



Entering high school is a huge transition and can be overwhelming, but it is also an exciting time to think about what comes next and look forward to your future. Staying on track during your high school career can be difficult, but CUNY Explorers is here with a solid checklist to help prepare you. These steps reinforce that you **can go** to college, college is **affordable**, and you can take the steps **now** to achieve your college goals.



COLLEGE PLANNING CHECKLIST FOR 9TH & 10TH GRADERS



Contact Us

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9th Grade Checklist

ATTEND A CUNY EXPLORERS WORKSHOP

This is the easiest step! If you are receiving this brochure, you have already attended one of our workshops.

- A Day in the Life of a College Student
- Telling Your Story & Resume Building
- Exploring College Careers and Majors
- Skills for College Success



DEVELOP GOOD STUDY HABITS

Develop good study habits. Create long-term habits for time management by having a planner or phone calendar to remind you of upcoming deadlines. Understand what your learning style is to build effective study habits, whether it is visual (learn through seeing), auditory (learn through hearing), kinesthetic (learn by doing).

PARTICIPATE IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES OFFERED BY YOUR SCHOOL

Begin to explore your school's sports, clubs, groups, or community volunteer opportunities.



BEGIN TO BUILD YOUR RESUME

Create a list of all the activities you participate in. Colleges want to see more than your academics. You can start by checking out our [resume brainstorm worksheet](#).



EXPLORE SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES

Apply to jobs through the [Summer Youth Employment Program](#), internship opportunities, or volunteer opportunities.



START SAVING FOR COLLEGE

Learning about the [different opportunities](#) to receive financial aid early on can help you once you start applying for colleges by your senior year. Start a conversation with a trusted adult about possible costs, whether it be your parents, guardian, or older sibling.

10th Grade Checklist

TAKE THE PSAT

If offered at your school, take the PSAT, the practice exam for the SAT. The [PSAT](#) will help you understand how you will perform when taking the SAT in your junior year.



ATTEND COLLEGE FAIRS, COLLEGE TRIPS, OPEN HOUSES

You can start getting an idea of what kind of colleges are out there. This will be an excellent opportunity to reach out to college admissions counselors and understand school admission requirements.

TALK TO YOUR COUNSELOR

Getting to know your college counselor now will help you in the future during the college application process. You can get an understanding of what [academic requirements](#) you will need to complete to graduate and ask questions about how to start preparing for college.



SIGN UP FOR ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT CLASSES

Research academic enrichment programs such as [College Now](#) and/or AP/IB classes in your high school.

REVIEW YOUR RESUME LIST

Ensure that you are keeping your list up to date. Continue to look into school activities or volunteer efforts you can participate in during your sophomore year, including during the summer before 11th grade.

