial aid package is created for you and is based on the cost of attending a particular school, therefore, your aid amounts will vary from school to school.
- If you've applied to several schools, be sure to compare aid awards to see which school will be the most affordable.

## **How Do I Compare Award Letters?**

Follow these steps to figure out net cost for each school, and find out which school will be most affordable:

- Find the Cost of Attendance for your program on the aid award letter. If the school doesn't list it, ask the financial aid office for this figure. Make sure it includes amounts you will pay to the school directly (such as tuition and fees) as well as indirect costs (such as living expenses, books and supplies, and transportation).
- Determine Net Cost by subtracting the grant and scholarship amounts on your aid award letter from the cost of attendance amount. The remaining amount is your net or out-of-pocket cost. Any savings you have available to put toward your school costs for the school year will go toward your out-of-pocket cost.
- If your award letter includes student loans, you should compare the amount of debt you would be taking on at the schools you are considering. If you find that you'll need to take out a larger amount in private loans at one school than at another, you should pay special attention to the terms and conditions of the private loans so you understand what your obligations would be.
- Consider which aid is most beneficial to you and which to accept. The rule is: Free money first (scholarships and grants), then earned money (work-study), then borrowed money (federal student loans).

## **What If I'm Still Confused About My Award Letters?**

- Contact the college's financial aid office if you have any questions or don't understand what's in your aid offer.
- Consult with a financial advisor.
- Talk with your counselor.
- Come to the College and Career Center.
- Visit web resources for worksheets, calculators, or other information, such as:
  - [studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/next-steps/](http://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/next-steps/)
  - [consumerfinance.gov/paying-for-college/compare-financial-aid-and-college-cost/](http://consumerfinance.gov/paying-for-college/compare-financial-aid-and-college-cost/)
  - [www2.ed.gov/policy/highered/guid/aid-offer/index.html](http://www2.ed.gov/policy/highered/guid/aid-offer/index.html)
  - [bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/financial-aid-awards/compare-aid-calculator](http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/financial-aid-awards/compare-aid-calculator)

Compiled from ECMC "Opportunities" Workbook, and [studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/next-steps](http://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/next-steps).

# List of Oregon's Public Universities & Community Colleges

Oregon.gov ([oregon.gov/highered/Pages/index.aspx](http://oregon.gov/highered/Pages/index.aspx)) is a valuable website that contains information on planning and preparing for college. In addition, it is a useful resource for learning more about Oregon's public community colleges, public and private universities, and private post-secondary schools.

## Oregon's Seven Public Universities

There are seven public universities in Oregon, each with unique strengths and academic programs, serving the students of the state, the region, and beyond.

Eastern Oregon University (EOU)	Southern Oregon University (SOU)
Oregon Institute of Technology (OIT)	University of Oregon (UO)
Oregon State University (OSU)	Western Oregon University (WOU)
Portland State University (PSU)	

See [oregon.gov/highered/institutions-programs/public/Pages/public-universities.aspx](http://oregon.gov/highered/institutions-programs/public/Pages/public-universities.aspx) for key campus information including admissions, cost of attendance, and financial aid.

## Oregon's 17 Community Colleges

Oregonians are also served by 17 community colleges, with over 60 campuses and centers throughout the state.

Blue Mountain (BMCC)	Klamath (KCC)	Rogue (RCC)
Central Oregon (COCC)	Lane (LCC)	SW Oregon (SOCC)
Chemeketa	Linn-Benton (LBCC)	Tillamook Bay (TBCC)
Clackamas	Mt. Hood (MHCC)	Treasure Valley (TVCC)
Clatsop	Oregon Coast (OCCC)	Umpqua (UCC)
Columbia Gorge (CGCC)	Portland (PCC)	

See [oregon.gov/highered/plan-pay-for-college/Pages/community-colleges.aspx](http://oregon.gov/highered/plan-pay-for-college/Pages/community-colleges.aspx) for the campus websites and links to key campus information including new student guidance, tuition and fees, total costs calculators, and financial aid

## 2017-18 Standard Student Budgets for Oregon Postsecondary Institutions

(all figures provided by institutions)

OREGON PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES (8)	Dorm or Off-campus?	Tuition & fees	Books & supplies	Room & board	Personal expenses	Transportation	Total Other Costs	TOTAL
Eastern Oregon University	Both	\$8,469	\$1,425	\$9,978	\$1,833	\$1,248	\$14,484	\$22,953
Oregon Health & Science University	Off-campus	\$18,765	\$970	\$13,239	\$1,440	\$2,835	\$18,484	\$37,249
Oregon Institute of Technology	Both	\$9,541	\$1,250	\$10,947	\$2,270	\$1,760	\$16,227	\$25,768
Oregon State University	Both	\$10,797	\$1,200	\$11,445	\$2,083	\$521	\$15,249	\$26,046
Portland State University	Both	\$9,030	\$1,263	\$12,831	\$1,500	\$1,002	\$16,596	\$25,626
Southern Oregon University	Both	\$9,267	\$999	\$11,871	\$1,000	\$1,160	\$15,030	\$24,297
University of Oregon	Both	\$11,571	\$1,125	\$11,450	\$1,995	\$361	\$14,931	\$26,502
Western Oregon University	Both	\$9,783	\$1,299	\$10,167	\$1,389	\$1,092	\$13,947	\$23,730

OREGON COMMUNITY COLLEGES (17)	Dorm or Off-campus?	Tuition & fees	Books & supplies	Room & board	Personal expenses	Transportation	Total Other Costs	TOTAL
Blue Mountain CC	Off-campus	\$6,564	\$1,038	\$8,889	\$1,398	\$1,305	\$12,630	\$19,194
Central Oregon CC	Off-campus	\$4,623	\$1,800	\$10,701	\$1,287	\$1,713	\$15,501	\$20,124
Chemeketa CC	Off-campus	\$4,500	\$1,200	\$10,800	\$1,287	\$1,713	\$15,000	\$19,500
Clackamas CC	Off-campus	\$4,614	\$1,800	\$9,000	\$1,050	\$1,800	\$13,650	\$18,264
Clatsop CC	Off-campus	\$4,995	\$1,473	\$8,028	\$2,385	\$1,986	\$13,872	\$18,867
Columbia Gorge CC	Off-campus	\$5,310	\$1,200	\$9,732	\$1,500	\$1,800	\$14,232	\$19,542
Klamath CC	Off-campus	\$5,220	\$1,500	\$10,701	\$3,561	\$1,674	\$17,436	\$22,656
Lane CC	Off-campus	\$5,618	\$1,389	\$8,847	\$1,620	\$738	\$12,594	\$18,212
Linn-Benton CC	Off-campus	\$5,067	\$870	\$8,253	\$1,554	\$1,887	\$12,564	\$17,631
Mt Hood CC	Off-campus	\$5,157	\$1,560	\$7,380	\$1,035	\$1,590	\$11,565	\$16,722
Oregon Coast CC	Off-campus	\$4,868	\$1,689	\$11,787	\$1,725	\$1,758	\$16,959	\$21,797
Portland CC	Off-campus	\$5,093	\$1,689	\$11,787	\$1,725	\$1,728	\$16,929	\$22,022
Rogue CC	Off-campus	\$5,325	\$1,200	\$9,255	\$1,470	\$1,521	\$13,446	\$18,771
Southwestern Oregon CC	Off-campus	\$5,955	\$1,500	\$8,100	\$990	\$1,200	\$11,790	\$17,745
Tillamook Bay CC	Off-campus	\$4,815	\$1,146	\$7,929	\$1,035	\$618	\$10,728	\$15,543
Treasure Valley CC	Both	\$5,295	\$2,175	\$6,246	\$1,350	\$2,130	\$11,901	\$17,196
Umpqua CC	Off-campus	\$5,364	\$1,800	\$8,130	\$1,200	\$1,500	\$12,630	\$17,994

OREGON INDEPENDENT COLLEGES (18)	Dorm or off-campus?	Tuition & fees	Books & supplies	Room & board	Personal expenses	Transportation	Total Other Costs	TOTAL
Birthingway	Off-campus	\$23,340	\$877	\$6,162	\$3,195	\$2,054	\$12,288	\$35,628
Concordia University (15-16)	Both	\$30,270	\$900	\$8,780	\$1,800	\$1,000	\$12,480	\$42,750
Corban University	Both	\$31,640	\$950	\$10,060	\$1,200	\$800	\$13,010	\$44,650
George Fox University	Both	\$35,016	\$950	\$10,886	\$1,250	\$800	\$13,886	\$48,902
Lewis & Clark College	Both	\$48,988	\$1,050	\$11,996	\$990	\$990	\$15,026	\$64,014
Linfield College	Both	\$41,576	\$900	\$11,770	\$1,000	\$750	\$14,420	\$55,996
Linfield, Portland Campus	Off-campus	\$42,955	\$1,500	\$10,700	\$1,700	\$2,000	\$15,900	\$58,855
Marylhurst University	Off-campus	\$20,835	\$2,475	\$12,600	\$1,950	\$1,500	\$18,525	\$39,360
Mount Angel Seminary	Dorm	\$21,402	\$1,000	\$12,118	incl	\$1,000	\$14,118	\$35,520
National University of Natural Medicine	Off-campus	\$10,455	\$1,100	\$23,418	\$3,573	\$2,700	\$30,791	\$41,246
Northwest Christian University	Both	\$28,680	\$900	\$8,800	\$1,170	\$1,170	\$12,040	\$40,720
Oregon College of Art and Craft	Off-campus	\$33,160	\$1,800	\$9,900	\$1,100	\$800	\$13,600	\$46,760
Pacific Northwest College of Art	Both	\$36,440	\$1,000	\$13,070	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$17,070	\$53,510
Pacific University	Both	\$42,594	\$1,050	\$12,164	\$960	\$720	\$14,894	\$57,488
Reed College	Dorm	\$54,200	\$900	\$13,670	\$1,050	incl	\$15,620	\$69,820
University of Portland	Dorm	\$44,474	\$930	\$12,658	\$942	\$680	\$15,210	\$59,684
University of Western States	Off-campus	\$10,272	\$1,110	\$10,461	\$2,130	\$2,400	\$16,101	\$26,373
Warner Pacific College	Both	\$24,500	\$1,006	\$9,300	\$1,700	\$900	\$12,906	\$37,406
Willamette University	Both	\$48,264	\$970	\$11,830	\$1,254	incl	\$14,054	\$62,318

NOTE: These "standard" undergraduate student budgets are for informational purposes only. They are based on full-time enrollment at 15 credit-hours/term and do not include insurance, loan fees, nonmandatory fees, or special program-specific fees. Actual budgets will vary from these "standard" budgets, depending upon program of study, courseload, dependency status, and housing situations. (For certain programs, courseloads may be restricted to less than 15 credit-hours per term.)