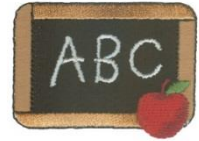


# College Prep Checklist – 10<sup>th</sup> Grade

To best prepare for college, certain steps and procedures must be accomplished prior to enrollment. This is a chronological checklist designed to help assist in being well-organized and as ready as possible for college. See the College Prep Resources for additional information.

## August through October

- \_\_\_\_\_ Focus on academics! Maintain at least a 3.0 GPA.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Contact college coaches for possible scouting, if desired.
- \_\_\_\_\_ List the top 5 desired colleges along with the top 4 desired majors.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Create/update an interest and learning style inventory profile; update yearly. See *Career: Kuder Navigator*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A social security number (SSN) is required. Contact local social security office. See *College Information: SSN*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Join various school- and community-based activities, taking on leadership positions.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Create a 4-year calendar, covering the last 3 years of high school and 1<sup>st</sup> year of college, noting college admission, financial aid application, scholarship, and testing registration deadlines as well as testing dates.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Schedule the *PLAN* exam only one time during the sophomore year. See counselor or *Testing: PLAN*.



## November through January

- \_\_\_\_\_ Add all volunteer and extra-curricular activities to the resume.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Visit different college websites to view estimated cost, application process, and enrollment information.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Attend local college/career fairs and financial aid seminars. See *College Information: College Fair*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Prepare for college expenses by visiting financial aid websites. See *Financial Aid FAQ*.

## February through June

- \_\_\_\_\_ Stay up-to-date with all required shots and immunizations; retain a copy of shot records.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Finalize junior class schedule by the **end of May**, making sure all classes align with graduation requirements. Consider taking a *concurrent credit* or *digital learning* course. See *College Information: SouthArk*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Review scholarship and grant websites, noting application deadlines. See *Financial Aid: Scholarships*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Compare specifics between community colleges and 4-year universities; specifically, programs available, cost, athletics, and which scholarships apply. See *College Information: College Searches*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ *SAT Subject Tests* and *AP Testing* are recommended immediately following class completion, usually in **May/June**. See *Testing: AP Testing and SAT Subject Tests*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ State test(s) must be passed at the end of grade level to advance to the next grade and/or to graduate.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Continue collecting personal milestones for an education portfolio.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Request college recommendation letters from teachers, coaches, and other mentors for college applications.

## Summer after Sophomore Year

- \_\_\_\_\_ Explore summer volunteer and job opportunities in the career area of interest for experience and to save money for college.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Enroll in a summer school class if a required class was not passed during the year.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Review college exam study guides and websites with online tutorials. See *Testing: Test Prep*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Register no later than **July** to take the *SAT* in **September**. See *Testing: SAT*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Register no later than **August** to take the *PSAT* in **October**. See *Testing: PSAT*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Complete the *NCAA Clearinghouse application* if wanting to play on Division I/II team. See *College Info: NCAA*