



# 10th Grade Student Checklist

## Academics and Goal Setting

- ❑ **Earn the best grades you can and challenge yourself**  
A good GPA will help you be a competitive college and scholarship applicant. This year counts! Take advantage of honors, AP, and IB classes if available to show colleges you can challenge yourself academically.
- ❑ **Identify your learning style**  
Identifying your learning style will help guide you through different approaches to learning and help you develop effective study strategies. You will learn whether you are a visual (spatial), aural (auditory-musical), verbal (linguistic), physical (kinesthetic), logical (mathematical), social (interpersonal), or a solitary (intrapersonal) learner. Utilize [MaiaLearning](#) for learning style assessments.

## College and Career Prep

- ❑ **Research majors and academic programs**  
Now that you have identified interests and possible careers, find the best college path to get you there. What type of certificate or degree will you need, and what program or major matches your career? Use [MaiaLearning](#) for this!
- ❑ **Continue researching career clusters that interest you**  
Knowing your interests and talents can help narrow down career clusters that fit you best. These career clusters can help you decide what to study in college to prepare you for your career. Utilize your Peak Ed/Elevated [MaiaLearning](#) account for career research.
- ❑ **Visit a college campus and/or attend a college fair.**  
Whether you take a walking tour of a college campus or a virtual tour, it is important to know what type of college you would like to attend. Do you like a private school, public school, vocational, large, small, etc.? Do additional college research on [MaiaLearning](#).
- ❑ **Take the PSAT in October (if applicable at your school)**  
See your high school counselor for details. The PSAT will be good practice for the SAT that you will take next year. Colleges and scholarships will use SAT scores, so take the PSAT seriously to prepare accordingly.

## Getting Involved & Giving Back

- ❑ **Get involved in extracurricular activities**



Stay involved in the activities you like, or join some this year. Colleges are interested in what you do outside the classroom, plus these activities can help prepare you for your future career.

□ **Explore summer opportunities**

Make the most of your summers. You can work, do an internship volunteer for a position that allows you to further explore a field of interest or for the sake of giving back. Many colleges also offer college summer experiences. You can also gain valuable leadership experience through programs. These are all items that colleges and scholarships evaluate. They like to see that you were proactive and found ways to engage in activities that you care about. Past students have done the following: [Pikes Peak Leadership Leading Edge](#), [CSU's Black Issues Forum](#), [FTE](#), [Colorado College's College Prep Program](#), [Carelton College's Pre-College Program](#) and [UCCS Stem Academy](#).

*NOTE:* Some of these programs might require that you be an 11<sup>th</sup> graders; if so, research it now so that you can plan to apply and attend next year! Some of these opportunities are free and some cost money. Please speak with the director of college counseling for Peak Ed and Elevated if you're interested in a program that has a cost. You can find other college summer program opportunities by searching "college summer programs for high school students" on the Internet!

## Financial Aid

□ **Start applying to scholarships now!**

Did you know that you can apply to scholarships as a 10<sup>th</sup> grade student? You can apply each year. Get started with creating an account on <https://www.raise.me/>. This allows you to earn micro scholarships based on your grades, activities and achievements! This is more incentive to earn good grades. You can also create scholarship accounts and start applying on <https://www.unigo.com/> or <https://www.goingmerry.com/>.

□ **Research the "Big Scholarships" that are only available during 12<sup>th</sup> grade year.**

Research the large scholarships of 12<sup>th</sup> grade year and see what they look for in a student. Then, make sure you're doing the activities and behaviors that will make you a great candidate for that scholarship. Some of the large scholarships include [Daniels Fund](#), [Gates Scholarship](#), [Boettcher](#), [Coca Cola](#), [Greenhouse Scholars](#), [Cameron Impact Scholarship](#), [Coolidge Scholars](#) (you apply to this one as an 11<sup>th</sup> grader), [Jack Kent Cooke](#), and [Sachs Foundation](#).