



The Complete Student Checklist for 2025: Sophomore Edition

Rising Sophomore Summer [9th-10th Grade]:

As you prepare for tenth grade, now is the time to start building tangible skills and further exploring your academic interests.

If you're ready to level up, consider enrolling in a summer class at a local community college or online during these slower weeks. Rising sophomore students can also seek out specialized summer opportunities for teens in almost any subject, from STEM to humanities to the arts. Branch out and upskill your talents with new experiences!

As you increase your overall involvement, however, remember to focus on developing strong study habits, improving your writing, and continuing to participate in extracurriculars that align with your passions.

Sophomore Year [10th Grade]:

FALL

- ☐ Meet with your counselors to reintroduce yourself and begin conversations about what you would want to explore as a college major or profession one day.
- ☐ Consider taking the PSAT exam early, if you have already had time to prepare well.
- ☐ Continue club participation, taking on key responsibilities in activities that resonate with you and building critical skills whenever possible.

SPRING

- ☐ If you aim to take on leadership roles in any of your activities, start connecting with the current leaders of the clubs for mentorship and figuring out what it takes, and continue to make your contributions palpable to the community.
- ☐ Continue updating your resume of awards, honors, work, etc., which will help you apply to competitive opportunities going forward.
- ☐ Plan your future summers and take part in programs, courses, research, internships, and/or summer intensives to continue growing your resume.
- ☐ Take the PSAT exam.
- ☐ Keep your grades up and continue to take advanced classes to establish a strong academic profile, while building toward a strong junior year curriculum.

College Apps Advice for Sophomores

Begin to research colleges.

First, identify colleges that match your academic and personal goals. Based on your research, begin compiling a list of your favorites.



Review the admission requirements for each school on this list, including minimum GPA, standardized test scores, and other specific materials needed.

Sort your college list into three categories based on your admission odds: safety, target, and reach.

Why now? It gives you enough time in your journey to make meaningful progress if you need significant intervention in any one category, like SAT scores or GPA.

While this isn't set in stone, it helps to ensure your final list is balanced with options in each category.

Select Your Recommenders.

Before long, you'll need to choose teachers, counselors, or mentors who can provide strong recommendation letters.

Begin developing a genuine connection with these chosen recommenders early on. They may be able to help with recommendation letters for standout summer programs or potential summer internships, if needed.

When you ask, remember to give them plenty of notice and provide any necessary materials, such as a resume or summary of achievements.