

# PREPARING FOR COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

## SOPHOMORE YEAR CHECKLIST

**Sophomore year is your opportunity to feel more comfortable and focused.** Take what you learned from your first year in high school and put it toward this year! Your sophomore year can help set the tone for your junior and senior years, when you will be very focused on college admissions.

### COURSEWORK

Schedule a meeting with your counselor in the beginning of the school year. Evaluate your freshman year and plan the years ahead of you. Discuss your progress and potential future plans.	
Take rigorous classes, including <a href="#">AP/IB/Honors level courses</a> . Be aware of pre-requisites you may need to take this year to qualify for junior and senior year classes.	
If you are interested in a science major or career, take the most rigorous courses (including honors, AP, or IB) available in those areas.	

### STANDARDIZED TESTING

Take the PSAT or PreACT. Check “yes” to the box that allows other organizations to contact you, so you can hear from scholarship programs, summer programs, and colleges.	
In the spring, consider taking <a href="#">SAT Subject Tests</a> in one or more subjects you took throughout the year. This is a good option if you are highly comfortable with the material from the year.	
Prepare for the SAT/ACT. Visit our <a href="#">Standardized Testing page</a> for more information and tips.	

### EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Continue to participate in meaningful extracurricular activities. If the activity you’re interested in doesn’t exist at your school, start a new club. Enlist the support of family, friends, classmates, and teachers if you need.	
Think about running for leadership positions this year or next.	

#### DID YOU KNOW?

Attending a top college can be [more affordable for low-income students](#) than your public state school or local community college.

### SUMMER AND COLLEGE RESEARCH

Take ownership of <a href="#">your summer</a> . Register for summer school, community college, or online courses. Always challenge yourself academically.	
Participate in summer enrichment programs offered by organizations and colleges. Look for programs that offer financial assistance.	
Look for working professionals you can shadow. Job-shadowing is a great way to explore and experience specific careers and industries.	
Get to know <a href="#">college campuses!</a> Visit local campuses, attend fly-in programs, or use free online virtual tours.	
Research <a href="#">QuestBridge college partners</a> and get ready for the <a href="#">College Prep Scholars Program</a> for juniors.	



**THE STUDENT RESOURCE CENTER**

Visit our [website](#) for more information dedicated to equipping high-achieving, low-income students, including:

- Differences in SAT/ACT
- Maximizing your summers
- [Checklists](#) for each grade