



COLLEGE PREPARATION GUIDELINES

Sophomore Strategy

GRADE
10

MYTH:

I do not have to worry about standardized tests until 11th and 12th grade.

TRUTH:

There are several important tests to take this year. Make sure to sign up for the PSAT, PLAN, and CAHSEE tests this year. Depending on your academic coursework, you may also be prepared to take the SAT subject tests in late spring.

PERSONAL INVENTORY:

Are there certain classes you enjoy more than others? This may be an indication of a natural ability or interest in a specific subject area that can be connected to a college major.



Scan for information on 4 types of financial aid

PARENT CORNER

- **Include a college visit during a summer vacation**, even if you're traveling outside of the US. This is also a great way to introduce younger siblings to college.
- **Foster your student's independence.** College is only a few years away, so build life skills like how to do laundry, how to keep track of a bank account, and time management.
- **Sign up for a Family Consultation with College Apps Academy** to create a strategic plan to navigate the college application process. Visit our website for more details.

✓ TO DO LIST

- Try a few rigorous academic courses to test your academic ability
- Research interesting college majors and future careers. The Occupational Handbook is a great place to start www.bls.gov/ooh/
- Look into earning college credits through AP or IB classes, community college courses, or summer college experiences like Academic Connections at UCSD
- Increase your commitment to extracurricular activities
- Research the 4 main types of financial aid

✓ KEY SUMMER ACTIVITIES

- Seek out opportunities to job shadow and talk with professionals in your future field
- Read more! Many standardized testing companies claim that reading novels is one of the best ways to prepare for the reading and writing sections of their tests
- Open a checking and savings account and start saving for college

