



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:

Degree Type	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
Source	<i>Oregon Department of Education for the graduating class of 2014</i>	<i>Oregon University System for the entering class of 2014</i>	

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, matriculate, 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.

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 she 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

March 7 - 7th Grade Meet a Professional with OTEC

March 8 - 8th Grade Field Trip to EOU, Union Co. Courthouse/Jail and Grande Ronde Hospital

April 12 - 7th Grade Meet a Professional with Jamie Jo Haddock, Elgin Nurse Practitioner

April 27-28 - 8th Grade OMSI, OHSU, and MHCC Field Trip

For more information, contact:

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.