



10th Grade

COLLEGE PLANNING

Now that you're a sophomore, it's time to get more serious about planning and preparing for college. To help you stay focused and on track, here's a list of the things you need to do this year.



Work hard to get good grades.

The stronger your high school academic record, the more college options you'll have. *Grades are the first thing colleges look at when determining whether to accept an applicant—particularly their grades in college prep classes.*



Take college prep courses.

In order to be prepared for college-level work, colleges recommend that students take the following courses in high school:

- 4 years of English
- 3-4 years of math (Algebra I & II, Geometry)
- 3-4 years of science
- 2-3 years of the same foreign language
- 3 years of social studies
- 1 year of fine or performing arts



Develop your interests and be involved.

Colleges are looking for students who are active and involved in their school and community. Participate in school activities, do some volunteer work, and take time to develop your interests and talents.



VIDEO

For tips on how to build an impressive high school record, watch this video!



Consider taking a practice test.

Many high schools offer tests (such as the PSAT) to help sophomores prepare for the ACT and SAT. Your counselor will have information on the tests offered at your school.



Think about what's important to you.

Are you looking for a college close to home or one with a specific major? Is size or cost important to you? *To explore your college options, visit bigfuture.collegeboard.org.*



Make informal college visits.

Visit different colleges and imagine yourself as a student there. Walk around the campus, go to a sporting event, and eat in the student union.



Think about a major.

Your major is the subject you'll study in depth. Start thinking about your interests, talents, and abilities in terms of possible majors.



Meet with your counselor.

Talk to your counselor about your college plans, ask questions, and make sure you're taking the courses you need for college.

Decide right now that college is a goal you're going to work toward. Keep your goal in mind as you go to class, do your homework, and study for tests. Know that going to college is a goal you can achieve!