

Tenth Grade

- ◆ The PSAT is given in mid-October. Be sure to sign up. When you are in 11th grade, your PSAT scores are used for the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMSQT) and the National Merit Hispanic Scholarship. Scores don't count this year – just take the PSAT for practice. See guidance to sign up.
- ◆ Through the PSAT/NMSQT, you can get mail from colleges and universities that are interested in students like you. The Student Search Service enables colleges to send you information if you want to receive it. Start a filing system to organize the information you receive.
- ◆ Become familiar with college reference books (e.g., CEEB's *College Handbook* and *Index of Majors*) and computer-assisted college-planning programs (e.g., *GIS*, Peterson's *College Selection Service*, or The College Board's *College Explorer*). Visiting a local library or bookstore will help you become familiar with different types of reference materials and what each can do for you.



- ◆ Visit a nearby college and take a tour.
- ◆ Plan a meaningful summer activity. Consider an internship, volunteer work, travel, or spending time with someone who works in a career that interests you.
- ◆ Get more involved in your favorite extracurricular activity. Colleges look for *depth* of involvement.
- ◆ Take the SAT-II: Subject Tests at the end of 10th grade in any subjects in which you have done well but do plan to continue studying in high school (e.g., biology, foreign language). *Remember:* You may only take three tests per session. If you wait until your senior year, you may not be able to take as many Subject Tests as you want.
- ◆ Continue reading widely (science or computer magazines, books, etc.).
- ◆ Look into careers. Find out whether or not your high school administers vocational aptitude tests, interest inventories, learning style inventories, or personality tests. Take all available assessment tests and make an appointment with your counselor to discuss the results. Become familiar with the *Dictionary of Occupational Titles* and the *Occupational Outlook Handbook*. Pick one or two careers and read about them. Spend some time with someone who works in those fields.
- ◆ If computer-assisted career-exploration software is available (*SIGI* and *SIGI PLUS*, *DISCOVER*, or *Career Options*), spend some time exploring.
- ◆ By the end of 10th grade, review your 4-year plan and high school transcript with your guidance counselor and parents. Plan for 11th grade by signing up for challenging academic courses, but leave time for rest, relaxation, family activities, your favorite extracurricular activities, and community service.