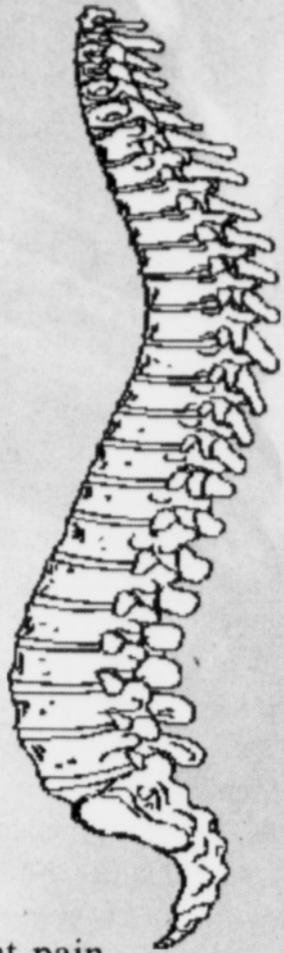


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# Seniors: Here's Your Checklist

## Organizing your career path

BY FASHUN N. STYLES  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Congratulations! You persevered and made it to the end! Now what do you do? It's time to think through the unique preparations that come with that last year of high school.

*The following checklist can help you as you organize your career path. Choose what is appropriate for you and be sure to include your parents/guardian in your plans:*

- Have you decided which college you will attend and forwarded a deposit by the required date.
- Compare your school acceptance letters: compare your financial aid offers and other criteria.
- Send thank you notes to everyone who helped you get accepted to college.
- Have you received your Financial Award Package from your school?
- Do you have a place to live while at school?
- Watch for your college financial aid award letter. Remember to return it signed.
- Watch for important deadlines at your college of choice (housing, financial aid, etc.).
- Compile year-end financial records for financial aid applications.
- If you are positive you will not enroll at one or more of the colleges which accepted you notify those colleges that

# Seniors 2010

you have selected another school. Why? Because your decision may enable those colleges to admit someone else.

*Finalize your "College Handbook" so that it contains at least the following:*

- Transcripts
- A writing sample or other work samples related to your choice of a major
- ACT or SAT scores
- Copies of your educational evaluations
- Your letters of recommendation from teachers and employers
- Your medical records (if appropriate)
- Do not take rolling admission applications for granted. (Some colleges do not have application deadlines; they admit students on a continuous basis.) These schools may reach their maximum class size quickly -- the earlier you apply, the more availability there may be.
- Check with colleges to see when freshmen orientation is held and plan your summer vacation accordingly.
- You can't go to college without your health-related vaccinations. You'll need to submit your immunization records and catch up on any measles, mumps, and rubella needles you may have missed (ouch!).
- Meet with your school guidance counselor to discuss your plans.
- Continue to develop your skills and shine your study skills.
- Find out about what your new school's deadlines for fall classes.
- Even if you haven't decided on a school major/field of study yet, continue exploring potential college majors that are consistent with your career goal and your strengths and interests.
- If your college hosts an "open house," plan on attending.
- Role-play college interviews with counselors, family members and teachers.
- Be sure to send prospective colleges appropriate documents regarding Advanced Placement credits (you'll receive your scores in July) and/or credits from special programs like "College Now."
- Visit the college Web site and look at the admissions office to see when college tours are offered; also be prepared when you visit colleges to write or talk about your experiences. This is the time when Admissions officers will provide information about admissions procedures and financial aid opportunities. Compare the various colleges and think about living in the campus community (e.g., housing, social activities, classrooms, leisure activities, services for students with disabilities and athletic activities).



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