Read these weekly during school announcements to encourage a college-going culture and increase knowledge about the importance and steps for a college degree.

## The benefits of college

* Who wants to be a millionaire? Well, people with a college degree earn almost a million dollars more over their lifetime than those with just a high school diploma. Oregon Goes To College can help you get ready for college, so check out oregongoestocollege.org
* There’s one important way to make sure you’re less likely to be unemployed and more likely to have a job with benefits like health insurance. That one way: college. Visit oregongoestocollege.org to learn more about getting ready for college.
* Everybody’s doing it. College, that is. There are over 20 million students in college across the country – and over 20,000 high school seniors in Oregon enter a community college or university after they graduate. Find out how to be part of the crowd at oregongoestocollege.org.
* What do you love to do? Imagine if you could get paid to watch sports, read books, or play music. Going to college allows you to study the things you love to do – and get a job in that field. Get help from your school counselor or at oregongoestocollege.org.
* If you go to college, there’s a much better chance that in the future you will be healthy, fit, and volunteer in your community. Make your future count! Check out oregongoestocollege.org to get information and tips on preparing for college.
* Would you rather earn $39,000 or $65,000 a year? That’s the $26,000 difference between a high school diploma and a 4-year Bachelor’s degree. Learn about the other benefits of college at *oregongoestocollege.org*.

## Paying for college/financial aid awareness

* Worried about how to pay for college? Filling out the FAFSA or the Free Application for Federal Student Aid is the best way to get money for college. Get grants, loans, and scholarships from the federal government and colleges by filling out this one form! Undocumented students in Oregon can get state financial aid by filling out the ORSAA or Oregon Student Aid Application. Visit oregonstudentaid.gov to learn more.
* There’s $150 billion up for grabs to help pay for college. Want to get your hands on a chunk of that? Just fill out the FAFSA when it opens in December. Undocumented students in Oregon can get state financial aid by filling out the ORSAA or Oregon Student Aid Application. See the school counselor for more information or check out oregonstudentaid.gov.
* Seniors - want a great part-time job? Spend a few hours each week applying for scholarships. Visit oregongoestocollege.org to learn more and make your list of scholarships to apply to.
* “If you think education is expensive, try ignorance.” In fact, most students only pay about 60% of the advertised price of a 4-year college – and can usually get grants, loans and scholarships to help pay that amount. Learn more about how to pay for college at oregongoestocollege.org.
* Free money for college? That’s called a scholarship. Apply for multiple scholarships with just one application at oregonstudentaid.gov.
* 40%-off sale, at four-year colleges! It’s true; most students only pay about 60% of the advertised price of a 4-year college. Check out other ways to pay for college at oregongoestocollege.org.
* Make money with zero effort! It sounds too good to be true, but college savings accounts accrue interest, which means that you make money for just having it sit there. The more money you save, the more money you earn. Learn more at oregoncollegesavings.com.
* Private colleges aren’t out of reach – often four-year, non-profit schools have more scholarships and financial aid to offer than four-year public schools. Explore Oregon’s private colleges at *oregongoestocollege.org.*

## Exploring careers, majors and college programs

* Did you know? 6 out of 10 jobs in Oregon require some type of education or training beyond high school to be competitive. Figure out what job you want – and how to get there by starting at oregongoestocollege.org.
* College is pretty cool. You can get a certificate in just a few months or spend several years learning and practicing a subject you love, like playing or recording music, helping people who are sick, or teaching children. Learn about different careers and majors – go to learnhowtobecome.org to get started.
* Community colleges are a great option: earn a certificate to become a welder in less than a year, get your Associate degree in veterinary technology in two years, or take classes that will transfer to a four-year school. Explore Oregon’s community colleges at oregongoestocollege.org.
* Do you love sports? Consider being an athletic trainer – there are four-year degrees in Exercise & Sports Science at Oregon State University. Visit their website for more information.
* If you like to argue, chances are people have said you would be a good lawyer. Willamette University’s law school is top-notch – and you can get your bachelor’s and law degree in six years.
* There’s a college degree for all of you people that want to be outside and travelling – check out OSU Cascades and a chance to major in International or Adventure Tourism.
* Small schools still offer lots of majors. For example, Pacific University offers programs in dental hygiene, Spanish, dance, business and much more.
* Are you an aspiring doctor or nurse? What about diagnostic medical sonography? If you’re not sure what that is, visit OIT’s website to learn more about their programs for careers in the medical field.
* Future teachers should check out education programs at Western Oregon University – get hands-on experience and a teaching certificate in four years!
* Do you dream of food? Become a chef, baker, or restaurant manager at Southwestern Oregon Community College’s culinary arts program.
* Are you ready for life in the big city? Portland State University has more than 60 majors to choose from – anything from space and planetary science to dance to sustainable urban development.
* Firefighting in your future? You can protect your state and community with a degree in Fire Science from Umpqua Community College.
* Want to study Math and Music? At many colleges, including Eastern Oregon University, you can major in one subject, minor in another, or create your own program!
* Did you know you can get college credit for watching movies? At University of Oregon, you can get a degree in Cinema Studies – which means you get to make (and watch!) a lot of movies.
* Are you a drama queen or someone who loves fashion? Southern Oregon University has a thriving theatre arts program with concentrations in acting and costuming, among others!
* Visit a college campus across the state or across the country from the comfort of your couch – most colleges offer virtual tours and online info sessions. Learn how else to explore colleges at *oregongoestocollege.org.*

## Preparing for college

* College. It’s a plan. What’s your plan for after high school? Is it trade school, community college, a 4-year university or the military? If you’re not sure or want some help, come to the counseling office anytime during lunch or after school!
* There are three key steps to getting ready for college. Number one – focus on doing well in school. This is the most important thing in getting into and succeeding in college. Learn more about how to build good habits and stay on track at oregongoestocollege.org.
* There are three key steps to getting ready for college. Number two – spend time with positive people and activities. Who you hang out with matters, so get a support system of friends, family, and mentors that want to see you succeed. Learn more about how to get involved at oregongoestocollege.org.
* There are three key steps to getting ready for college. Number three – explore your options for education beyond high school. Learn about different colleges and how to pay for it using financial aid. Learn more at oregongoestocollege.org.
* Are you on track for graduation? How about admission to college? Getting into college means taking the right classes in high school. Learn the classes you need to take at oregongoestocollege.org and stop by the counselor’s office if you want to make sure you’re on track for college.
* Do you play sports, play an instrument, have a part-time job, or are part of a school club? Then congratulations, you’re preparing to apply for college. These are all opportunities to figure out what your passions are, or aren’t – and they’re great to put on your college application. Learn more about preparing for college at oregongoestocollege.org.
* PSAT…ACT…SAT – what do all those letters mean? You may want or need to take these college admissions tests to earn scholarships or get into certain colleges. Learn more about the tests at oregongoestocollege.org or talk to the counselor about signing up to take these tests as early as your sophomore year.