



NEWS & INFORMATION ABOUT  
PLANNING FOR AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

# The GEAR UP Gazette

NOVEMBER

FOR PARENTS OF 9<sup>TH</sup> & 10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS

## COLLEGE DEGREES 101

College degrees are not one-size-fits all. The type of degree your student achieves and the type of school he will go to depends on the type of career he is interested in.

Degree Type	# of years	Description	Sample Career	Average salary
Certificate/Diploma	1-2	Prepares students for entry-level professional jobs or adds to existing knowledge with new job skills.	Computer Technician Medical Assistant Truck Driver	<b>\$37,388</b>
Apprenticeship	2-3	Combines classroom study with on-the-job training.	Automotive Technician Electrician Fire Fighter	<b>\$37,388</b>
Associate's Degree (A.A., A.S.)	2-3	Concentrates on the skills needed for a specific career or the transfer to a four-year college to complete a bachelor's degree.	Dental Hygienist Engineering Technician Legal Assistant	<b>\$39,936</b>
Bachelor's Degree (B.A., B.S.)	4-6	Requires general and specific coursework in one or two subjects for in-depth study.	Accountant Architect Computer Engineer	<b>\$54,756</b>
Master's Degree (M.A., M.S.)	6-8	Builds on information the student learned for the bachelor's degree, but is more focused.	Librarian School Counselor Physician Assistant	<b>\$65,676</b>
Professional Degree (M.D., J.D.)	6-8	Concentrates on advanced study of specific careers and often requires the student to pass a state or national exam.	Dentist Veterinarian Lawyer	<b>\$86,580</b>
Doctoral Degree (Ph.D.)	6-8	Advanced study of specific subjects and is the highest degree offered. The student researches and writes a lengthy paper, which must be defended in front of a panel of experts.	College Professor Physical Therapist Psychologist	<b>\$80,652</b>

Source: *Within My Reach* – Minnesota Office of Higher Education

### DID YOU KNOW?

The majority (61%) of Oregon high school seniors enroll in college or a university within a year of graduating. The state has set a goal that by 2025, 80% of students will go on to postsecondary education.

## COLLEGE MYTHS (AND REALITIES)

**MYTH:** A 4-year college and degree is better than a 2-year college and degree.

**REALITY:** The experiences and degrees offered by 2-year and 4-year colleges will be different, but one is not necessarily “better”. Students should choose the type of college they attend and degree they get based on what they might be interested in doing and the kind of college experience they are interested in. As the chart shows on the first page, a higher degree usually translates to increased income, although there are many 2-year degree programs whose graduates earn more than those with a Bachelor’s degree.

## PARENT CHECKLIST

- Talk about future career options with your student.** Discuss interests and research the type of degree needed for potential occupations. Check out [www.mynextmove.org](http://www.mynextmove.org) to browse careers and get a sense of how much education your student will need.
- Explore college options.** After choosing the type of degree your student is interested in, visit [bigfuture.collegeboard.org](http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org) to search for schools that offer the programs and other characteristics your student might be interested in (close to home or out-of-state? big or small?)
- Continue talking to your student about the importance of college and doing well in school.** Your opinions and high expectations matter!

## 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.