



NEWS & INFORMATION ABOUT
PLANNING FOR AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

The GEAR UP Gazette

MARCH

FOR PARENTS OF 7TH & 8TH GRADE STUDENTS

RIGHT CLASSES, RIGHT NOW

Once your student gets to high school, there will be more choices about what classes to take. Your student needs to pass a certain number of credits in each subject to graduate from high school, but there may be different requirements to get into college. In general, **more credits and more challenging classes will open the door to the most opportunities.**

In addition, certain college programs or majors might require or recommend certain classes. For example, if your student is interested in going into the medical field to be a doctor, a dental hygienist, or even a veterinarian, he will need to take as much math and science as possible.

The high school might offer one or more ways that students can take advanced classes – ask the school what the options are! They may include:

- **Advanced Placement:** College-level curriculum taught in the high school. Students must receive a satisfactory score on an end-of-year examination to be eligible for college credit at some colleges.
- **International Baccalaureate:** An interdisciplinary program at the high school; students must pass six subject assessments and fulfill three core requirements.
- **Dual Credit/College Now:** Students receive both high school and college credit for classes that are taken at a community college, taught in the high school by qualified staff, or taken online.

Sources: [College Board](#), [International Baccalaureate Organization](#), [Oregon Department of Education](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

High school students who take college courses (dual credit) are significantly more likely to attend and graduate from college than peers who do not.

Source: [Jobs for the Future](#)

COLLEGE MYTHS (AND REALITIES)

MYTH: College planning starts in the junior year of high school.

REALITY: It's not too early to start thinking about college and career while in middle school. Colleges will be looking at classes and grades as soon as your student starts 9th grade, so it's important for him to make a long-term plan about the classes he will take, the type of college he wants to go to, and the kind of career he wants NOW.

PARENT CHECKLIST

- ☐ **Encourage your student to do well in school.** Let him know that you expect good grades, and that you expect him to take challenging classes. Ask about homework, tests, and other assignments to stay connected with what he is doing in school.
- ☐ **Talk to teachers and staff.** Connect with the school during conferences, open houses, school activities and events or just because. Consider volunteering at the school or chaperone a field trip.
- ☐ **Review your student's schedule and class selections.** Make sure she is on track to progress from middle school and has a plan for the appropriate classes to take each year in high school for the type of college she wants to go to.

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



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

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