



Make 10th grade count by continuing the college-prep process! 11th and 12th grade will be very busy with academic coursework, as well as preparing for the ACT and/or SAT tests and selecting and applying to college. Start narrowing your college lists and keep taking challenging courses.

For Students :

- Meet with your school counselor or mentor to **get info about colleges and their requirements**. You can also use the College Scorecard: <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/>. Create a list of at least 3 colleges of interest; request information directly from the colleges' office of admissions.
- Find out the college admission requirements for your colleges of interest and **make goals to meet or exceed those requirements**. Colleges often consider grade point average (GPA) and/or ACT or SAT scores.
- Discuss **high school graduation requirements** with your high school academic counselor to confirm you are on track to graduate. Ask if concurrent college courses are an option for you.
- Talk about college** with a trusted teacher, coach, or mentor. Ask questions about their experience.
- Discuss your college plans with parents/guardians. **Develop a strategy together** to make admission and financial aid possible. Research questions that you should ask and discuss.
- Consider taking a practice **Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT)** (<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10>) and/or check out the **ACT Aspire exam "sandbox"** (<https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/act-aspire/about-act-aspire/exemplar-items.html>). Also, check out the CLT at <https://www.cltexam.com/>. These tools will help you become familiar with the exams.
- Job shadow or interview professionals** in several areas of career interest. Ask questions about daily tasks and responsibilities (and take notes). Ask about their college experience.
- Research majors** that might be a good fit with your interests and goals based on your results from the U.S. Department of Labor's career search: <https://www.mynextmove.org/>
- Learn the differences between **grants, loans, work-study, and scholarships**: <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types>

For Parents :

- Find out if your teen's school has a **college night or financial aid night** scheduled. Make plans to attend events together.
- Help your student **develop independence** by encouraging them to take responsibility for balancing homework with any other activities or a part-time job.
- Learn about the **standardized tests** your teen will be taking during 10th through 12th grades.
- Get a brief **overview of financial aid** from Federal Student Aid at a Glance: <https://studentaid.gov/sites/default/files/aid-glance-2019-20.pdf>
- Get the facts about **how much college costs**. You may be surprised at how affordable higher education can be. Start by reading *Understanding College Costs*: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/college-costs/understanding-college-costs>
- Encourage your teen to **make a list of interests, talents, and favorite activities** to start matching with occupations. Learn more about how teens can complete a career worksheet: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/explore-careers/careers/exploring-careers-step-by-step>

Notes:
