



# College and Career Planning Checklist—9th-Grade Tasks

Keep track of key steps to take during each grade of high school to help you plan for college and career. Find a digital checklist at [bigfuture.collegeboard.org/checklist](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/checklist).

## First Semester

<input type="checkbox"/>	Review your PSAT 8/9 scores	If your school offers the PSAT 8/9, you may take it either in the fall or the spring. Your score report includes detailed information about how your PSAT 8/9 scores relate to specific academic skills and provide customized feedback on how to improve in these subject areas. This can help you choose high school courses, show you which AP® classes may be a good match for you, and get you started thinking about college or career plans.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Talk to your school counselor	Connect with your school counselor. They're there to help you and can offer valuable advice on college preparation and financial aid as you progress through high school.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Explore extracurricular activities	Get involved in extracurricular activities, school clubs, and community service. Participation in these activities can enhance your college application and scholarship opportunities.

## Second Semester

<input type="checkbox"/>	Take the career quiz	It might feel early to start thinking about a career path, but now is a great time to start! Take an easy, 15-minute quiz to get matched with careers based on your likes and dislikes at <a href="https://bigfuture.org/careerquiz">bigfuture.org/careerquiz</a> .
<input type="checkbox"/>	Decide which AP courses to take next year	It's time to start planning for 10th grade. You'll work with your counselor, teachers, and/or parents to select courses. Be sure to look at which AP courses you might be able to take. AP isn't just for juniors and seniors. In fact, some of the most popular courses are often taken by 9th and 10th graders. Check out the most popular AP courses for younger students.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Review your GPA	Now that you've completed your first semester, review your grade point average. This is an important factor most colleges will look at when you apply to college.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stay motivated over the summer	Summer is a great time to explore interests and learn new skills—and colleges look for students who pursue meaningful summer activities. Find out ways you can stay motivated this summer.

\*Complete checklist can be found at [bigfuture.collegeboard.org/checklist/9th-grade](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/checklist/9th-grade)



# College and Career Planning Checklist—10th-Grade Tasks

Keep track of key steps to take during each grade of high school to help you plan for college and career. Find a digital checklist at [bigfuture.collegeboard.org/checklist](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/checklist).

## First Semester

<input type="checkbox"/>	Start a college list	There are many factors to consider when building your college list, such as campus size, location, and cost. Use BigFuture College Search to help you narrow down your search and create the right list for you.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Take the PSAT/NMSQT	If your school offers the PSAT/NMSQT to 10th graders, you'll take it in the fall. The PSAT/NMSQT measures the skills and knowledge that are most important to college and career success. It can help you learn your strengths and areas you need to improve so that you can stay on track.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Take the career quiz	It might feel early to start thinking about a career path, but now is a great time to start! Take an easy, 15-minute quiz to get matched with careers based on your likes and dislikes at <a href="https://bigfuture.org/careerquiz">bigfuture.org/careerquiz</a> .
<input type="checkbox"/>	Review your PSAT/NMSQT score	When your PSAT/NMSQT scores are ready, access your scores on the BigFuture School mobile app if you provided your mobile number on test day. You'll see details about where you excel or need to improve.
<input type="checkbox"/>	See if you'll do well in AP	If you've taken the PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, or PSAT/NMSQT, explore your likelihood to succeed in AP by using the AP Potential™ tool. Learn which AP courses you're ready for by reviewing your personalized list.

## Second Semester

<input type="checkbox"/>	Review AP courses to take next year	It's time to start planning for 11th grade. You'll work with your counselor, teachers, and/or parents to select courses.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Take the PSAT 10	If your school offers the PSAT 10, you'll take it in the spring. Taking the PSAT 10 is a great way to see how your knowledge and test-taking skills are progressing halfway through high school.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Review your PSAT 10 score	Access your scores on BigFuture School if you provided your mobile number on test day. Be sure to check out your Career Insights Snapshot for information on careers in your state.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Enter to win \$40K and \$500 BigFuture Scholarships	No essay, no minimum GPA or test score. No citizenship requirements. Just follow the steps for chances to win. The more steps you complete and the earlier you start, the more chances you have to win!

\*Complete checklist can be found at [bigfuture.collegeboard.org/checklist/10th-grade](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/checklist/10th-grade)



# College and Career Planning Checklist—11th-Grade Tasks

Keep track of key steps to take during each grade of high school to help you plan for college and career. Find a digital checklist at [bigfuture.collegeboard.org/checklist](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/checklist).

## First Semester

<input type="checkbox"/>	Connect with colleges and scholarships	Want to hear from colleges and scholarship programs looking for students like you? Opt in to Student Search Service so they can contact you directly. You'll learn about campus life, scholarships, and financial aid.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Attend college fairs	Attend college fairs and information sessions to learn more about different schools and their financial aid offerings.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Take the PSAT/NMSQT	If your school offers the PSAT/NMSQT to 10th graders, you'll take it in the fall. The PSAT/NMSQT measures the skills and knowledge that are most important to college and career success. It can help you learn your strengths and areas you need to improve so that you can stay on track.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Explore scholarships	Discover scholarship opportunities from over 6,000 different programs and organizations. You can find matches based on your intended major, cultural background, and other factors.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Review your PSAT/NMSQT score	When your PSAT/NMSQT scores are ready, access your scores on the BigFuture School mobile app if you provided your mobile number on test day. You'll see details about where you excel and where you need to improve.

## Second Semester

<input type="checkbox"/>	Meet with your school counselor.	Make an appointment to meet with your school counselor to learn about graduation requirements, the college application process, and other recommendations to help you plan for college and career.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Review AP courses to take next year.	It's time to start planning for 12th grade. You'll work with your counselor, teachers, and/or parents to select courses.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Plan to take the SAT.	Most students take the SAT for the first time in the spring of their junior year. Ask your counselor or principal if your school offers the SAT on a school day. If not, plan to register for it on a weekend. Take a full-length practice test in the Bluebook™ app.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Learn about the FAFSA.	Familiarize yourself with the FAFSA® application process. The FAFSA determines your eligibility for federal aid and some state-based aid programs. Even if you don't think you'll qualify for financial aid, it's essential to submit the FAFSA.

\*Complete checklist can be found at [bigfuture.collegeboard.org/checklist/11th-grade](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/checklist/11th-grade)



# College and Career Planning Checklist—12th-Grade Tasks

Keep track of key steps to take during each grade of high school to help you plan for college and career. Find a digital checklist at [bigfuture.collegeboard.org/checklist](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/checklist).

## First Semester

<input type="checkbox"/>	Strengthen and finalize your college list.	A strong college list includes a mix of schools where you can thrive both academically and socially. Using your GPA and test scores, you can identify colleges on BigFuture that are a good fit for you. Incorporate at least three reach schools, two match schools, and one safety school.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Meet with your school counselor.	Meet with the school counselor to talk through your final list of colleges to apply to. Review any tasks you need to complete before deadlines.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Complete the FAFSA.	The most common way to apply for financial aid is by filling out the FAFSA—the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Decide if you want to retake the SAT.	Many students take the SAT a second time to improve their score. Ask your counselor if your school is offering the SAT on a school day this fall. If not, you can register to take it on a weekend at a test center near you.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Complete and submit your college and scholarship applications.	Once you've reviewed your application(s), it's time to send them off to your chosen schools and scholarships. Include the required components, such as essays and test scores. Be mindful of the application deadlines.

## Second Semester

<input type="checkbox"/>	Review your college acceptances and financial aid offers.	Once you've received admissions decisions from your college applications, it is time to review your acceptances. Notify colleges that you're declining their offers of admission.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Decide on your plans after high school.	After considering your acceptances, financial aid offers, and discussing them with your family, decide what your plans will be after high school.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Submit necessary documents to your college.	If going to college in the fall, notify the college that you'll be attending. Watch for emails from the college regarding documentation that will be needed to complete your enrollment.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Make necessary deposits	Secure your seat and housing, if applicable, by making the required deposits by deadlines indicated in correspondence from the college.

\*Complete checklist can be found at [bigfuture.collegeboard.org/checklist/12th-grade](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/checklist/12th-grade)