

TIMELINE & CHECKLIST FOR COLLEGE

SOPHOMORE YEAR

- ❑ Meet with your high school counselor — again. Be sure to meet with your school counselor to ensure that your course schedule is challenging enough to prepare you for college. Check into any prerequisites for advanced-level junior and senior-year courses.
- ❑ Ask if the PSAT/NMSQT is offered to 10th-graders. Although this test is usually given in the 11th grade, it is also often offered in the 10th grade. That's because it provides valuable feedback on how you test and where to focus your studies. You can then work on any of your academic weaknesses while there is still plenty of time to make improvements.
- ❑ Interested in attending a U.S. military academy? If so, request a pre-candidate questionnaire.
- ❑ Along with your family, do some research about how to obtain financial aid. Many students use financial aid to cover college costs. Find out what financial aid is, where it comes from, and how you can apply for it. [Read the U.S. Department of Education's Funding Your Education \(about federal aid programs\).](#)
- ❑ Participate in school activities or volunteer efforts. Extracurricular activities can help you develop time management skills and enrich your high school experience.
- ❑ Talk to your counselor about your plans for life after high school. He or she can help you plan your schedule, search for colleges, and navigate the financial aid process. The more your counselor knows about you, the more he or she can help you along the way.
- ❑ Tour college campuses. If possible, take advantage of vacation or other family travel time to visit colleges and see what they're like. Even if you have no interest in attending the college you are visiting, it will help you learn what to look for in a college.