



NEWS & INFORMATION ABOUT
PLANNING FOR AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

The GEAR UP Gazette

JANUARY

FOR PARENTS OF 9TH & 10TH GRADE STUDENTS

COLLEGE: NOW 40% OFF!



College costs include tuition, fees, books, living expenses and transportation. However, **most students only pay about 60% of the advertised price** of a 4-year college, once grant aid is included (and don't forget about scholarships!)

Look for the “Net Price Calculator”

Colleges are *required* to have an application on their website which will approximate financial aid for your student and provide a more accurate estimate of tuition & fees.



ON THE HUNT FOR FINANCIAL AID

Financial aid is money to help pay for college. Most students receive some kind of financial aid to help pay for the cost of their education. How do you get it?

- **FAFSA (fafsa.ed.gov):** In order for your student to be eligible for grants, loans and work-study jobs, s/he must fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid during the school year prior to attending college. Many of the funds are first-come, first-serve so it's important to fill it out as soon after January 1 of the senior year as possible.
- **OSAC Scholarship Application (getcollegefunds.org):** The Oregon Student Access Commission administers over 450 different scholarships worth \$15 million specifically for Oregon students.
- **Scholarship Searches:** Colleges, businesses, religious organizations, and individuals give out college scholarships for all kinds of achievements. Some don't even require students to be seniors. Get started at fastweb.com or scholarships.com.

DID YOU KNOW?

The federal government gives out **\$150 billion** in student aid to help pay for college. Learn more at studentaid.ed.gov.



COLLEGE MYTHS (AND REALITIES)

MYTH: Only the very best students receive financial aid from colleges.

REALITY: If your student is admitted and has financial need, colleges generally want to make it possible for him to attend. In fact, the greatest proportion of financial assistance at private colleges tends to go to students in the middle of the class. High-ability students or students with special talents may receive "merit-based scholarships."

Source: pics.collegetrends.org/myths.cfm

PARENT CHECKLIST

- Start a college savings account.**
Talk with your local bank or credit union about setting up a 529 Savings Plan which will generate interest tax-free for your student's education. Your student might be eligible for an Individual Development Account that could match their savings 3:1!
- Complete the FAFSA4Caster.**
Get an idea of the amount of financial aid your student can expect to receive – and make the process easier in the future! Get started today at www.fafsa.ed.gov
- Fill out the [OSAC Activity Chart](#) & update at least yearly.**
Students fill out the OSAC application their senior year of high school to be eligible for \$15 million in scholarship awards. Get a head start by having students keep track of school accomplishments and activities, volunteer hours, and part-time jobs to be eligible for more scholarships and to identify areas where students should consider getting involved.

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

For more information about

paying for college, contact: email Peggy Anthony - peggy.anthony@elginsd.org

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.

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