**Sophomore Students (10th grade)**

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)](http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/about.html) or the [PLAN exam](http://www.act.org/plan/).
*  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](http://www.mynextmove.org/).

To Explore:

*  Learn the differences between [grants, loans, work-study, and scholarships](https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types).

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](https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/prepare-for-college/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*](https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/sites/default/files/2012-13-do-you-need-money.pdf).