



10TH GRADE COLLEGE PREP CHECKLIST

PLAN YOUR PATH

Explore Careers & Postsecondary Options

- Meet with your school counselor to discuss your future goals and plans.
- Take a career interest assessment:
 - [SDMyLife](#)
Every South Dakota student in grades 6–12 has access to SDMyLife, a free career and college planning tool. Contact your school counselor if you need help accessing your account.
 - [Mapping Your Future](#)
 - [My Next Move](#)
- Research careers that interest you and learn about the education, training, and skills they require.
- [Explore Universities, Technical Colleges, Apprenticeships, and Military Service.](#)
- Attend a [College Fair](#) or career fair.
- Plan [Campus Visits](#) at universities and/or technical colleges.
- Use the [Dakota Dreams Events Calendar](#) to discover career camps, leadership programs, and enrichment opportunities.

Plan Strategic Coursework

- Review your four-year high school course plan.
- Review your progress toward the [South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship](#) and [Advanced Honors Endorsement](#), if pursuing them.
- Use [Math Pathways Advising](#) to understand which math courses align with your future degree and career goals.
- Consider academic and CTE coursework that aligns with your career interests and future goals.
- Explore the free [ACT Preparation Resources](#), including [Methodize ACT Prep](#).
- Consider [Taking the ACT](#) during the summer after your sophomore year as a practice opportunity before statewide testing in the spring of your junior year.
- Participate in extracurricular activities, leadership opportunities, and volunteer experiences that support your interests and goals.

10TH GRADE COLLEGE PREP CHECKLIST – CONTINUED

Explore College Credit Opportunities

- Learn about [High School Dual Enrollment](#) and eligibility requirements.
- Discuss dual enrollment opportunities with your school counselor.
- Explore [Degree Pathways](#) to identify dual enrollment courses connected to your future goals.
- Complete your High School Dual Enrollment application for Fall term of your junior year if you wish to participate.

Important Dual Enrollment Registration Dates

Students who plan to take dual enrollment courses during their junior year should be aware of these registration opening dates:

- **Fall courses:** Registration opens April 1
- **Spring courses:** Registration opens November 1
- **Summer courses:** Registration opens March 1

Gain Experience

- Participate in leadership opportunities at school and in your community.
- Explore internships, job shadowing, work-based learning, and Career and Technical Education (CTE) opportunities at your school that provide hands-on exposure to careers.
- Use the [Dakota Dreams Events Calendar](#) to discover career camps, leadership programs, and enrichment opportunities.
- Use [Career Ready SD](#) to explore career-connected learning opportunities and work-based learning experiences.

Learn About Paying for College

- Watch the [Paying for College Video Series](#).
- Explore the [Statewide Scholarship Bulletin Board](#).
- Learn how coursework, grades, and activities can affect eligibility for [South Dakota Scholarships](#), including "The Big Five."
- Learn about [Financial Aid](#), including scholarships, grants, work-study, and student loans.
- Discuss [College Costs](#) and financial planning with your family.