



High School & Beyond Planning — News & Information

September 2016

10th Grade

Earn College Credit While Still In High School

Tenth grade is an important year! Teens might be learning how to drive a car or even getting a first job. It's also an important year for their academic career. Encourage your teens to set themselves up for success by preparing for the [Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test \(PSAT/NMSQT\)](#) or [ACT Aspire](#), taking more challenging classes like dual-credit courses, and pursuing leadership opportunities in school or the community.

Challenging classes like **dual-credit courses** in high school:

- Give students opportunities for college-level learning.
- Prepare students for college.
- Allow students to earn college credit that may be applied toward a degree.

Plus, **earning college credits in high school can save students time and money** when they get to college. Visit the [dual-credit lookup tool](#) to find out how their AP test scores might count for college credit.

Ask your child's guidance counselor about what [dual credit options](#) are available. For example, your school might offer:

- [Advanced Placement](#) (AP)
- [Running Start](#)
- [Tech Prep](#)
- [College in the High School](#)
- [Gateway to College](#)
- [Career Link—South Seattle Community College Career Link Program](#)
- Technical College Direct Funded Enrollment Programs

Source: [OSPI Dual Credit Opportunities](#) & [ReadySetGrad.org](#)



Have Naviance Questions?

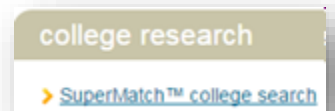
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Upcoming Lessons in **Naviance Family Connection** with your counselor:

- [Strengths Explorer](#)

Other things you can check out in **Naviance Family Connection**

-Check out over 3,500 post high-school education opportunities with **SuperMatch!!**



Did You Know?

Washington's economy is rooted in science, engineering, and technology. Washington ranks 4th in the country for technology-based corporations, but 46th for participation in science and engineering graduate programs. We need to close the growing gap between the skills people have in our state and the skills our economy requires.

Source: [Washington STEM](#)

Myth Buster

MYTH: If a student does poorly on an AP exam, his or her GPA will go down.

REALITY: AP and other exams are separate from your child's classroom grade.

They do not affect your GPA. There is no risk to taking the exam. If your teen scores low, he or she does not have to share the score with the college.

Preparing for and taking these exams are a good way to get practice taking college exams too.

Participation in dual enrollment can help students be successful in higher education by giving them a realistic idea of what college requires and giving them a head start on college-level work.



Things to Think About...

- Do you have good study habits?
- Do you read what is necessary to complete an assignment?
- Do you hand in assignments on time?
- Do you prepare ahead of time for assignments and tests instead of cramming at the last minute?
- Do you have the resources needed to complete assignments or knows where to find what is needed? If not, ask a teacher or counselor for help.

Student Checklist

- ☐ **Consider taking a practice ([PSAT/NMSQT](#)) or [ACT Aspire](#).**
- ☐ **Keep your options open—take the most challenging courses** you can. Meet with your school counselor to talk about [AP](#), [Running Start](#), and [College in the High School](#) and sign up for the classes you need to graduate and to get into college.
- ☐ **Continue extracurricular activities.**

Family Checklist

- ☐ **Make sure your child meets with the school counselor.** Your sophomore should schedule a meeting to talk about college and career options and to make sure he or she is taking the most appropriate classes.
- ☐ **Encourage your child to set goals for the school year.**
- ☐ **Make a plan to check in regularly about schoolwork.** To find out about your child's grades, assignments, and attendance, you can use the school's online system, like Skyward. Check this free, online system at least weekly to keep up with your child's progress.
- ☐ **Talk about extracurricular activities.**
- ☐ **Help your 10th grader get ready to take preliminary exams.** Taking the PSAT/NMSQT or the ACT Aspire this fall can help your child prepare for college admission tests. Sophomores can also use their score reports to figure out which academic areas they need to work on. Learn more about the [PSAT/NMSQT](#).

Sources: [Federal Student Aid](#), [BigFuture](#), & [ReadySetGrad](#)



Visit readyssetgrad.org to learn more and access resources to help your child make a plan.