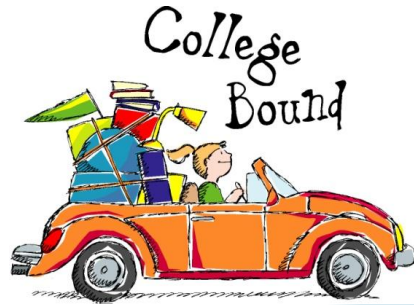


Making Your College Application Stand Out



Reality Check - Approximate Needs for College Acceptance

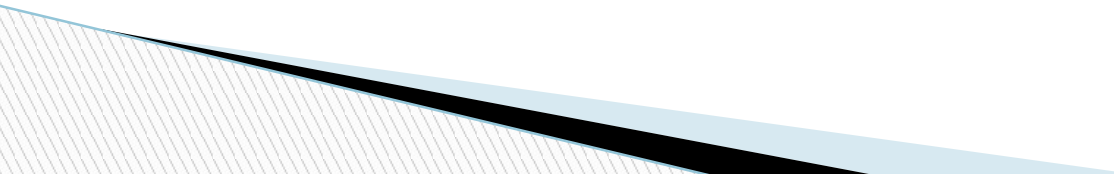
PCC	No GPA Requirement
PSU, Western Oregon	2.5 GPA, HS grad with C or better in Algebra 2, 2 years of foreign language
Oregon State/ Univ of Oregon	3.2-3.3 GPA, HS Grad with Algebra 2, 2 years of foreign language Engineering - Intro to Calculus
Ivy League, Purdue, Stanford	Minimum 3.85 GPA, Intro to Calculus, Foreign Language, Activities, Great Essay, Diversity/uniqueness
California Public Colleges	Includes a requirement of 2 years of art

Holistic Approach

- Academics
- School & community involvement
- First in family to attend college
- Ethnic background
- Where you live
- Interests
- Personal Qualities - Essay
- Field of Study



What are colleges looking for?

- ▣ Students who
 - Love to learn and study
 - Are changemakers
 - Have a passion
 - Are able to overcome obstacles in life
 - Are involved in the community
 - Are leaders
 - Are invested in helping others
- 

Academics



- GPA importance
- GPA calculator - <https://gpacalculator.io/cumulative-gpa-calculator/>
- Overcoming a poor grade
- Taking advanced classes (IB, college, honors)

Activities

- Sports - school or club
- Clubs
- Scouts
- Church
- Musical instruction or performance
- Work



Volunteering

- Interest & Passion
- Field of Study Interest
- Finding opportunities - TuHS C&CC website
- Local Opportunities
 - Spruce up the Library - Fri, April 22, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm
 - Tualatin Great Camp
 - Team Tualatin
 - Tualatin Put Down the Roots
 - TuHS Packleader

VOLUNTEER



Tip: Record Activities & Community Service Now

Example:**Freshman Year**

Track (varsity 400 meter)

Helped at Middle School track meet, April 2019, 4 hours, handed out water

Sophomore Year

Cross Country (Junior varsity)

Track (varsity 400 meter)

Homecoming - October 2019, 2 hours, made posters

Team Tualatin, July 2020, 40 hours, painted park equipment, weeded, planted trees

Junior Year

Packleader - 30 hours, attended training, led incoming freshman

Regatta Run - October 2021, 3 hours, helped set up balloon arch

Tualatin Putting Down Roots - November 2021, 3 hours, planted trees

Tip: Be a leader

- Become an officer in a club
- Lead a community service project
- Lead a one time event in a club
- Class project



What if I can't be involved?



- Family responsibilities can count as activities
- Opportunity to explain on college essay

Letters of Recommendation

*Identify 2-3 adults who know you well

- Teacher
- Coach
- Boss
- Club Advisor
- NOT family or friend



*Brag Sheet - on College and Career Website

*Tips:

- Give adequate time for recommender to write letter
- Give them specifics - academics, specific qualities, challenges or activity involvement
- May not be needed for college applications
- Be sure to thank recommender

Rising to the Top of the Pile

- Be competitive with other applicants
- Demonstrate uniqueness
- Show that you have multiple skills and interests by covering a variety of areas in your life
- Perfect your essay(s)



Applying to Prestigious Schools

- Research the school
- Position yourself for a great application
- Make yourself unique
- Reality check - Scattergrams
- Connect with college staff - Email, Phone & TuHS Visits
- Perfect your application

HARVARD
UNIVERSITY



Stanford
University



Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology

Ivy League College Tip

From Cornell 2024 Presentation

What Do We Look For?

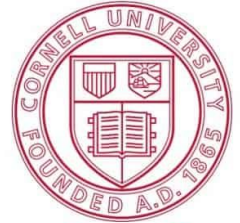
Arts & Science: **Changemakers**, people who want to do something extraordinary

Agriculture and Life Science: **Inquisitives**, people who want to discover something groundbreaking

Human Ecology: **Creatives**, people who want to understand & influence the human perspective

Engineering: **Workhorses**, people who want to work until they are the best

Business: **Leaders**, people who want to create connections and foster growth



Cornell

How important are IB Classes?

- Colleges use Holistic Approach
- Colleges get School Profile showing course offerings
- Colleges will consider rigor of coursework taken when reviewing admission application
- Consider your potential performance in class
- Can take individual IB classes vs Full IB Diploma
- IB Testing may not be necessary



Freshman and Sophomores

THINGS TO DO FRESHMAN YEAR

- Choose classes that interest and challenge you
- Get involved in sports and clubs and activities at TuHS
- Record your community service hours
- Do the best you can in your classes and establish a strong GPA

THINGS TO DO SOPHOMORE YEAR

- Perfect your reading comprehension, time management, and study skills
- Start thinking about what you like to do that could turn into a career
- Get involved in TuHS clubs and teams
- Record your community service hours
- Continue to focus on a strong GPA or work to improve your GPA



Juniors and Seniors

THINGS TO DO JUNIOR YEAR

- Set goals and identify a career path
- Stay involved in clubs and teams and start taking leadership roles
- Volunteer in the community and record the dates, hours and service activities
- Continue to focus on a strong GPA
- Take the ACT. You only need to take the ACT or SAT.
- Plan to visit colleges over Spring Break and the summer – look for College Open Houses
- Attend the Spring National College Fair held each year in Portland.
- Look for the essay prompts on college websites late spring to start on your essays

THINGS TO DO SENIOR YEAR

- Verify you are on track to graduate
- Stay involved in TuHS clubs and teams
- Volunteer in the community
- Consider a part time job
- Review your SAT and ACT scores. Retake the test, if necessary.
- Sign up for Tualatin High College Visits thru Naviance to meet with representatives from colleges you might be interested in attending.
- Apply to colleges with at least one safety school in mind
- Apply for financial aid and scholarships
- Consider college options and select a college which is the best fit for you based on field of study available, location, cost, and activities

What can I do over the summer?



- Determine need for Common App
- Compare Colleges
- Essay questions
- College Visits
 - Make appointments in advance
- Start applications
- Volunteer - TuHS College & Career Website
- Summer Job- TuHS College & Career Website

Information at Your Fingertips!

Use the TuHS College and Career Website

Tualatin High Website - Counseling - College and Career

- [Home page](#)
- [Naviance](#)
- Jobs & [Volunteering](#)
- [To Do Lists](#)
- [Past Presentations](#)
- [Connecting with the College and Career Center](#)



Upcoming Presentations

April 17

Writing a Dynamic College Essay

Apply 24

**Paying for College:
Scholarships & More**



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