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In your sophomore year, you may start to feel anxious about college, or you may believe that you don't have to think about college yet. Although I am not a proponent of intense anxiety and don't think stress is healthy, you should start planning college in the 10th grade. In this article, I will walk you through the steps that you should take in 10th grade to maximize your college options and achieve your college goals. Also, I'll let you know what aspects of the college process you don't have to worry about yet. #1: Start thinking about college - It's not too early it's definitely not too early to start planning college in 10th grade. Much of what you do in 10th grade will affect your college applications and influence admission decisions. Also, if you make a college visit a goal while you're a 10th grader, you'll be more inclined to stay on the right track and eventually enroll. #2: Take the right classes developing a solid academic track record is the most important part of the 10th college planning class. The classes you take will greatly affect your college options. Talk to your counselor to make sure you are on a college prep track. In addition, you can look at various college websites to see the course requirements for admission. Colleges will evaluate you based on the classes you have taken. Selective colleges want to see that you challenge yourself and take some of the most difficult classes that are offered in your school. You don't have to take all the honors or AP classes, but to get into elite schools, you have to demonstrate that you can do well in the toughest classes. In addition, you should accept the prerequisites for classes that you are considering later. For example, you may need to take regular or honors chemistry if you want to take AP Chemistry in your junior year. I advise taking honors or AP classes on the subjects you are best at and the subjects you are considering college tuition. Some high schools offer AP classes for sophomores and some don't. If possible, you may want to consider taking CLASS AP in 10th grade to strengthen your schedule and feel for AP classes. Here's an example of a good sophomore year schedule for a student who wants to be competitive for admission to selective colleges. Note that this is just a rough guide and you can take a more or less complex schedule depending on your skill level and the courses offered in high school: Algebra II Chemistry Honors English World History Honors Spanish II PE Elective Ohfooyh /Flickr #3: Focus on your sophomore year classes are important for enrolling in Most colleges will focus on your sophomore and junior year classes when making admission decisions. For colleges, your grades are a reflection of your work ethic and ability to succeed in college. Also, your grades in your sophomore year will affect your high high GPA and grade rank. Also, if you get good grades in your sophomore year, you'll be more likely to get good grades in your junior and senior years. You will develop skills and habits that will allow you to continue to be successful in your studies. Learn more about how to get 4.0 and the best scores. If you're not doing as well as you'd like in your sophomore year, it doesn't necessarily mean that your college dreams are shattered though. Colleges would like to see further improvement, and if you're better in your junior year, that will strengthen your college applications. #4: Stay (or get) extracurricular participation in addition to your assessments and tests, your extracurricular activities are likely to have the greatest impact on the quality of your college applications. Colleges, especially the best colleges, want their students to have exceptional accomplishments outside of the classroom, and they are looking for people who use their free time to pursue their passions. Some students believe that they should be comprehensive and do a lot of extracurricular; However, for college admission, it may be more beneficial for you to develop a thorn and exercise superiority in a particular activity or area. If you play sports, you can focus your energy on reaching the highest level in your sport and become a recruited athlete. If you succeed in science, you can use your time outside of school to prepare and compete in science fairs and competitions. In addition, you can take additional science classes at a community college or volunteer to help the professor with research. You must participate in extracurricular activities during your second year of high school. In 10th grade, you have to choose activities that you will try to stay with until the end of high school, or you should try to move forward and get leadership positions in the activities you have already started. Colleges prefer to see a sustained commitment to your activities. It's more impressive to show growth and achievement in the same activity than to start doing a bunch of activities in your younger year. If you are musically inclined, you can join the orchestra. Image Source: Mark—/Flickr #5: Start preparing for sat/ACT Starting to prepare for sat/ACT in your sophomore year will give you plenty of time to master concepts and strategies that will allow you to reach your target score. Learn how to learn for the SAT/ACT as a tenth grader. We recommend that you take the SAT/ACT for the first time by the fall of your junior year. If you familiarize yourself with key concepts and take a few practical tests during your second year, you will have a good start in your studies. Then, if you prepare carefully in the summer before your junior year, you should feel and prepared when you take the test. Giving yourself a full year of study allow you to assess your strengths and weaknesses. Once you know where you are fighting, you can focus on improving your weaknesses and track your progress. In addition, sat-act training can help you with your schoolwork. In the Mathematics, SAT and ACT sections, check you out for algebra, geometry and trigonometry. Depending on the level of math you take, studying in the SAT/ACT can help you with the current maths class or maths class you will take in the future. In addition, practicing for other sections will improve your reading understanding, grammar knowledge, and essay writing skills. Finally, you should take PSAT or PreACT during your second year. These tests are designed to prepare you for the actual SAT and ACT. You will be able to simulate the real conditions of testing and effectively assess your current skill level. You will receive a detailed assessment report that will allow you to identify and hone your weaknesses. In addition, you will receive more customized SAT instructions from Khan Academy if you take PSAT. #6: Research colleges, when you're a sophomore in high school, you don't need to know which college you want to go to. You don't even need to have a lot of ideas about which colleges you want to apply to. You can get a better idea of what you need to do to get admitted. Google PrepScholar (school name) admission to receive admission rates, average GPAs, and average standardized test scores for different schools. If you know the grades and test scores you need to get into various colleges that can help motivate you to stay on track. Also, you should start thinking about what you are looking for in college. What do you want to study? Would you be more comfortable in a big school or a small liberal arts college? What geographic region do you want to be in? You can play with college finders to get an idea of the different schools that can be good for you. Furthermore, you can look at college search websites, guidebooks, and ranking lists to get a better view of your college options. Visit local campuses to see what they like and get a little taste of college life. It's normal if you're not sure at this point what you want in college, especially because it's very possible that you change your mind before you finish high school. However, it's a good idea to start thinking about college, teaching yourself about your college options, and learning what you need to do to be a competitive applicant. Read about colleges. #7: Learn how to pay for college Many students (and their parents) stress that they will not be able to afford college and will not be able to continue higher It is important to know that there are scholarships and financial assistance that can substantially ease the financial burden College. If your parents are worried that they won't be able to send you to school, you can have them read about different types of financial aid and how to save for college. If you don't think you can count on your parents to make a financial contribution to help pay for college, then you can inform yourself about how you can pay for college on your own. In addition, you can look for scholarships to help cover college costs. At this point in the college planning process, you should proceed with the idea that your financial situation will not put your college dreams in the way. Also, the better you do in school and on standardized tests, the more likely you are to receive merit scholarships to help pay for school. What not to worry about while you have to think about how to plan college in 10th grade, know that you still have time to prepare yourself for college. Try to avoid stressing too much about college now. Do your best to enjoy the sophomore year, have fun, and cultivate meaningful friendships. Here are some specific aspects of planning for college that you shouldn't be too concerned about in 10th grade. Best College for You While it's great to have goals and dreams, you don't need to know where you want to go to college in 10th grade. You don't even need to figure out where you are applying before your senior year starts. Also, as you mature and learn more about different colleges, you may well change your dream school. You may decide to pursue another career path or change what you are looking for in college. There's nothing wrong with adjusting your goals or priorities. At this point in your high school career, you should spend most of your time developing skills and qualifications to give yourself as many college options as possible. Perhaps you're suggesting that now that you're going to a local public college, that can't be too selective. Maybe its incoming students have an average GPA of 3.2. However, if in the summer before your senior year, you decide that you want to go to a more selective college, you will have a lot more options if you have a 3.8 GPA. Or maybe now you're dreaming of going to Harvard. If you make yourself a qualified Harvard entrant, but you ultimately decide that you prefer to pursue the BS/MD program, you are probably still in a good position to achieve your college goals. If you follow an effective plan, you can achieve your college goals. Getting a Top SAT/ACT Score Even if it's good to start sat/ACT training in your second year, you don't need to reach your target score in 10th grade. As you have until December of your senior year to take these tests. Even if you're trying to get a national merit scholarship, you don't need to get a qualifying score on PSAT/NMS NMS younger year. Try not to get too upset if you don't get the points you want on your practice tests. At this point, it's the most important thing to keep improving and learn what you need to do to get better. What's next? Are you starting your SAT training? Learn how to get the perfect SAT or ACT score. Do you want to know more about how to apply for college? Check out our expert guide. Are you thinking about staying near the college house? Read our article on how to determine if you should go to school near you. Want to improve your SAT score by 160 points or your ACT score by 4 points? We have written a guide for each test about the 5 best strategies you should use to have a chance at improving your score. Download it for free now: [now: english grammar worksheets for 10th grade](#). [free printable grammar worksheets for 10th grade](#)

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