



10th Grade Checklist

Fall–Winter

Time Management

- ☐ Research and implement ways to make the most efficient use of your time
- ☐ Use SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timely) goals to keep you on task
- ☐ Include down time in your schedule

College Entrance Exams

- ☐ Several colleges are test optional—check <https://fairtest.org/test-optional-list> for the most comprehensive list
- ☐ Take the PSAT to help prepare you for the SAT (www.khanacademy.org/digital-sat)
- ☐ Take the PreACT to help prepare you for the ACT (www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation/free-act-test-prep.html)

College Planning

- ☐ Attend college information events in your community (www.collegenights.org)

Spring

Academics

- ☐ Keep up your grades—colleges look at your grade point average (GPA)
- ☐ Review your four-year academic plan with your counselor
- ☐ Plan rigorous academic courses for your 11th grade year
 - ☐ Enroll in honors, Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses, which may earn college credit
 - ☐ Take college courses while in high school and earn both high school and college credit (known as dual/concurrent enrollment)

Extracurricular Activities

- ☐ Join a club or try out for a sports team
- ☐ Volunteer for something you find important
- ☐ Explore summer opportunities—be mindful of application deadlines

Career Exploration

- ☐ Seek summer opportunities to work or volunteer in your field of interest
- ☐ Take an interest inventory—it expands your ideas for careers you may enjoy (<https://roadtripnation.com/roadmap>)
- ☐ Have conversations with counselors, teachers, family and community members about their career paths and what they studied in college

College Search

- ☐ Use an online search engine to find colleges that may be right for you (<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org>)
- ☐ Visit campuses—think about size, location and academic programs
- ☐ Attend local college fairs in your area (www.nacacnet.org/nacac-college-fairs)
- ☐ Try online college fairs and virtual campus tours (<https://campustours.com>, www.appily.com/virtual-college-tours, www.thecollegegetour.com)

Summer

Summer Enrichment

- ☐ Create a summer reading list from teacher recommendations
- ☐ Confirm your summer plans (e.g., work, academic enrichment programs, summer workshops, service learning, travel, camps, internship, campus tours)

College Finances

- ☐ Learn about the different types of financial aid (<https://finaid.org>, <https://studentaid.gov>)
- ☐ Take a financial education course (www.fdic.gov/resources/consumers/money-smart/index.html)
- ☐ Use the tools found on the College Affordability and Transparency Center website (<https://collegecost.ed.gov>) to compare and estimate your college costs
- ☐ Research net price calculators on the website of colleges that appeal to you—type “net price calculator” in the college’s website search field