



NACP Dolphin Alumni Network

10th Grade Check List



*10th grade year is a crucial year for college admissions. Stay focused!
You can do this!*

Fall (September – December)

- Make sure you have your 'A360 College Scholar' folder organized!
- Complete the 'Free and Reduced Lunch form EVERY year.
- Update your profile on the www.csumentor.edu & add in your new grades
- Sign up for Hispanic Scholarship Fund (www.hsf.net) if you qualify
- Sign up for scholarship search engines like:
 - Fastweb.com - www.zinch.com - www.scholarships360.org
 - Freetestprep.com (to prepare for the PSAT's)
- Make an appointment to visit your ***academic counselor*** and introduce yourself:
 - Review your 3-year class schedule and a-g UC/CSU requirements.
 - ***Ask***, "I am very interested in getting ready for college as soon as possible. May I get information about enrolling in advanced Honors classes to prepare for AP classes and programs that will help me reach my goal? Is there an Avid Program or a college readiness program?"
 - Learn when report cards come out and ask for progress updates.
 - Sign up for the ***PSAT***. Sign up for ***FreeTestPrep.com*** to practice vocabulary and math
 - Sign up for the fee waivers for the PSAT ***asap!***
- Make an appointment to visit your ***college/career counselor*** and introduce yourself:
 - ***Ask***: Are you aware of any scholarships available to tenth graders?
 - ***Ask***: Are there any local college fairs and financial aid workshops coming up this fall or spring? Write down the dates and tell your parents.
 - ***Ask***: Do you have a program where I can learn about other professions and the college degree they require?
- If you are an athlete and desire to do collegiate sports, look in to the NCAA requirements.
- During ***Thanksgiving Break*** Thinking Session
 - Visit Taft High School's College Corner (www.tafthigh.org) and click through the valuable resources on the right hand side.

- Use this time to apply for scholarships and/or get the essays or projects ready. Check deadlines and needed letters of recommendations.
- Start to narrow down your choices of colleges (large or small, close or far) and list their cost of attendance.
- Update your resume of activities and volunteer hours!

Winter Break



- This is the final stretch of schooling and these 3 years will fly by. Let's get on those scholarships and apply to as many as possible. Be sure to meet with an advisor but also do essay drafts on your own time. At least 4-5 hours a week during this break! Stay focused!
- Do some volunteer work during the holidays. Can't find a group? Start your own! Brainstorm with a friend or your coach.

Winter (January – March)

- Talk to your parents about your strengths and weaknesses. Explore tutoring resources if you need help (ask your teacher and academic counselor for information).
- Look at the clubs offered and get involved in the ones that interest you. Already in a club? Move into a leadership position.
- Start asking for letters of recommendation if you need them for scholarships. Use the letter of recommendation request letter found on the NACP Alumni Corner page.

Spring (April – June)

- Review your junior year schedule with your academic counselor.
- Check for AP classes and review your a-g requirements.
- Use some time to research careers and to learn more about yourself.
- Visit careerbridge.wa.gov to take a quiz to match your interests with careers.
- Do you know what you want to be when you get older? Visit www.mynextmove.org to learn about different careers.
- Keep applying for scholarships in the evening and on weekends.
- Make good use of your summer time off!

Summer (July – August)

- Consider working, volunteering and/or participating in academic enrichment programs, summer workshops, and camps with specialty focuses such as music, arts or science. Remember it's **QUALITY**, not **QUANTITY** that counts!
- Use this time to get essay drafts done for scholarships that are due during the school year. You should be spending at least 4-5 hours a week looking for **FREE** money for college.
- Have your sheet of 9 colleges and their costs of attendance completed by the end of the summer (find the college comparison sheet on the NACP Alumni Corner webpage).
- Keep studying for the SAT/ACT test on your own. Look for free or paid workshops offered in your community.
- *Update 2/17/2016*

