

Countdown to SUNY



10th
Grade Plan

Get ready for college tests.

Begin your year by practicing and then taking the PSAT and/or PLAN (PSAT is the pre-SAT test and PLAN is the pre-ACT test). Consult your counselor about taking either or both of these tests in the 10th grade to help you prepare for the SAT or ACT college entrance exams, which you will take in the 11th and/or 12th grades.

Practice,
practice,
practice

Visit the College Board at www.collegeboard.org and ACT www.actstudent.org Web sites to learn about these assessments and take the practice tests.

Get to know yourself.

Learn more about your personality, skills, abilities, likes, and dislikes. An understanding of these will assist in determining what career will bring you the most satisfaction. There are many assessments available to assist you in learning more about yourself such as the Campbell Interest and Skills Survey, Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, Self-Directed Search, and Strong Interest Inventory. Check with your counselor to see which are available through your high school.

Talk to your family, friends, teachers, and counselor and ask for their perceptions about what you do well. Then, ask yourself questions and make a list of your answers. Here are a few questions to get you started:

- What are 5 things I like to do?
- Which classes do I enjoy?
- Which classes do I least enjoy?
- How would my friends describe me?
- How would my family describe me?
- What 5 adjectives describe me?
- What are 5 of my strengths?

- What are 5 of my weaknesses?
- What 3 accomplishments am I most proud of?
- What careers or professions are attractive to me?

Explore careers that interest you.

Consider volunteering or job shadowing in a career that interests you. Ask people whose jobs look or sound interesting to explain what they really do and how they got to where they are now. Here are a few questions to get you started:

- Describe your typical day.
- What did you study in college?
- What courses best prepared you for your career?
- What do you like most about your job?
- What do you like least about your job?
- What advice do you have for someone interested in this career?

Research job trends.

Find out more about the careers that interest you. What level of education is required? What is the average salary? What are the expected job prospects? The U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics at www.bls.gov/oco offers answers to these questions and provides information about occupational projections by state, as well as career exploration information.

Find
out
more

Make a list of colleges that interest you.

- Do you wish to attend a large, medium or small-sized college or university?
- Close to home or far away?

- Public or private?
- Two-year or four-year?
- How important is cost?
- How important are clubs, activities and sports?
- Does your list include colleges and universities that offer your areas of academic interest?

Explore free college search programs such as the College Board's College MatchMaker at www.collegeboard.org and ACT's College Search at www.actstudent.org to assist you in finding colleges that are a good match.

Begin visiting college campuses.

It's not too early to begin visiting campuses. Check Web sites for information about campus tours and open house programs, as well as summer opportunities such as workshops and camps - these are often referred to as pre-college programs.

Remember, a visit is not a commitment to attend a college but rather an opportunity to experience a campus first-hand.

The College Board at <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/know-yourself/6-steps-to-get-the-most-out-of-a-campus-visit> offers tips

on planning your visit, as well as suggestions on when to visit and how to prepare for your visit.

Visit
SUNY

Don't forget:

- The courses you take in high school are important
- Take academics seriously and keep your grades up
- Get to know your teachers, counselor and principal
- Get involved
- Make the most of your summer
- Add your 10th grade courses and test scores (if applicable) to your SUNY Online Academic Record (SOAR)

Explore ways to pay for college.

Here are a few Web sites to get you started:

- **How to pay for college**
www.nygearup.org/collegesense/index.htm
- **SUNY's Net Price Calculator**
www.suny.edu/howmuch
- **Federal grants**
<http://mappingyourfuture.org/paying/scholarshipresources.htm>
- **State financial aid**
www.mymoney.gov/category/topic1/going-college.html
- **Scholarships**
www.fastweb.com
<http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>
- **Beware of scholarship scams!**
www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0082-scholarship-and-financial-aid-scams

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Links to non-SUNY Web sites and information are provided for your convenience and do not constitute an endorsement.