



JUNIOR NEWSLETTER

Ashland High School

Winter 2017



COLLEGE INFORMATION MEETING **Thursday, March 16**

AHS counseling staff will present a college information night for junior parents and students on **Thursday, March 16th from 7:00-8:30 pm in the IVC**. Topics to be covered will include the process of applying to community colleges and state/private schools, financial aid/scholarships, and college entrance tests.

OREGON COMMUNITY COLLEGES

There are 17 community colleges in Oregon serving more than 300,000 students. These schools offer an extensive array of professional training programs in fields such as Mechanics, Electronics, Culinary Arts, Massage Therapy, Dental Hygiene, Physical Therapy and many others. You can get the skills you need in a year or two, and graduate ready to enter the job market. You can also do your general education credits at a community college, and then transfer to a four-year university.

Tuition is significantly less at a Community College than at a four year university or for-profit vocational school. Community colleges offer open enrollment, meaning there are no admissions requirements. Students starting at a community college **do not** need to take the ACT/SAT.

In 2015, our state launched the Oregon Promise program, offering new high school graduates and GED recipients the opportunity to have all or the majority of their community college tuition covered by federal and state grants. To qualify for the Oregon Promise, students must graduate from an Oregon high school with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher, have been an Oregon resident for at least 12 months prior to enrolling in community college, and begin attending college within six months of high school graduation. To learn more about the Oregon Promise visit www.oregonpromise.org.

OREGON PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

Admissions requirements for Oregon Public Universities include English (4 years), Math - Algebra I and above - (3 years), Science (3 years), Social Studies (2 years) and Foreign Language (2 years); students must receive a C- or better in all of these classes. SAT/ACT scores are required.

OIT, OSU, PSU, SOU, UO and WOU require a minimum GPA of 3.0; EOU requires a minimum GPA of 2.75. Universities may conduct more comprehensive reviews of applicants who do not meet the required courses/GPA for admission.

COLLEGE ENTRANCE TESTS

We highly recommend juniors take the SAT and/or ACT this spring if they are planning to apply to a four-year university or college. Students should always sign up for the additional essay portions of these tests, as some schools will not accept test scores without them. To register, students should complete the online application at **www.sat.org** or **www.actstudent.org**. Juniors considering highly selective schools may need to take SAT Subject Tests. Check to see if the schools you are considering require SAT/ACT tests or are test optional. Students who qualify for free/reduced lunch are eligible for a fee waiver for these tests. See Karyn Barats in the counseling office for more information.

SAT DATES – SPRING 2017			
Test Date	Location	Deadline	Late
3/11/17	Ashland	2/10/17	2/28/17
5/6/17	Ashland	4/7/17	4/25/17
6/3/17	Ashland	5/9/17	5/24/17
ACT DATES – SPRING 2017			
Test Date	Location	Deadline	Late
4/8/17	Ashland	3/3/17	3/31/17
6/10/17	Roseburg	5/5/17	6/2/17

ASPIRE COLLEGE AND CAREER ADVISING

ASPIRE's trained volunteers help students explore their educational options after high school. Mentors can assist students in researching colleges, preparing their admissions and scholarship applications, understanding the financial aid process, and many other aspects of the road to post-secondary education. ASPIRE is available on a first come/first served basis. To get an ASPIRE application, contact Jen Marsden in the counseling office.

OREGON CIS

The Oregon Career Information System (CIS) provides a wealth of information on careers, programs of study, and colleges and universities. The website, which is located at <http://oregoncis.uoregon.edu>, also contains interest and skill assessments to help students determine careers that may be of interest to them. Students have their own login. Parents can access CIS with the following: username AMentor4U, password 123456.

CHOOSING A COLLEGE

If you're planning to attend college, how do you decide which schools to consider? Do you love science and/or the arts? Dream of living in a big city? Spend time thinking about the following questions, which will help you determine which schools will be a good match for you.

- What are your academic and/or career goals: Do you know what you want to study? Does the school offer that program? Or a pathway to get to your goal?
- What kind of school do you want to attend: Liberal Arts, Vocational? Public or Private University, Community College? Why?
- What are the admissions requirements: Do you meet the minimum GPA and have suggested high school courses? Need SAT/ACT scores?
- Can you afford the schools that interest you: What are your financial constraints? Use the FAFSA4caster to see if you qualify for federal grants and the net price calculators available on college websites to determine your out of pocket costs.
- What size school do you want: Big or small? In between? Visit campuses to help you get a feel for what may be right for you.
- Where do you want to be: close to home or far away? Urban, suburban, rural? Why?
- What lifestyle do you want: Are you looking for fraternities/sororities, competitive/recreational sports, active arts organizations? Try to select schools which have activities that interest you.

The way to begin to answer these questions is to do your research: look at college handbooks and websites, explore CIS, visit campuses, talk to your parents, counselor, friends and current college students.

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS: HOW MANY??

How many schools should your final list include? This varies by individual: each student will have a different set of criteria, which should include having cost of attendance options when making a final decision. Students are discouraged, regardless of academic ability, from "putting all their eggs in one basket" by applying to schools at only one level (reach schools). As a general rule, students looking at more selective colleges apply to four to six schools, which vary in terms of admissions difficulty, but have the important features desired by the student.

A student interested in highly selective colleges should have a final list which includes schools from each of the following categories:

Category I: This group consists of "highly selective" schools. Admission is usually less than 10%.

Category II: Schools that possess the significant features a student desires and at which the probability of admission is slightly better than even. Consider these "very selective" schools.

Category III: Schools to which a student's acceptance is assured are referred to as "selective schools." This may be **the most important group** as all students should have at least one selective school they are excited about attending.

There are no hard and fast rules for the college application process. Some students who know where they want to attend, meet all of that school's admission requirements, and can afford the cost of attendance, may apply to just one "selective school." It is good to remember that there is usually a non-refundable application fee (\$35-\$75) for each school. Fee waivers may be available for students who qualify for free/reduced lunch.

COLLEGE VISITS

Many colleges send representatives to AHS during the school year. Other colleges hold regional information sessions. Contact admissions offices and ask them to notify you about opportunities in our area. The following colleges/universities visited AHS this school year, and should return in the fall of 2017:

Corban, EOU, Evergreen, Gonzaga, Lewis & Clark, Linfield, Northwest Christian, OIT, OSU, Pacific NW College of Art, Pacific University, PSU, Reed, Seattle University, SOU, St. Olaf, University of Montana, U of O, University of Portland, University of Puget Sound, US Naval Academy, USC, WOU, Willamette, Whitman and Whitworth

ECMC COLLEGE NIGHT: April 26

Overwhelmed by the thought of planning for college? You're not alone. Students of all ages (and their parents) can join us for **College Night**—a free, college-planning event here at AHS on **Wednesday, April 26th** in the IVC. Get answers to your questions about college admissions, the financial aid process, scholarships and more! Free pizza and drinks will be available at 6:30 pm and the presentation will run from 7:00-8:00 pm. Students will also have the opportunity to win one of three \$500 scholarships that will be raffled off! **College Night** can help you start to see college as an affordable, attainable goal—and give you the tools to get there. For more information, go to www.collegenights.org or contact Jen Marsden in the Counseling Office.

~ Provided by the AHS Counseling Office ~