

# 10th Grade College Checklist

*This is the year to build a solid foundation for getting into the college of your choice.*



## Fall

- In October, take the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) for practice. When you fill out your test sheet, check the box that releases your name to colleges so you can start receiving brochures from them.
- Ask your guidance counselor about the American College Testing program's PLAN (Pre-ACT) assessment program, which helps determine your study habits and academic progress and interests. This test will prepare you for the ACT Assessment next year.
- Take geometry if you have not already done so. Take biology and a second year of a foreign language.
- Become familiar with general college entrance requirements.
- Participate in your school's or state's career development activities.

## Winter

- Discuss your PSAT score with your counselor.
- The people who read college applications aren't looking just for grades. Get involved in activities outside the classroom. Work toward leadership positions in the activities that you like best. Become involved in community service and other volunteer activities.
- Read, read, read. Read as many books as possible from a comprehensive reading list.
- Work on your writing skills-you'll need them no matter what you do. Find a teacher or another adult who will advise and encourage you to write well.

## Spring

- Keep your grades up so you can have the highest GPA and class rank possible.
- Ask your counselor about postsecondary enrollment options and Advanced Placement (AP) courses.
- Continue to explore interests and careers that you think you might like.
- Begin zeroing in on the type of college you would prefer (two-year or four-year, small or large, rural or urban).
- If you are interested in attending a military academy, such as West Point or Annapolis, now is the time to start planning and getting information.
- Write to colleges and ask for their academic requirements for admission.
- Visit a few more college campuses. Read all of the mail you receive from colleges. You may see something you like.
- Attend college fairs.
- Familiarize yourself with college and career tools in Naviance, California Colleges and Big Futures (CollegeBoard)
- Keep putting money away for college. Get a summer job.



Carlmont High School | College & Career Center | (650) 595-0210

<https://www.carlmonths.org/Counseling/College--Career/index.html>