

Sophomore Year Checklist

- ☐ Meet with your counselor and make sure you're on a path to get all of your core courses covered during high school. Remember, ACT recommends four years of English, three years of math (including Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II), three years of science (including Biology, Chemistry, and Physics), and three years of social studies. Completing core courses before graduation is the best way to be prepared for college.
- ☐ Start collecting college and university information.
- ☐ Start comparing colleges based on your needs (location, majors offered, comfort level, cost).
- ☐ Set up a college visit. Be sure to bring a list of questions you have about getting to and attending college, including how to prepare and how to pay for it. Visiting a college or university during sophomore year will give you plenty of time to visualize yourself in college, helping to keep your "eyes on the prize."
- ☐ Set up an [ACT Profile](#) account. This will help you pinpoint your interests and skills, give you an interactive college major and career map to help with planning, and help you understand how your interests can help you choose which major(s) to pursue.
- ☐ Take [PreACT](#), which will give you a simulated experience in taking the higher-stakes ACT test and a predicted ACT test score (and ways to improve it). It can even put you in contact with colleges you might be interested in attending.
- ☐ Start researching and applying for jobs you can have during high school. Having a job will help you start saving for college early and teach valuable life skills, like teamwork, problem solving, money management, and staying productive. Also, it opens the door for potential references for college and scholarship opportunities.
- ☐ Look at volunteer opportunities, too. They can help you build work skills and make connections that could help with job recommendations and mentorship down the road.
- ☐ Keep your mind sharp. Read books and magazines to develop reading skills. Find ways to practice academics outside of the classroom, like writing a blog or tutoring others in math.
- ☐ Join an extracurricular team. Get involved in activities you enjoy—sports, arts, service, etc. Not only will it expand your life experiences and keep you active, it'll give you lots of material for your career and college applications.