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There's a lot a 10th-grade student can do to stay on the right track toward college, and a lot a parent can do to help.

Take a look at these tips for thinking about the future, managing time, taking standardized tests, and more.

Students

To Do:

- Meet with your school counselor or mentor to discuss colleges and their requirements.
- Consider taking a practice [Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test \(PSAT/NMSQT\)](#) or the [PLAN exam](#).
- Plan to use your summer wisely: Work, volunteer, or take a summer course (away or at a local college).
- Go to career information events to get a more detailed look at career options.
- Research majors that might be a good fit with your interests and goals based on your results from the U.S. Department of Labor's [career search](#).

To Explore:

- Learn the differences between [grants, loans, work-study, and scholarships](#).

Parents

To Do:

- Find out whether your child's school has college nights or financial aid nights. Plan to

attend those events with your child.

- Help your child develop independence by encouraging him or her to take responsibility for balancing homework with any other activities or a part-time job.

To Explore:

- Learn about the [standardized tests](#) your child will be taking during 10th through 12th grades.
- Get a brief overview of financial aid from [Do You Need Money for College—Federal Student Aid at a Glance](#).

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