

SHS College and Career Planning “TO DO LIST” for SOPHOMORES

1. Take the PSAT test in the fall of your sophomore year.

- **OCTOBER 8, 2025:** The **PSAT** will be given to tenth graders. Students can access their scores at www.collegeboard.org and link their results to Khan Academy for customized practice.
- **March 10, 2026:** The **PreACT** is a practice ACT that is formatted like an actual ACT. In addition to preparing students for the ACT, the PreACT also provides feedback on college and career readiness. All tenth graders will take the PreACT at Solon. You do not need to register, and there is no fee for this test.

2. Begin to research your career/college ideas and interests.

- Use the “Career” or “College” tabs on the School Counseling webpage (<https://sites.google.com/solonschools.net/shsschoolcounseling/career/schoolinks>) and click on “SchoolLinks” to access your account. SchoolLinks is our college and career readiness platform.
- All sophomores will be working with counselors through U.S. History classes to research careers and colleges using SchoolLinks. Use the “Career” and “College” tabs on the School Counseling website for additional career and college planning information.
- Instructions for creating a parent/guardian account can be found here: <https://sites.google.com/solonschools.net/shsschoolcounseling/career/schoolinks>.
- All sophomores will be introduced to the Career Technical Education programs available at Excel TECC in October (more information at <https://sites.google.com/solonschools.net/shsschoolcounseling/career/excel-tecc>). Applications are due in December for students pursuing a program at Excel TECC.
- During your scheduling appointment early in the second semester, your counselor will discuss with you your test scores, goals and planning process for the future, and provide advice/suggestions.

3. Continue to strive for your personal academic best.

- College admissions use a holistic review which considers GPA, rigor of curriculum, ACT/SAT scores, contributions to the community, and extracurricular activities.
- Be sure to earn solid grades in the sophomore year and take a rigorous course load in the junior and senior years.
- Ask for help if you need it! Talk with teachers for study tips, attend academic labs, request a peer tutor, and/or see your counselor for more ideas on how to improve your academic progress if needed.
- Utilize the School Counseling website for tips and resources.

4. Meet individually with your counselor during second semester to review your scheduling, progress and goals.

- Your counselor will schedule an individual appointment with you in second semester to discuss your course selections for next year, test scores, career assessment information, career/college planning, and current academic progress.
- Be sure to write down your scheduling questions to bring to your appointment.

5. In the summer between 10th and 11th:

- Summer is a great time to do job shadowing, internships, volunteer work, camps, or start a part time job.
- Remember to do your summer reading for the start of the school year!
- Spend some free time navigating through SchoolLinks and the School Counseling webpage, and doing some career interest inventories and college searches.
(<https://sites.google.com/solonschools.net/shsschoolcounseling/home>).
- Stay safe, make good choices, and ENJOY your summer break!