

Preparing for College Admissions 10th Grade Checklist

10th grade 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 9th grade year and plan the years ahead of you. Discuss your progress and potential future plans.	
Take rigorous classes that may be available to you, including AP/IB/Honors level courses . 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 specific 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.	
Prepare for the SAT/ACT. Visit our Standardized Testing page for more information and tips.	

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Continue to participate in meaningful extracurricular activities, whether they’re activities in school, your community, or even your own home. Enlist the support of family, friends, classmates, and teachers.	
Think about running for leadership positions this year or next.	

DID YOU KNOW?

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

SUMMER AND COLLEGE RESEARCH

Take ownership of your summer . 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 college campuses ! Visit local campuses, attend fly-in programs, or use free online virtual tours.	
Research QuestBridge college partners and get ready for the College Prep Scholars Program for juniors.	

THE STUDENT RESOURCE CENTER

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

- Standardized testing tips
- Maximizing your summers
- [Checklists](#) for each grade