



MAKE THE SUMMER COUNT



Your student deserves a break, but make sure she's on track for college, too.

JUNIORS

- **SAT/ACT PREP:** If you didn't do as well on your college entrance test as you had hoped, study up to take it again in the fall.
- **WRITE A DRAFT:** Practice writing college or scholarships essays now.
- **SAVE SOME CA\$H:** Get a summer job and save a portion of the earnings for college.
- **GET EXPERIENCE:** Explore your career interests and add to your activities for college applications by volunteering or with an internship.

Source: [BigFuture](#)

SENIORS

- **SAVE SOME CA\$H:** Get a summer job and save a portion of the earnings for college.
- **GET EXPERIENCE:** Explore your career interests by volunteering or with an internship.
- **ATTEND ORIENTATION:** Get your questions answered, meet new people and learn your way around.
- **MAKE A PLAN:** Make a packing list, build a budget, get a bank account, and make a list of activities or clubs to try and people or services to help you at college.

DID YOU KNOW?

Oregon students who attend college full-time are more likely to complete their degree.

Source: [Complete College America, 2011](#)

COLLEGE MYTHS (AND REALITIES)

MYTH: It's difficult to transfer colleges.

REALITY: Many students choose to start college at a 2-year institution and then transfer to a 4-year college. Other students might realize that the college they're attending isn't the best fit and want to try a new school. Either way, colleges will help your student with the transfer process. In Oregon, many of the public universities have agreements with the community colleges, so it's easy to transfer credits. In addition, most schools have a special orientation session just for transfer students so your student can get support and make friends.

PARENT CHECKLIST

- Help your student stay involved this summer with camps, programs, volunteering or even a job.** Combat boredom and prevent learning loss by insisting your student stay on a (somewhat) regular schedule and participate in summer programs, volunteering or finding a job like mowing lawns or babysitting. Encourage your student to contribute a percentage of any summer earnings to the account.
- JUNIORS – Get prepped for college applications.** Encourage your student to narrow their list of college choices and make a list of deadlines and requirements, as well as the actual (net price) you can expect to pay. Help proof college and scholarship essays.
- SENIORS – Plan for the transition to college.** Help your student make lists of what to bring to college. Discuss finances and setting up banking information, attend orientations at the college, and talk about what makes your student excited and nervous.
- Visit college campuses.** If you're near a college, stop by to walk around and have lunch at a dining hall or near campus. Many schools offer free tours even in summer.

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 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.