



NEWS & INFORMATION ABOUT
PLANNING FOR AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

The GEAR UP Gazette

MARCH

FOR PARENTS OF 9TH & 10TH GRADE STUDENTS

WHAT IT TAKES TO GRADUATE

Getting into college starts with graduating from high school. However, depending on the type of school your students wants to attend, it's important to know what types of classes to take, the grades necessary, and any other additional requirements beyond what's required for high school graduation. Here's what it takes:

	High School Graduation & Community Colleges	4-Year Public Universities in Oregon	Selective 4-Year Private Colleges & Universities
# Years	4 English 3 Math (Algebra 1 & above) 3 Science (2 labs) 3 Social Science 3 Arts, Second Language or CTE 1 Health 1 Physical Education 6 Electives	4 English 3 Math (Algebra 1 & above) 3 Science (2 labs) 3 Social Science 2 Second Language	4 English 3-4 Math (Algebra 1 & above to pre-calculus or statistics) 3-4 Science (labs recommended) 3-4 Social Science (including U.S. History) 3-4 Second Language + Arts & Challenging Electives
Required	Proficiency in Essential Skills Education Plan & Profile Career-Related Learning Experiences Extended Application	High school graduation or equivalency Minimum 2.75-3.00 GPA No D's or F's in classes SAT or ACT	High school graduation or equivalency Competitive GPA Mostly A's and B's SAT, ACT, or portfolio of work (usually)
Recommended		Additional coursework and other factors may increase likelihood of admission	Honors, AP, IB or college credit courses when available Extracurriculars or special achievement

DID YOU KNOW?

Students who take challenging courses in high school are more likely to succeed in college; in fact, academic preparation is "the most effective means of increasing the odds that students will graduate from high school ready for college...and eventually receive their degrees".

Source: [Reclaiming the American Dream](#)

COLLEGE MYTHS (AND REALITIES)

MYTH: Taking the easiest courses your high school offers will boost your student's GPA and help him get into college.

REALITY: Colleges know the most difficult classes your student's high school offers and they factor that in when reviewing applications. Your student should take challenging classes like AP or dual credit courses – even if that means he won't get a top grade.

Source: [Huffington Post](#)

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 course selections.** Make sure she is on track to graduate from high school and has the appropriate classes for the type of college she wants to go to. Encourage your student to enroll in AP or dual credit options when available.

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



GEAR UP stands for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs and is a federally-funded program that helps rural, low-income middle and high schools prepare students for education after high school. Visit oregongearup.org to learn more and access resources to help your students make a plan. © 2016 Oregon GEAR UP

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