



College and Career Checklist: 10th Grade

All Year

Be mindful of POSTS, pictures, and comments on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snap Chat, and all other social media sites. Your digital footprint never goes away, and colleges may have access to some or all of what you post.

Continue earning volunteer COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS so you can qualify for college scholarships - check the Champions For Learning website for places you can volunteer.

- Visit your school counselor for approved sites or to get desired site approved prior to volunteering
- Obtain the community service form from your school counselor
- To qualify for the various levels [of Florida Bright Futures Scholarship -](#)
 - You need 30 Community Service Hours to qualify for the Florida Gold Seal Scholarship
 - 75 hours to qualify for the Florida Medallion Scholarship
 - 100 hours to qualify for the Florida Academic Scholarship

Continue researching different CAREER FIELDS that you find interesting:

- <http://mynextmove.org/expore/ip>
- www.careeronestop.org
- <https://www.floridashines.org/find-a-career/plan-your-future>
- <https://roadtripnation.com/>

Continue researching COLLEGE OPTIONS by taking virtual tours of Florida's colleges and universities. See [Florida Shines](#) for these campus tours. Find the average GPA of admitted freshmen at your favorite schools to see how you measure up.

Have regular discussions with your family on your plans for the future, the college selection process, testing requirements, and financial assistance as you learn about these things from Champions For Learning and your school counselor.

Quarters 1 and 2

___ 1. **Stay strong.** Colleges look for an upward trend in your grades, so even if 9th grade was rocky, you still have plenty of time to prove your academic skills. Remember: colleges see your grades from 9th, 10th, and 11th grades; by the time your 12th grade marks come in, you will have already applied to schools.

___ 2. **Attend back-to-school events.** Important information is shared in the beginning of the year, so listen to the announcements and be sure to attend:

- Parent/Student Open Houses
- College Night at Golden Gate High School

___ 3. **Ask for academic help.** When you apply to college, you will need to have letters of recommendation from teachers. Get in the habit of raising your hand, adding to discussions, offering to lead group projects, and asking your teachers for extra assistance. Get to know a couple of teachers that you really connect with, sign up for their clubs, help when they need it – this will really come in handy.

___ 4. **Register for the PSAT** (your school might do this for you).

- Take the PSAT as a practice SAT and for National Merit and other scholarship opportunities. The school will pay the testing fees for you.

___ 5. **Meet with your school counselor.** Ask the following questions and take notes on the answers:

- Can you review high school graduation requirements with me and show me how to be sure I'm on track to graduate on time?
- Where do you post information on college visits and planning programs?
- When is the PSAT?
- Am I good candidate for dual enrollment at Florida Southwestern College or Florida Gulf Coast University?
- Do you have a list of places where I can volunteer to earn community service hours?

___ 6. **Research dual enrollment for junior and senior years.** If you have transportation, dual enrollment can give you 2 years of free college while you're still in high school. Find out about the requirements and application deadlines for [Florida Southwestern State College's Dual Enrollment](#) and [FGCU's Accelerated College Experience program](#). The ACT/SAT must be taken during your 10th grade year if you're considering dual enrollment.

___ 7. **Stay organized by downloading a planner app**, such as Todoist or Calendly, on your phone.

___ 8. **Increase your extracurricular involvement!** Now that you're participating in clubs, sports, or music; it's time to step up in a more active leadership role.

Quarters 3 and 4

__ 9. **Keep your grades up!** Your GPA determines your class rank. Together, the GPA and class rank are important components of your college application.

__ 10. **Study for the SAT/ACT if you're considering dual enrollment.** Check in with Champions For Learning staff or email Lab@championsforlearning.org to see if we'll be offering free spring SAT or ACT tutoring. Otherwise, use these online prep courses:

- Majortests.com
- act.org
- collegeboard.org
- princetonreview.com
- number2.com
- <https://www.khanacademy.org/SAT>

__ 11. **Register for 11th grade classes.** Colleges look for students who take challenging classes. Consider taking additional courses in math and natural sciences and be sure to register for additional foreign language courses beyond the two sequential years of the same language. Computer and public speaking classes will also help you succeed in life.

__ 12. **Polish up your summer plans:** So many opportunities to consider; just make your summer count.

- Summer job: If you haven't started yet, this might be a good summer to start saving money for college. Open a savings account.
- Take an [online class](#) just for enrichment. Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) are free online courses where you can learn anything from Japanese architecture to Mandarin to fashion design to Excel. Try [Coursera](#) or [Edx](#).
- FLVS: Register for a [Florida Virtual School](#) class to get ahead with extra courses or take a class that your school doesn't offer.
- Check out your favorite Florida college for summer offerings designed especially for high schoolers.
- Participate in an internship or a volunteer opportunity to gain real-world experience

__ 13. **Mark your calendar with the ACT and SAT registration deadlines** for Fall and Spring of 11th grade

- Fee waivers available for students on free and reduced meals. Speak with your school counselor or register online with Collier County Public Schools
- Register for tests:
 - SAT: <http://sat.collegeboard.com/register/sat-dates>
 - ACT: <http://www.actstudent.org/regist/dates.html>

__ 14. **Review the 4-year plan** developed in Champions For Learning Lab and make any necessary adjustments.

Summer After 10th Grade

__ 15. **Prepare the documents you'll need to apply for financial aid for college:**

- Apply for a Social Security number if you do not already have one
- Get a [Florida ID card](#) (can later be replaced by Driver's License) – you'll need to bring your Social Security card ONE of these: US birth certificate, valid US passport, consular report of birth abroad, certificate of naturalization, or certificate of citizenship. Click on the link for more information.

__ 16. **Read at least two books.** If you like contemporary fiction, click [here](#). If you want to read some classics to help develop your reading skills for the SAT, click [here](#).

__ 17. **Research scholarship opportunities and criteria**

- Community Foundation of Collier
County: <http://www.colliercountyscholarships.org/>
- Florida Bright Futures Scholarship
Program: www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org
- Other state scholarships
<https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/SAPHome/SAPHome?url=home>

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