



COLLEGE ● CAREER ● MILITARY ● READY

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# Sophomores

Let's get to the good stuff!

## Start the Year Off Strong

- Schedule an appointment with your school counselor to ensure your course schedule is [challenging enough](#) to prepare you for college.
- Update your [FREE four-year plan](#).
- Create/update the [résumé](#) of your academic accomplishments, [extracurricular activities](#) (read my notes), and work experience.
  - [ResumeGenius](#) has FREE student templates!

*Brag about your achievements!*

## Stay Up to Date on Your District's [GPA](#) Policy

- You can find the specifics in your course guide!
  - *Freshmen and sophomore years have the biggest impact on your GPA.*

## Create a [Personal Email Address](#)

- Make sure you check it and your school email.

## Research, Research, Research

- [Military](#) and [Military Academies](#)
  - ◆ Request a pre-candidate questionnaire from the [academies](#) that interest you.
- [Trade schools and certification programs](#)
- [Community colleges and universities](#)
  - ◆ Review the [Common Data Set](#) and college student profile ([sample](#)) for your dream schools; the information should inform your educational decisions and increase your acceptance chance.

## Explore Advanced Placement & Dual Credit Courses

- The [AP courses](#) can lead to [college credit](#), advanced placement, or both at most colleges in the United States.
  - ◆ Consider which courses ([38 AP course](#) options) you want to take next school year.
  - ◆ If enrolled in a course, [register for AP Exams](#) to show colleges you're committed and motivated to succeed.
    - If you plan to ask for exam [testing accommodations](#) because of a disability, learn about the request process and start early.
- [Dual Credit](#) classes are college courses that receive simultaneous academic credit from both the college and the high school.
  - ◆ DC classes are taken through a local college at your high school during the school day with either a certified teacher or a professor sent by the college.
  - ◆ Students with a disability can get DC [testing accommodations](#).



## Take the PSAT/NMSQT or PSAT 10

- Take the [PSAT/NMSQT or the PSAT 10](#) and get [feedback through your scores](#) on your college readiness and a free, personalized SAT practice plan to help you get ready for the SAT and for college.
- Learn [4-ways](#) to make the most of your PSAT 8/9 and PSAT 10 scores.
- You can use your PSAT score to help you prepare for the SAT through [Khan Academy](#). The practice is tailored for you, focusing on what you need to work on to improve your score.

## Research Financial Aid & Scholarships

- [Financial aid](#) can help you afford college; learn where it comes from and how you apply.
- College can cost less than you think—learn the [basics of college costs](#)
- Apply for [scholarships](#) and track your applications using my [FREE Scholarship Tracker](#)

## Create Good Habits EARLY

- Develop [time-management skills](#)
- Create a [routine](#) for finishing your homework more efficiently and effectively
- Use a calendar of some sort to help keep you organized and meet deadlines

## Attend College Fairs and Take Campus Tours

- Attend college fairs and talk to representatives from colleges you may be interested in
  - \*This is a great way to make connections with the people who review your applications!



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## Keep Your Social Media Clean AND Use it to Your Advantage

- [Every post, comment, like, and retweet](#) reflects you. Represent yourself well! Colleges, scholarship presenters, and even future employers look to see what kind of person you are outside of your application.
- [Coaches use social media to get a better sense of you.](#)
  - ◆ A public account can increase your recruiting network and connect you with college coaches who may be interested in recruiting you.
    - Posting your college offers on social media can be an asset to your recruiting process.

## NCAA: 10th grade

- Register for an NCAA Certification Account or Profile Page at the NCAA Eligibility Center
- Confirm your high school courses meet the [NCAA core courses](#) academic requirements for Division I and II.
- Your district's graduation requirements might not satisfy the NCAA or the colleges you want to attend
- Research [NCAA](#) financial aid:
  - **Division I** colleges offer multi-year, cost-of-attendance athletics scholarships—59% of student-athletes receive athletics aid
  - **Division II** colleges offer partial athletics scholarships—62% of student-athletes receive athletics aid.
  - **Division III** colleges do not offer athletics scholarships, but 80% of student-athletes receive nonathletic aid.
- Participate in student clubs or volunteer.



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