**[10th Grade Planning](https://blog.prepscholar.com/10th-grade-college-planning)**

**#1: Start Thinking About College — It’s Not Too Early**

1. Much of what you do in 10th grade will impact your [college applications](https://blog.prepscholar.com/college-application-timeline). If you make attending college a goal while you're a 10th grader, you’ll be more likely to stay on the right track and eventually enroll.
2. Attend college nights hosted by your high school.

**#2: Take the Right Classes**

1. Talk to your counselor to ensure that you are on track.
2. You should demonstrate that you can do well in the most difficult classes (Honors/AP) to get into elite schools.
3. Take honors or AP classes in the subjects you're best at and the subjects you're considering studying in college.
4. **Below is an example of a good sophomore year schedule for a student who wants to be competitive for admission to selective colleges.**
   1. Honors/AP or Chemistry, AP or Geometry, Honors or AP English II, Pre-AP, AP, or World History, Honors/AP Spanish II, PE, Elective

**#3: Focus on Your Grades**

1. **Your sophomore year grades do matter for college admissions**. Your grades in your sophomore year will influence your high school [GPA](https://blog.prepscholar.com/how-do-you-calculate-gpa) and [class rank](https://blog.prepscholar.com/what-is-class-rank-why-is-it-important).
2. Colleges like to see continued improvement, even if you don’t do well your sophomore year.

You can do better in your junior year. That will strengthen your college applications.

**#4: Stay (or Get) Involved in Extracurricular Activities**

1. Your grades, test scores, and extracurricular activities will have the biggest impact on your college applications.
2. ·If you play a sport, you can focus on reaching the highest level in your sport. If you excel in science, you can use your time outside of school to prepare for and compete in science fairs and competitions.
3. You should be participating in extracurricular activities during your sophomore year of high school.

**#5: Start Preparing for the SAT/ACT**

1. Starting to prepare for the SAT/ACT in your sophomore year will give you ample time to master the concepts and strategies that will allow you to reach your [target score](https://blog.prepscholar.com/what-is-a-good-sat-score-a-bad-sat-score-an-excellent-sat-score).
2. **We recommend that you take the SAT/ACT for the first time by the fall of your junior year** to help give yourself a full year of study to enable you to assess your strengths and weaknesses.
3. **Finally, you should take the** [**PSAT**](https://blog.prepscholar.com/what-is-the-psat-10-complete-guide) **or** [**PreACT**](https://blog.prepscholar.com/what-is-the-preact-test) **during your sophomore year.**

**#6: Research Colleges**

1. Although you don’t need to know which college you want to apply to, **you should be learning about colleges**.
2. Knowing the grades and test scores to get into different colleges will help you motivated to stay on track.
3. What do you want to study? Would you be more comfortable at a large or small school? What geographic region do you want to be in? These questions should be asked to help direct your college choice.

**#7: Learn About How to Pay for College**

1. Scholarships and financial aid are available to ease the financial burden of attending college.
2. Look for scholarships that will help cover college costs.
3. The better you do in school and on your standardized tests, the more likely you’ll be to receive [merit scholarships](https://blog.prepscholar.com/how-to-get-merit-scholarships-and-honors-at-state-schools) to help pay for school.

**#8: Monitor high school credits and tests**

1. Make sure you meet all local and state requirements for credits and STAAR EOC ( English II). If you did not meet the requirement. retake the test(s) in the summer.
2. Make sure you earned your credits for the school year.