

Post High School Planning

Research and thoroughly decide your plans for after graduation! *Start now* and you will be able to access the most effective options for you!

- 1. 1-2 Year Degree at Community College –**
 - Help develop specific job skills, gain expertise in a defined field, and increase employability. (Columbia Gorge CC has a wind energy program, Mt Hood CC has an established mechanics program, CCC has a utilities workforce program for PGE, Linn Benton CC has a great nursing program, etc.)
 - Don't just go to school without a plan. Research your options!
 - Most have rolling admissions, which means you can apply at any time.

- 2. 1-2 Years at Community College With Plan to Transfer to 4 Year College –**
 - Save money and take required courses, work while you attend school to save for four year tuition costs, take a variety of courses to help decide a potential major.

- 3. Trade School –**
 - Do research on the program reputation and job placement after completion.
 - Typical programs could be beauty school, technology field, diesel mechanic, culinary school, etc.
 - Keep in mind there is no transfer of credits earned and can be very expensive.
 - Offers very specific instruction, transfers into other programs are not allowed, and the cost is not usually lessened with financial aid.
 - Great for those who are confident in their career path focus.

- 4. 4 Year College or University –**
 - Look into program availability, location, and activities/interests. Pay attention to deadlines, application info, etc. *Make a timeline for yourself!*
 - Visit schools if possible to get the best feel for the environment you'll live in. The cost is too high to not be in love with the whole package!
 - Research your options, remember that there are many NW schools that can pay in-state tuition for you using the Western Undergraduate Exchange or WUE.

- 5. Armed forces –**
 - If you are interested and would like more information on Army, Air Force, National Guard, Navy, Marines, etc. please see Mrs. DePeel in the career center.

- 6. Workforce –**
 - You will still need to be planning and preparing for employment. Work on your interview skills, build your resume, and increase your skills in areas of interest! Collect letters of recommendation or contacts for your application.

- 7. Experiential Year –**
 - Experiential year options could include work, internship, mission trips, and travel.
 - Many schools will defer your admission for one year.
 - It's much easier for you to apply now and defer than it is to wait and apply later.
 - Your responsibility and planning ahead of time will look impressive to colleges.

Post Graduate Planning Assistance

This fall counselors will meet with every senior to help with plans, including college applications, college searches, scholarship applications, 2 year degree programs, etc.

College Day

In April, 2015 Oregon University System representatives will share info about WOU, EOU, SOU, OSU, OSU-Cascades, U of O, OIT, and PSU. Representatives from MHCC, PCC and CCC will be here as well. Students will attend 2 breakout sessions of their choice. Research schools of interest ahead of time for questions for the representatives.

Paying for College Night

On Thursday, November 20th at 6pm, the director of financial aid from Reed College will provide a presentation to parents and students on filling out the FAFSA and other forms of financial aid and scholarships.

National College Fair

The National College Fair hosts colleges from all over the country and will take place Sunday, November 2nd from 1-5pm and Monday, November 3rd from 9am-12pm at the Oregon Convention Center. Register online at www.gotomyncf.com, where you can also find out what colleges will be represented. Do your research ahead of time and come prepared with questions!

NCAA Clearinghouse

If you are eligible and interested in competing in college athletics, and have been contacted by college coaches in regards to your participation, you must register with the NCAA Clearinghouse. There is a website for this below or you can google NCAA clearinghouse. The College Board website also has great information for prospective student athletes! There is a \$75 fee required to register. If you use a fee waiver for SAT or ACT or you are eligible for a fee waiver for the clearinghouse as well.

https://web1.ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter/student/index_student.html

Letters of Recommendation

There is a helpful packet in the counseling office to assist in asking for recommendations from staff, family friends, and community members.

Please remember:

- Always try to give people 2 weeks to complete the forms/letters.
- Provide a list of your skills and accomplishments, clubs/activities, and honors/awards.
- Try to provide any unique information about yourself that sets you apart from others.
- Provide a stamped and addressed envelope for the letter you request.
- Remember to send/deliver a thank you note for the people who wrote letters for you!

SAT/ACT

If you're planning on attending a four year college, you need to take one or the other. The SAT covers math, reading and writing. The ACT covers math, reading and science, with an optional writing section. Register online at www.collegeboard.com for the SAT and at www.actstudent.org for the ACT.

-There are example questions and tests on both websites (you can access these at school) if you are not sure which test to take. Most schools accept either test. Tests are held on Saturdays at various area high schools.

Remember that your counselors are here to help navigate you through this process! Please let us know if you need help at any point along the way!