



College Preparation

This checklist will help you keep track of what to do if your desire is to attend a 4 year university upon graduation. If you decide to attend a community college first, then some things will not apply.

9th Grade & 10th Grade

- Use CIS to track your community Service/Volunteerism/Awards/Achievements in your PEP
- GPA (Keep at least a 3.0) - "C" or higher in all core classes
- Maintain a solid attendance record and take challenging courses
- Join clubs and activities in or outside of school
- Visit college campuses and attend college and career fairs
- Use CIS to prepare and practice for your PSAT
- Sign up to meet with college admission reps at your high school (log on to www.westsalehigh.com, click under Counseling Center/College Visits for complete list)
- Visit regularly with your counselor to stay on the path to meet your goals

11th Grade

- Use CIS to track your community service/volunteer work/awards/achievements/work experience in your PEP
- Use CIS to prepare for your PSAT (taken in October). Take the PSAT your junior year. It is the only year it counts for the National Merit Scholarship Competition.
- Use CIS to also practice for SAT and ACT exam
- Register to take SAT or ACT late spring of your junior year. Check to see if the colleges you are applying to want you to take the SAT Plus Writing or the ACT Plus Writing.
- Sign up to meet with college admission reps at your high schools (log on to www.westsalehigh.com, click under Counseling Center/College Visits for complete list)
- GPA (keep it at a 3.0 or higher)
- Maintain a solid attendance record and take challenging courses
- Job shadow fields of interest
- Attend college & career fairs and college preview days or set up your own personal campus visit
- Narrow your search to just a few schools you really like (recommendation is 3-5)
- If you hope to play sports in college register with the NCAA Eligibility Center and meet with your counselor

12th Grade

- Use CIS to track your community service/volunteer work/awards/achievements/work experience in your PEP
- Organize yourself with college application deadlines and scholarship deadlines
- Rule of thumb is to have minimum of 3 schools you want to attend.
 - Reach School - your dream school, but tough to get in (less than 30% chance of admission)
 - Target School - decent chance of gaining admission (30%-80%)
 - Safety School - almost guaranteed admission (greater than 80% chance)
- Know which schools you are applying use the Common Application - transcripts will be sent automatically with Common Application. Many schools have their own applications, familiarize yourself with what the school wants in which you want to attend
- Order transcripts online at www.westsalehigh.com, counseling center, transcript request. You can order official or unofficial and request to have them sent directly to the college or choose to pick them up.
- Maintain a full class load of challenging courses and maintain a solid attendance record
- Take the SAT and/or ACT in the fall if you were not satisfied with your junior spring results
- Continue to use CIS to take practice SAT/ACT exams
- Complete your college applications (meet the deadlines!)
- Continuously search and apply for scholarships - use financial aid sort in CIS and go to www.westsalehigh.com, Scholarships Page for a listing of national and local scholarships
- Meet with the ASPIRE Coordinator if you need help and mentoring with the college and scholarship application process
- Continue to attend College and Career fairs and Financial Aid events in the local community
- Submit your FAFSA online (FAFSA.ed.gov) beginning October 1st of senior year
- Submit OSAC Scholarship Application in February (scholarship database for Oregon students)
- Continue to sign up and meet with college admission reps at your high schools (log on to www.westsalehigh.com, click under Counseling Center/College Visits for complete list)
- Attend college preview days in the fall or set up your own personal campus visit if you still haven't narrowed your search
- Ask teachers, counselors, employers, coaches, pastors, etc for Letters of Recommendation
- Check with local community colleges and career/tech schools for enrollment information
- Continue to job shadow fields of interest