



## IT'S A PLAN: 12TH GRADE CHECKLISTS

The senior year is critical for students to meet deadlines and complete forms as part of the college application and financial aid process. Therefore, Oregon GEAR UP created a series of comprehensive checklists for educators, students and families that address key action items for each month. In addition, there are printable handouts, links to resources, and communication tools like weekly text messages and Facebook posts.

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. **Get a team.** It's important to provide a network of support. Include administrators, teachers, parents and students to help share these messages.
2. **Make a communications plan.** Determine when and how you will share information to students and families; consider more than one method. Make sure you have students and families cell phone numbers, e-mails or mailing addresses if you plan to communicate in those ways.
3. **Download** each month's checklists and communication tools as one PDF file and any additional resources; print the resources that you want to use.

## FEBRUARY RESOURCES

### CHECKLISTS

- Educators [page 2](#)
- Students [page 3](#)
- Families [page 4](#)
- Familias (Spanish) [page 5](#)

### COMMUNICATION

- Text Messages [page 6](#)
- Announcements [page 7](#)
- Posters [page 8](#)
- Facebook [facebook.com/oregongoestocollege](https://facebook.com/oregongoestocollege)

### HANDOUTS

- Writing Essays
- College & Scholarship Organizer

Download handouts and other months:

[oregongoestocollege.org/itsaplan/educators/downloads](https://oregongoestocollege.org/itsaplan/educators/downloads)

# FEBRUARY

## 1 Visit campus

- Give students information about Preview Days on college campuses and/or organize field trips to popular schools.

## 2 Continue applying for scholarships.

- Hold one or more scholarship application events for students, to provide assistance in filling out the OSAC application as well as other scholarships.
- The Early Bird Deadline for OSAC is mid-February; final deadline is March 1.
- Assign scholarship application essay questions as part of regular school assignments and encourage peer editing for multiple drafts.

## 3 Get a check up.

- Inform students that many colleges require (Measles) or recommend (flu, HPV, Hepatitis B) certain immunizations before enrolling.

## 4 Confirm FAFSA info.

- Remind students and their families that filing taxes earlier than the April 15 deadline is critical to ensuring they can access federal and state financial aid.
- Offer assistance in reviewing the Student Aid Report (SAR) for the FAFSA with students and parents.

NOTES:

# FEBRUARY

## 1 Visit campus.

- Many colleges hold special Preview Days for admitted students; make an effort to attend and get to know the campus and the people!

## 2 Continue applying for scholarships.

- Write and edit your scholarship essay(s). Ask a teacher or adult to help proof your final version.
- The Early Bird Deadline for OSAC is **mid-February**; final deadline is **March 1**.
- Apply to as many scholarships as you can!

## 3 Get a check up.

- Colleges in Oregon require (Measles) or recommend (flu, HPV, Hepatitis B) certain immunizations before enrolling. Make sure you are healthy and ready to go!

## 4 Confirm FAFSA info.

- The Student Aid Report is a summary of what you filled out on the FAFSA - make sure that all of the information is correct and make any changes.

### KEY TERMS:

**PREVIEW DAYS** are one option for visiting colleges where you've been admitted. You'll get to meet potential classmates, tour the campus, and learn more about what it will be like to be a student there. There will probably be presentations especially for parents, too. Some students prefer to visit colleges on non-Preview Days because they'd rather not be part of a large group. Either option is fine, as long as you're using the opportunity to get to know your potential new school!

### NOTES:

**NEXT MONTH:** Keep up the good work; confirm summer plans.

# FEBRUARY

The key deadline this month: the Oregon Student Access Commission (OSAC) Scholarship Application is due **March 1** (even better – if your student gets it in by **mid-February** he or she will be eligible for an early bird scholarship drawing of \$500). This one application lets your student apply for over 500 different scholarships just for Oregon residents.

One student who won a full scholarship for four years of college put it best: “Applying for scholarships can be the best part-time job you’ll ever have.”

## 1 Visit campus.

- ❑ Join your student on school field trips or attend special Preview Days on college campuses for admitted or potential students.

## 2 Continue applying for scholarships.

- ❑ Offer to help edit or proofread your student’s scholarship essays.
- ❑ Help your student search for scholarships online and check with your employer or organizations you might be a part of for scholarship opportunities.
- ❑ Remind him/her of key deadlines, especially the OSAC application due on March 1.

## 3 Get a check up.

- ❑ Colleges in Oregon require (Measles) or recommend (flu, HPV, Hepatitis B) certain immunizations before enrolling. Make sure your student is healthy and ready to go!

## 4 Confirm FAFSA info.

- ❑ 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.

### CONVERSATION STARTERS

How many scholarships are you applying to?

When you’re feeling stress, what is something that helps you relax?

## FEBRERO

La fecha clave de este mes: La fecha limite para la aplicación de becas a través de la Comisión de acceso de estudiante de Oregon (OSAC) es el primero de marzo. ( aun mejor- si su estudiante entrega su aplicación a mediados de febrero podría ser elegible para una beca anticipada de \$500). Esta una aplicación permite que su estudiante solicite mas de 500 becas diferentes por ser estudiante de Oregon. Un estudiante que gano una beca completa para sus cuatro anos de colegio lo dice mejor: "Aplicar a becas puede ser el mejor trabajo de medio tiempo que jamás tendré."

### 1 Visite el campus.

- ❑ Acompañe a su estudiante a los colegios/ universidades durante días especiales de excursión para estudiantes de la preparatoria.

### 2 Continúa aplicando para becas.

- ❑ Ofrezca le a su estudiante su ayuda en editar y corregir los ensayos.
- ❑ Ayude a su estudiante a buscar becas en línea y averigüe con su empleador o otras organizaciones de cuales pertenece sobre oportunidades de becas.
- ❑ Recuerde le a su estudiante sobre las importante fechas limites, especialmente sobre la aplicación de OSAC que es el 1 de marzo.

### 3 Revísate.

- ❑ Las universidades en Oregon requieren (sarampión) o recomiendan (gripe, VPH, Hepatitis B) ciertas vacunas antes de matricularse. Asegúrese que su estudiante este sano y listo para el colegio.

### 4 Confirma tu información en FAFSA.

- ❑ El informe de ayuda estudiantil es un resumen de lo que su estudiante llenó en la FAFSA- ofrezca revisar la información para asegurarse que todo este correcto.

#### TEMAS DE CONVERSACIÓN

¿A cuántas becas has aplicado?

¿Cuándo te sientes estresado(a) que es algo que te ayuda a relajarte?

## FEBRUARY TEXT MESSAGES

Use a free text messaging service like [remind.com](http://remind.com) to connect with seniors and their families. Schedule messages ahead of time and customize them with information from your school. You can also tweet these if Twitter is popular at your school.

week	student text message	family text message (English)	family text message (Spanish)
1	Check college calendars for preview days. Make an effort to go and get to know faculty, staff, and current & future students.	Take your child to visit colleges. Attend a preview day or go on official tours. Explore their potential new college home!	Lleve a su hijo a visitar los colegios. Visite durante vistas preliminares o cual que otro día. Explore el nuevo posible hogar de su hijo.
2	More applications - this time for scholarships. Apply apply apply. The OSAC early-bird deadline is coming up!	It's scholarship season! Offer to proofread essays or search for possible scholarships and give gentle deadline reminders.	Es temporada de becas. Ofrezca revisar los ensayos o buscar posible becas y acuérdeles de las fechas limites.
3	Forget "an apple a day keeps the doctor away." Eat your apple AND visit the doctor! Colleges require check-ups and immunizations.	Call the doctor! Colleges require check-ups and shots for enrollment. Beat the summer rush and schedule an appointment now.	Llame al médico! Las universidades requieren chequeos físicos y vacunas. No se espere hasta el verano haga su cita ahora.
4	Get all the \$ you can! Confirm FAFSA info: update your Student Aid Report.	One more step for FAFSA: confirm and update the Student Aid Report and access \$\$ for college.	Un paso mas para la FAFSA: su estudiante pueda actualizar su informe estudiantil de ayuda financiera y pueda tener acceso al \$\$ para el colegio.

## FEBRUARY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Help seniors stay on track with weekly school announcements outlining the key steps to preparing for life after high school.

week	school announcement
1	Visiting colleges where you applied is an important step in making your final decision about which campus will become your new academic home. Go to as many preview days as you can. When you're on campus, make an effort to meet as many people as possible – faculty, staff, students.
2	You know going to college costs money. Did you know you can cut down on the costs by applying for scholarships? The early-bird deadline for the OSAC scholarship application is coming up soon. Make sure you've written your essays and had someone proofread them for you! Then submit your application – don't miss the final March 1 deadline!
3	Colleges care about more than just your academics! They care about your health, too. Oregon colleges and universities require that your immunizations are current before you can enroll for classes. We want you to be healthy, too, so we recommend that you take care of this step sooner rather than later.
4	Nice work on getting your FAFSA filed and ensuring that all of your potential colleges have access to the information. There's one more step to ensuring you'll be able to access all of the state and federal financial aid you're eligible for. Now's the time to confirm all your FAFSA data by reviewing and updating your Student Aid Report.

# SENIOR TO DO

**FEBRUARY**

**1**  
**Visit campus.**

Sign up to visit campus during special Preview Days  
or with school field trips.

Learn more: [oregongoestocollege.org/itsaplan](http://oregongoestocollege.org/itsaplan)



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# SENIOR TO DO

**FEBRUARY**

**Continue to  
apply for  
scholarships.**

Fill out the OSAC Scholarship Application and be eligible for over 450 scholarships with over \$15 million. Apply to as many additional scholarships as you can!

Learn more: [oregongoescollege.org/itsaplan](http://oregongoescollege.org/itsaplan)



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# SENIOR TO DO

**FEBRUARY**

## Get a check up.

Oregon colleges require a measles immunization and recommend other vaccines. Make sure you're healthy and ready to go!

Learn more: [oregongoestocollege.org/itsaplan](http://oregongoestocollege.org/itsaplan)



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# SENIOR TO DO

**FEBRUARY**

**Confirm FAFSA  
4  
info.**

**Review and correct Student Aid Report by March 15.**

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