

# FOR 10<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS

College search + planning tips



## FALL

- September & October PSAT planning.** Check with your school counseling office to find out about when and where the PSAT will be offered near you. Sign ups often begin in September for PSAT exams held in October.
- Explore career options.** Job shadow a friend or family member for a day.  
  
Take advantage of career exploration opportunities at school (field trips, guest speakers, etc.).  
  
Do some research online, investigating career opportunities and the level of education required, average salaries, and projected growth in the industry.
- College matchmaker tools.** Explore online tools for matching your interests and goals with colleges that might be a good fit for you.

## WINTER

- List and score:** Make a list of the top criteria that your perfect college must have, considering things like size, how close to home, selections for majors and minors, career preparation and outcomes, athletics, study abroad, and other special qualities.  
  
Assign a score, from one to five, for each criteria (for example, if it has a strong athletics program, a score of 4 or 5; if it has limited athletic options, a score of 1 or 2, etc.). Total your numbers to reach the final score for each college.
- Create a checklist for yourself** or download this free college evaluation worksheet to get started now: [go.naz.edu/comparison](https://go.naz.edu/comparison)
- Mail management.** Get a file box or accordion folder and get ready to sort and save the most interesting brochures and communications you get from colleges that meet your criteria.



## SPRING

- Investigate your top college picks.** Visit college websites; talk to your teachers, counselor, family, and friends; and begin to learn more about options for majors, scholarships, internships, athletics, career outcomes, and other special qualities of each college on your top picks list.
- Next year's class schedule.** As you select classes and plan your schedule for next school year, consider your goals for career and college and plan your class selections to align with your end goals.

## SUMMER

- Get a summer job** — save for college!
- Hit the road!** Schedule visits and tours to the colleges nearest to you. Go to [naz.edu/visit](https://naz.edu/visit) to sign up.
- Schedule your SATs + Exams.** At [collegeboard.org](https://collegeboard.org), find the dates for upcoming SAT exams, subjects tests, and AP exams. Schedule and sign up for your exams.



**NEED HELP ALONG THE WAY?** Admissions counselors at Nazareth College can help with questions and guidance as you venture out to find the best college for you. Contact our team at: [admissions@naz.edu](mailto:admissions@naz.edu) • [naz.edu/admissions](https://naz.edu/admissions) • 585-389-2860.