



NEWS & INFORMATION ABOUT  
PLANNING FOR AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

# The GEAR UP Gazette

MARCH

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

## COMPARING COLLEGES

There are thousands of colleges in the United States, and over 45 community colleges, public universities and private colleges in Oregon. Whether your student has already applied, or is thinking of applying, it's important to narrow the list of colleges by what matters to your student. Use a search engine like the one at [bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search](http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search) to help find colleges that match your student's criteria and make a list of schools to consider applying to. Here are questions to consider when choosing colleges to apply to or attend:

### COLLEGE INFO

- Is it close to home or far away?
- Is it in a city, a suburb or in the country?
- How many students does it have?
- What is the student population like?
- How much does it cost?
- What is the net price for my family's income?

### ACADEMICS

- What majors or programs does it have that might be related to the career I'm interested in?
- What type of degree can I get?
- How many years will I be in school?
- How big are the classes?
- What GPA do I need to get in/what tests do I need to take?

### CAMPUS LIFE

- Can I live on campus, off campus or at home?
- Are there likely to be people from high school who will attend?
- Are there clubs, activities, or sports that I'm interested in?
- Are there sororities or fraternities?
- What do students do for fun on the weekends?

### DID YOU KNOW?

Students who fill out more than one college application are more likely to enroll.

Source: [College Board](http://College Board)

## COLLEGE MYTHS (AND REALITIES)

**MYTH:** If I haven't heard of a college or university, it can't be very good.

**REALITY:** You may not have heard of many of the nation's colleges – there are over 4,000 of them! Athletics on television is how most colleges get to be known, but many colleges do not get that kind of exposure. Some of the nation's finest colleges don't play big-time athletics. Judge a college on its own merits. Don't let name recognition determine a good or bad college.

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

## PARENT CHECKLIST

- JUNIORS – Make a list of potential colleges.** Talk with your student about their plans for after high school and the colleges they are interested in attending. Request information from colleges and review together.
- JUNIORS – Sign up for the SAT or ACT this spring.** Have your student sign up with plenty of time to prepare. Visit [collegeboard.org/testing](http://collegeboard.org/testing) or [actstudent.org/regist](http://actstudent.org/regist) for a location near you. Talk to the counselor to see if your student is eligible for a fee waiver. Prep for the tests with free online test prep materials.
- SENIORS – Confirm FAFSA information.** The Student Aid Report is a summary of what your student filled out on the FAFSA – offer to go over the information to make sure that everything is correct and make any changes if necessary by March 15.

## 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.