College Credit Opportunities at GAHS

Advanced Placement Courses (AP)

All Advanced Placement (AP) courses are college-level courses designed to prepare students for Advanced Placement tests. Depending upon how well a student does on the respective AP examination given in May, they may receive college credit in a particular subject area. Students electing to take an AP course are required to take the examination and pay the exam fee (approximately $100.00). Payment of the fee can be made in three installments. Failure to pay the fee will result in an "Incomplete" being assigned for the class grade until the fee is paid. Financial assistance may be available.

Students desiring to take AP courses need to be highly motivated and should have experienced a high degree of success in previous courses in the subject area. Students will be required to do a great deal of reading, writing, and high-level problem solving.

In addition, students enrolled in AP courses may be required to complete summer assignments. Please see each individual course description for guidelines regarding summer work assignments. Assignments should be given directly to the teacher of the AP course. Exceptions may be granted by the teacher with the approval of the administration for extenuating circumstances only. Three or more college credits may be granted by the cooperating institution based on the student's AP exam score and the receiving college's AP credit policy.

- AP Seminar 10 (Approx. $140)
- AP ENG 11: English Language
- AP ENG 12: English Literature
- AP Human Geography grades 9-12
- AP Psychology - 10,11,12
- AP US Government and Politics - 10, 11, 12
- AP United States History – 10, 11, 12
- AP World History - 10, 11, 12
- AP Calculus AB (1.5 credit course)
- AP Calculus BC
- AP Statistics
- AP Biology
- AP Chemistry I & II (2 credit course)
- AP Physics (1.5 credit course)
- AP Art (2D, 3D, & Drawing) (2 credit course)
- AP Spanish

Advanced Placement courses are weighted an additional 10%, the same as College in the High School courses. See the Grading Scale on page 7 of Course Selection Guide.

See College in the High School information on page 2 →

College Credit Opportunities at GAHS

College in the High School (CHS)

Gettysburg Area High School has partnered with various post-secondary institutions to provide college level courses and credit to eligible students in grades 11 and 12. College in the High School courses are taught by certified Gettysburg Area High School teachers, offering the same course content as the college. Students enrolled in CHS courses have the option to earn college credits offered at a reduced tuition rate at the expense of the student and family at the approximate cost of $225.00 - $400.00 per course. Courses are charged per credit, with the cost per credit being set by the college. See each course's description for more details. Financial assistance may be available, consult with your counselor.

English
- CHS English I
- CHS English II

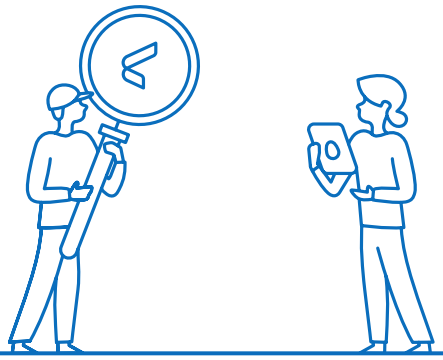
Health & Sciences
- CHS Health/Wellness
- CHS Biology
- CHS Intro to Environmental Science
- CHS Anatomy / Physiology

Business
- CHS Accounting 1
- CHS Accounting 2
- CHS Business
- CHS Intro to Software

Career & Tech Ed
- CHS Electronics Tech
- CHS Digital Electronics
- CHS GIS

College in the High School courses are weighted an additional 10%, the same as Advanced Placement courses. See the Grading Scale on page 7 of Course Selection Guide.

common app
READY



What is Common App?

Common App is a non-profit college access organization that helps students apply to college every year. Common App's free college application tool is designed to make applying to college faster and easier. With Common App you only need to use one system to apply to multiple colleges and universities. There are two main parts you fill out: a set of common questions and each college's own specific questions. The best part is you only have to fill out the common questions one time!

Common App is a place for you to learn about the college admissions process, understand how to plan and apply to college, and discover all that different colleges have to offer. It's a hub of information that can guide you through each step of the application journey. It's a resource that connects you with financial aid and scholarship opportunities.

Whatever questions you might have, we're here to help

Application guides to give you step-by-step instructions on completing your application.

A **college roadmap** designed to guide you toward your next destination — no matter where you start.

An **application dictionary** to help you understand the terminology related to college applications.

Common App at a glance

- More than 1,000 colleges and universities use Common App
- 300+ public colleges and universities
- 50+ international universities in 15+ countries
- 150+ Minority Serving Institutions
- 500+ without app fee
- 950+ Common App member colleges do not require ACT or SAT test scores

A **library of FAQs** to answer any question you may have, and a support team that's available **24/7/365.**

What's next

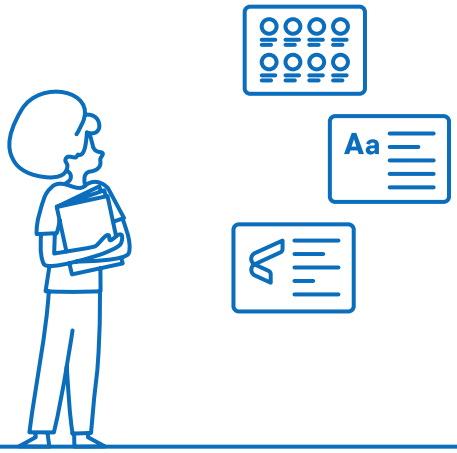
Visit commonapp.org to see available resources, start exploring colleges, and create your Common App account.

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common app
READY

How the first–year Common App works

A quickstart guide for students using the first–year Common App.



1 Add colleges

Get started by adding colleges to your list. You can find colleges to apply to in the College Search tab of your Common App account. The College Search tab also has information and links to help you research each college. More than 1,000 colleges use Common App! Go to commonapp.org/explore to start exploring.

2 Stay organized

Each college has its own set of specific requirements and supplements. When it comes to tracking this information and staying organized, we're here to help! Use the "Requirements Grid" and each college's "College Information" page to find this information.

To start your college application checklist, check out our "My College Requirements" worksheet at commonapp.org/ready.

3 Complete and submit

Answering all the questions in the Common App tab is a great way to start your applications. For each college you will:

- Answer college specific questions
- Invite and manage recommenders
- Complete other supplements (if applicable)

After all these sections are complete, you are ready to submit your application! Submission is simple: review, pay (if applicable), and submit.

How does my application get there?

When you submit we combine your responses from the Common App and college specific questions, as well as any supplements, into one form. Your counselor, teachers, and other recommenders complete their reports and evaluations separately.

As recommenders submit their forms, they will be sent to the college to be added to your application.

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READY

Understanding the recommendation process



Many colleges ask you to include letters of recommendation with your application. These letters are submitted by recommenders. A recommender's input helps clarify and support the information you share in your application. They also help inform colleges about your academic potential and how you would fit in with their community.

Who are recommenders?

Recommenders are people who have worked with and supported you in your life. They can be individuals in your school – like counselors and teachers. They can also be people who worked with you in extracurricular activities, such as coaches or employers.

There are four recommender types in the Common App: counselors, teachers, other recommenders, and advisors.

Counselor

Counselors share information about you within the context of your entire class and school community. They submit several different forms, including your transcript. The counselor recommendation letter provides insights into your academic history. They can also share information about achievements, extracurricular accomplishments, and personal interests.

Teacher

Teachers provide information about you in the context of their classroom. They have firsthand knowledge of your intellectual curiosity, creative thought, and writing quality. They can also contextualize your class behavior and work habits.

Other Recommender

Other recommenders are individuals you have worked with outside of school. They can provide context around your hobbies, passions, and other responsibilities. The other recommender types available in the Common App are: Arts Teacher, Clergy, Coach, College Access Counselor, Employer, Family Member, Peer, or Other.

Did you know?
Each college can choose which types of other recommenders they accept.

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Advisor

An advisor can be anyone who is assisting you with your application process. One thing that makes the advisor role different, is that they do not submit any forms on your behalf. Advisors can track your application progress and see PDF preview of your application, if you choose to share it.

Recommendation requirements

Every college can choose how many letters of recommendation to require. They can also determine which recommender types they accept. To see a college's requirements, go to their "College Information" screen in the My Colleges tab.

Asking for a letter of recommendation

Before inviting a recommender in your application, it's important to ask if they are willing to provide a recommendation first. It's best to ask in person, but an email is ok too. When asking, be respectful of your recommenders' time. You should ask for a letter of recommendation at least three weeks in advance of a deadline. The more advance notice you give, the more time they have to craft a well–written letter.

When you are ready to send your invitations, go to the My Colleges tab. You can invite recommenders in any college's Recommenders and FERPA section. For more details about this process, check out the application guide on commonapp.org.

Supporting your recommenders

Counselors and teachers are asked to write letters of recommendation by many students. To help make the process easier for them, we created a set of questionnaires for you to fill out. The information you share will help them write a more personal and effective recommendation.

It's also a good idea to stay in contact with your recommenders. Help keep them updated on your application deadlines and other important information. You can also track the status of your recommendations within your application.

Don't forget to thank your recommenders for writing those letters! A thank you note goes a long way.

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common app
READY



Brag sheet:

Student questionnaire for teacher letter of recommendation

Brag sheets are a way for you to help your counselor and teachers write letters of recommendation. These forms give them more insight into who you are outside of school and your interests. Fill out these forms, and share them with your counselor and teachers when you ask them for a letter of recommendation!

This form is for students to fill out.

Complete this form to help your teacher write a letter of recommendation on your behalf. Keep in mind, the more specific the details you can give, the more personal and effective your recommendation will be. Don't forget to take the time to thank your teacher! At the top of the form you'll find a suggested thank you note to include.

Dear [name of teacher],

Thank you so much for agreeing to write a letter of recommendation on my behalf. I hope you find the additional information about me helpful.

Sincerely,

Name of student (printed)
Name of student (signature)
Date

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Student's first and last name:

What first name would you like your teacher to use in their letter?

What pronouns would you like your teacher to use in their letter?

Student's email address:

List the name of the course(s) you took with this teacher, including the grade you were in (9,10,11,12, other) when you took the course(s).

List three adjectives you would use to describe yourself.

Describe why you have chosen this teacher to write a letter of recommendation for you.

Describe a lesson or unit in the class that you enjoyed and why.

Describe a project you worked on in the class that you are proud of.

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What is something your teacher probably doesn't know about you?

Below is a list of attributes colleges consider when evaluating your application. Select 1 or 2 of these attributes and share an example of a time you demonstrated these characteristics in class.

Academic achievement, intellectual promise, quality of writing, creative and original thought, productive class discussion, respect accorded by faculty, disciplined work habits, maturity, motivation, leadership, integrity, reaction to setbacks, concern for others, self–confidence, initiative, and independence.

Additional information.

Use this space to share any additional information with your teacher. Is there anything not already stated that you want to make sure they know prior to writing your letter of recommendation?

Thank you for taking the time to share this important information with your teacher!

* Thank you to the members of Common App's Counselor Advisory Committee and counselors around the world for contributing to this resource.

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COLLEGE APPLICATION TYPES:
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

COLLEGE COVERED®
POWERED BY DISCOVER STUDENT LOANS

How are you applying to the schools on your college list — early decision, early action, early decision II, rolling admission or regular admission? Before making your selection, be sure you understand the differences, benefits and drawbacks of each option.

	EARLY DECISION	EARLY ACTION	EARLY DECISION II	ROLLING ADMISSION	REGULAR ADMISSION
WHEN ARE APPLICATIONS DUE?	Early to mid-November	Early to mid-November	Mid-December to Mid-January	▪ Varies by school ▪ Applications can be accepted as early as July and as late as April	Mid-December to Mid-January
WHEN DO YOU LEARN ADMISSION STATUS?	Mid-December	January or February	Mid-February	▪ Varies by school ▪ Typically two to six weeks after receipt of application	March or April
IS ADMISSION BINDING?	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
CAN YOU APPLY TO MORE THAN ONE SCHOOL USING THIS METHOD?	No	▪ Varies by school ▪ If early action is "restrictive," you can only apply to one school.	No	Yes	Yes
ARE ACCEPTANCE RATES HIGHER WITH THIS METHOD?	Yes	Yes	Yes	The earlier the application is received, the higher the acceptance rate.	No
WHEN DO YOU NEED TO ACCEPT ADMITTANCE?	Immediately	Typically May 1	Immediately	Typically May 1	Typically May 1
CAN YOU COMPARE FINANCIAL AID PACKAGES?	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
BENEFITS	▪ Potential to finish application season early ▪ Learn admittance decision early ▪ Increased admittance odds	▪ Learn admittance decision early ▪ Increased admittance odds ▪ Ability to compare financial aid packages	▪ Learn admittance decision early ▪ Increased admittance odds	▪ Potential to finish application season early ▪ Potential to learn admittance decision early ▪ Potential to increase admittance odds ▪ Ability to compare financial aid packages	▪ More time to complete applications ▪ Ability to compare financial aid packages
DRAWBACKS	▪ Need to research, apply and decide on top choice school early ▪ Must commit to school early ▪ No flexibility with financial aid package	Need to research, apply and decide on top choice school early	▪ Must commit to school early ▪ No flexibility with financial aid package	To gain greatest advantage, need to research and apply early	Long wait for admission decision

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Scholarship FAQ

Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency

Q. What is a scholarship?

A. A scholarship is a form of financial aid awarded to students to help pay for their postsecondary education. A scholarship is a type of free money that does not have to be paid back.

Q. How are scholarships awarded?

A. Scholarships can be awarded to students based on financial need or merit. Need-based scholarships require students to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) or provide other financial information to the school.

Merit scholarships are often awarded to students that excel in academics, extracurricular activities, athletics, music, arts, or other areas of special interest. They are not awarded based on financial need.

Q. When should I start searching for scholarships?

A. It is never too early to search for scholarships! By beginning your search early, you can better understand the available opportunities, deadlines, community service requirements, and if you need to write an essay.

Keep a list or spreadsheet to track all the scholarships, dates, and requirements you find.

Q. Where do I find and apply for scholarships?

A. There are a few places you can begin to search for scholarships. First, start with the postsecondary schools that you want to attend. Check their admissions and financial aid websites for scholarship opportunities, application requirements, and deadlines. Second, check with your high school guidance office. School counselors keep an updated list of local, regional, and school-specific scholarships in the office or on the school's website. Third, use free internet search sites like **Fastweb.com**, **ScholarshipAmerica.org**, **GoingMerry.com**, and **CollegeBoard.org**—just to name a few. Fourth, create a list of unique traits and characteristics you possess (passions, ethnicity, hardships, gender, leadership abilities, hair color, height, personality traits, etc.) and search for scholarships based on your list.

Q. Is the scholarship paid to the student or to the school?

A. It depends on the scholarship. The money may be sent directly to the school where it will be applied to charges and fees. Or the check may be sent directly to the student. The scholarship organization can tell you what to expect.

Q. Should I continue to search for scholarships once I am in college?

A. Yes! You can get scholarships while you are enrolled in postsecondary colleges and career schools. It's good to apply for scholarships as often as you can, to help reduce student loans and out-of-pocket expenses.

These materials have been developed and paid for by the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA). The information contained in this document is believed to be accurate at the time of publication. Copyright © PHEAA, 2024. All Rights Reserved.

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Scholarship Tips

Scholarships, unlike student loans, **don't have to be repaid** and can reduce the cost of college. The more free money (from scholarships and grants) that you find to help pay for college, the less you'll have to borrow.

Eligibility

Students who apply for scholarships must meet specific eligibility requirements and will be competing against other applicants. Scholarship eligibility may be based on any combination of criteria, including:

- Residency (state, county, or town in which the student lives)
- Affiliation with community or religious organizations
- Extracurricular activities, including community service or clubs
- Degree program, major, or field of study
- Financial need
- Essays
- Academic, athletic, or artistic achievement
- Letters of recommendation

Searching

Many high school students begin searching for scholarships during their junior year. However, there are scholarship opportunities for younger students, as well as current college students. Scholarship information is available from these resources:

- High school website
- High school counselor's office or online portal
- Local library
- College or university
- National scholarship search sites (examples listed on the back)

Applying

To apply for scholarships:

- Determine that all eligibility requirements are met.
- Submit all required application materials by the deadline.
- Find out if applicants are notified of the results. (Some scholarships notify all applicants; others notify only the winners.)

Q&As

Q. What is a merit scholarship?

A. Colleges are increasingly offering merit scholarships—and not just for academic achievement or athletic skill. Schools may offer merit scholarships to attract diverse groups of students from states not highly represented at the school, or students with talents or circumstances that few others at the school have. Check with admissions offices at schools you're applying to and ask if they offer merit aid.

Q. Should students pay a company to find scholarships?

A. Students and families need to know that some scholarship offers are not what they seem. You can avoid getting scammed by ignoring offers that require you to attend a "free" seminar, pay a "small fee," or provide a credit card number.

Q. Will scholarships affect other sources of financial aid?

A. Scholarships from outside sources may affect other financial aid. By filling unmet need, scholarships may reduce the amount a family has to pay out-of-pocket or they may reduce loans, work-study, or grant aid. Check with your school's financial aid office to find out how outside scholarships may affect your financial aid offer.

Q. How are winners determined?

A. Although scholarships are competitive, keep in mind that you don't have to be the best student in your class to receive one. You simply need to be the best applicant who meets the qualifications for the scholarship.

High School Classes Open the Doors to College

Because you are planning to go to college, it's important that you take the right classes in high school.

Beginning in ninth grade, the majority of your classes should be ones that prepare you for admission to and, even more importantly, success in college. Most admission officers tell you that the first thing they look at is your choice of classes—even before they look at grades. When it comes time to apply to college you want to make sure that you meet the admission criteria of *all* colleges in which you are interested. Always remember that it is much better to be overprepared than underprepared.

Here's what you need by the end of your senior year to meet the admission expectations at a majority of colleges:

- Four full years of English classes. This includes courses in which you study writing and courses in which you read literature. Colleges know that you need to be able to write well in nearly every career. You need to be able to read and analyze, and you need to develop strong communication skills.

- Four full years of math classes. Students who take math in each year of high school are far more successful in college than students taking only three years. Math is the tool that you will use for many other classes, especially those in science. Your math classes should include at least four of the following six classes, taken in this order:
    1. Pre-algebra
    2. Algebra
    3. Geometry
    4. Algebra II and/or trigonometry
    5. Precalculus
    6. Calculus

Never skip a year of math in high school, because you will lose your momentum. If you don't take math in your senior year, you will find that the math classes required in college will be very difficult!

- Three–four years of laboratory science classes. You will have the strongest background if you have taken at least one year each of:
    - Biology
    - Chemistry
    - Physics

- Two years minimum of social sciences. Most college freshmen studied World History and American History in high school. Other social science options include:
    - Government
    - Sociology
    - Geography
    - Psychology

- Two–four years of a world language. More colleges are requiring a minimum of two years of language study while in high school for admission. Because many colleges require students to study a second language, it is important that you expose yourself to the study of languages while in high school.

- A small number of colleges require one year of visual or performing art prior to admission. Participation in these classes throughout high school can help you to develop a special talent that will make you a highly qualified applicant.

Most colleges require students to meet certain college prep curriculum standards. Colleges may want to see advanced courses, such as honors and/or AP, that demonstrate the ability to succeed in higher levels of academics. Meeting the minimum isn't the best way to prepare for college. Strong preparation means going beyond the minimum—allowing you to start your college career in college-level courses, not remedial courses which are designed to help you catch up or review high school material—for *no credit*!

Athletes: Work with your counselor and coaches to make sure that your classes meet the standards of the NCAA Clearinghouse. Go to *http://eligibilitycenter.org* for more information.

CollegeBoard

FOR FAMILY

Family Action Plan: 11th Grade

Junior year marks a turning point. This is because for most students and families, it's when college planning activities kick into high gear. Here are some things you can do this year to support your child and provide the best options.

SUMMER

- ☐ **Get the facts about what college costs.** You may be surprised by how affordable higher education can be. Start by reading Understanding College Costs. **bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/college-costs/understanding-college-costs**
- ☐ **Explore financial aid options.** These include grants and scholarships, loans, and work-study programs that can help pay for college costs Find out more about how financial aid can make college affordable. **bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/financial-aid-basics/what-is-financial-aid/how-does-financial-aid-work**

FALL

- ☐ **Make sure your child meets with the school counselor.** This meeting is especially important this year as your 11th grader starts to engage in the college application process. Learn more about the counselor's role in applying to college. **https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/plan-for-college/college-prep/get-advice/applying-to-college-your-counselors-role**
- ☐ **Help your child stay organized.** Work with your 11th grader to make weekly or monthly to-do lists to keep on top of the tasks required to get ready for applying to colleges. For more time management tips, see 8 Ways to Take Control of Your Time. **bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/inside-the-classroom/8-ways-to-take-control-of-your-time**
- ☐ **Help your junior get ready for the PSAT/NMSQT® in October.** This is a preliminary test that helps students practice for the SAT® and assess their academic skills. Juniors who score well on the test are also eligible for scholarship opportunities. Find out more about the PSAT/NMSQT. **satsuite.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt**
- ☐ **Encourage your child to set goals for the school year.** Working toward specific goals helps your high school student stay motivated and focused.
- ☐ **Encourage your child to register for AP® Exams.** If your 11th grader takes AP or other advanced classes, have your child talk with teachers now about taking these tests in May. Read more about the AP Program. **bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/testing/learn-about-the-ap-program**

WINTER

- ☐ **Review PSAT/NMSQT results together** by logging in to the student score reporting portal. Your child's score report shows what they should work on to get ready for college, lists Advanced Placement® courses that might be a good match for them, and connects them to free, personalized SAT practice on Khan Academy® based on their results. **satpractice.org**
- ☐ **Help your child prepare for the SAT.** Many juniors take the SAT in the spring so they can get a head start on planning for college. See which other tests your high school junior may need to take. **bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/testing/which-college-admission-tests-do-i-need-to-take**
- ☐ **Discuss taking challenging courses next year.** Taking AP honors courses or college-level courses as a senior can help your child prepare for college work—and these are also the courses that college admission officers like to see. Learn more about advanced classes. **bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/inside-the-classroom/how-to-take-your-classes-to-the-next-level**

SPRING

- ☐ **Search together for colleges that meet your child's needs.** Once you have an idea of the qualities your junior is looking for in a college, help your child enter these criteria into College Search. There your child can create a list of colleges to consider applying to. **bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search**
- ☐ **Help your child research scholarships.** This form of financial aid provides money for college that doesn't need to be repaid. Learn more through BigFuture's Scholarship Search. **bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search**
- ☐ **Attend college fairs and financial aid events.** These events allow you to meet with college representatives and get answers to questions. Your child can ask the school counselor how to find events in your area. Check out the College Fair Checklist for more information. **bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges/how-to-find-your-college-fit/college-fair-checklist**
- ☐ **Help your child make summer plans.** Summer is a perfect time to explore interests and learn new skills—and colleges look for students who pursue meaningful summer activities. Help your high school student look into summer learning programs or find a job or internship. Help your high school student look into summer learning programs or find a job or internship. **bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/inside-the-classroom/summer-learning-programs-what-why-and-how**
- ☐ **Visit colleges together.** Make plans to check out the campuses of colleges your child is interested in. Use the Campus Visit Checklist to learn how to get the most out of these experiences. **http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges/campus-visit-guide/campus-visit-checklist**

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CollegeBoard

College and Career Planning Checklist—11th-Grade Tasks

Keep track of key steps to take during each grade of high school to help you plan for college and career. Find a digital checklist at bigfuture.collegeboard.org/checklist.

First Semester

☐	Connect with colleges and scholarships	Want to hear from colleges and scholarship programs looking for students like you? Opt in to Student Search Service so they can contact you directly. You'll learn about campus life, scholarships, and financial aid.
☐	Attend college fairs	Attend college fairs and information sessions to learn more about different schools and their financial aid offerings.
☐	Take the PSAT/NMSQT	If your school offers the PSAT/NMSQT to 10th graders, you'll take it in the fall. The PSAT/NMSQT measures the skills and knowledge that are most important to college and career success. It can help you learn your strengths and areas you need to improve so that you can stay on track.
☐	Explore scholarships	Discover scholarship opportunities from over 6,000 different programs and organizations. You can find matches based on your intended major, cultural background, and other factors.
☐	Review your PSAT/NMSQT score	When your PSAT/NMSQT scores are ready, access your scores on the BigFuture School mobile app if you provided your mobile number on test day. You'll see details about where you excel and where you need to improve.

Second Semester

☐	Meet with your school counselor.	Make an appointment to meet with your school counselor to learn about graduation requirements, the college application process, and other recommendations to help you plan for college and career.
☐	Review AP courses to take next year.	It's time to start planning for 12th grade. You'll work with your counselor, teachers, and/or parents to select courses.
☐	Plan to take the SAT.	Most students take the SAT for the first time in the spring of their junior year. Ask your counselor or principal if your school offers the SAT on a school day. If not, plan to register for it on a weekend. Take a full-length practice test in the Bluebook™ app.
☐	Learn about the FAFSA.	Familiarize yourself with the FAFSA® application process. The FAFSA determines your eligibility for federal aid and some state-based aid programs. Even if you don't think you'll qualify for financial aid, it's essential to submit the FAFSA.

*Complete checklist can be found at **bigfuture.collegeboard.org/checklist/11th-grade**

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College and Career Planning Checklist—12th-Grade Tasks

Keep track of key steps to take during each grade of high school to help you plan for college and career. Find a digital checklist at bigfuture.collegeboard.org/checklist.

First Semester

☐	Strengthen and finalize your college list.	A strong college list includes a mix of schools where you can thrive both academically and socially. Using your GPA and test scores, you can identify colleges on BigFuture that are a good fit for you. Incorporate at least three reach schools, two match schools, and one safety school.
☐	Meet with your school counselor.	Meet with the school counselor to talk through your final list of colleges to apply to. Review any tasks you need to complete before deadlines.
☐	Complete the FAFSA.	The most common way to apply for financial aid is by filling out the FAFSA—the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.
☐	Decide if you want to retake the SAT.	Many students take the SAT a second time to improve their score. Ask your counselor if your school is offering the SAT on a school day this fall. If not, you can register to take it on a weekend at a test center near you.
☐	Complete and submit your college and scholarship applications.	Once you've reviewed your application(s), it's time to send them off to your chosen schools and scholarships. Include the required components, such as essays and test scores. Be mindful of the application deadlines.

Second Semester

☐	Review your college acceptances and financial aid offers.	Once you've received admissions decisions from your college applications, it is time to review your acceptances. Notify colleges that you're declining their offers of admission.
☐	Decide on your plans after high school.	After considering your acceptances, financial aid offers, and discussing them with your family, decide what your plans will be after high school.
☐	Submit necessary documents to your college.	If going to college in the fall, notify the college that you'll be attending. Watch for emails from the college regarding documentation that will be needed to complete your enrollment.
☐	Make necessary deposits	Secure your seat and housing, if applicable, by making the required deposits by deadlines indicated in correspondence from the college.

*Complete checklist can be found at **bigfuture.collegeboard.org/checklist/12th-grade**

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