



NEWS & INFORMATION ABOUT  
PLANNING FOR AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

# The GEAR UP Gazette

APRIL

FOR PARENTS OF 11<sup>TH</sup> & 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS

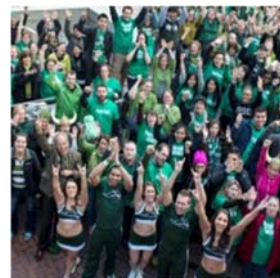
## GET TO KNOW A COLLEGE

It's important for both students and parents to experience life on a college campus. For seniors, it can help in the final decision about where to attend school, and for juniors, it serves as a useful way to decide where to apply and what they want (or don't want) from a college experience.

Whether you go with a field trip from school or on your own, you can sign up for a tour of campus with current student guides. Many colleges also offer informational sessions or will arrange meetings with professors or other staff. Most colleges hold special events for both prospective students and students who have already been admitted.

You and your student should be prepared with questions before the visit – you might want to look at any brochures the college has sent or check out the school's website. Take notes and snap photos on the visit so you remember your impressions of the school.

Can't make it to visit schools? Check out sites like *unigo.com* to read student reviews or visit a college's social media sites to see what current students think about their school.



### QUESTIONS FOR CURRENT STUDENTS

- What are the best reasons to go to this college?
- What's it like to go from high school to college?
- What do you do in your free time? On the weekends?
- What do you love about this college?
- What do you wish you could change about this college?
- Why did you choose this college?
- What is it like to live here?

Source: [BigFuture](#)

## DID YOU KNOW?

The majority of students apply to three or more colleges.

Source: [NACAC, 2011](#)

## COLLEGE MYTHS (AND REALITIES)

**MYTH:** The best time to visit colleges is after you have been admitted.

**REALITY:** Many students have fallen for this myth only to find that none of the colleges to which they were admitted "felt" right when they visited. If possible, you and your student should visit before she applies and again after she has been admitted. If she can visit only once, make it before she applies. And if it's not possible to visit at all, that's ok too! Explore online forums like *unigo.com* to learn more about the campus from the student perspective.

*Source: [pics.collegetrends.org/myths.cfm](http://pics.collegetrends.org/myths.cfm)*

## PARENT CHECKLIST

- ☐ **Visit a college campus with your student.** Serve as a chaperone for a school field trip, or visit a local community college or university. Eat in a dining hall, read the campus newspaper, and talk to current students and parents of students to see if the college will be a good "fit".
- ☐ **SENIORS – Make a final decision about where to attend college!** Help your student think through the process and consider all of the factors in choosing a college like distance from home, cost, academics, and more. Carefully review the financial aid award letters and ask the school if you have any questions. Most colleges require a confirmation and initial deposit by May 1.

## 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](http://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.