



Wahkiakum High School



10th Grade College Preparation Checklist

Every Year in High School

Students To Do List:

- Work with your parent/s to estimate your potential financial aid using FAFSA4caster at fafsa.gov, and continue to save for college.
- Take challenging classes in core academic subjects. Most colleges require 4 years of English, at least 3 years of social studies (history, civics, etc.), 3 years of math, and 3 years of science. Many colleges require 2 years of foreign language (occasionally 3). It's important to research college admission requirements early.
- Stay involved in school and/or community based activities that interest you or let you explore career interests. Consider working or volunteering.
- Talk to your school counselor and other mentors about education after high school. Your counselor can answer questions about what classes to take in high school, how to sign-up for standardized tests, and where to get money for college.

To Explore:

- Check out KnowHow2Go: The Four Steps to College, at www.knowhow2go.org for more advice on actions you can take as you start thinking about education beyond high school.
- Get answers to common questions about college by watching videos on the "Prepare for College" playlist at www.YouTube.com/FederalStudentAid.
- Learn about managing your money in the "High School Youth" section of www.mymoney.gov/Pages/for-youth.aspx.

Parent/s To Do List:

- Continue to talk to your child about college plans as if he or she will definitely go to college.
- Keep an eye on your child's study habits and grades – Stay involved!
- Encourage your child to take Honors & Advancement Placement courses.
- Add to your child's college savings account regularly

To Explore:

- Explore **StudentAid.gov/parent** for information on saving for college, borrowing for college, applying for financial aid, getting tax benefits to help make college affordable, and more.

10th Grade

Students To Do List:

- Meet with your school counselor or mentor to discuss colleges and their admissions requirements.
- Consider taking a practice Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), or PreACT.
- Plan to use your summer wisely: Work, volunteer, or take a summer course (online or at a local college).
- Go to career information events.
- Research majors that might be a good match with your interests and goals. Consider what fits well with yours results from the career search at **StudentAid.gov/careersearch**.

To Explore:

- Learn the differences between grants, loans, work study, and scholarships at **StudentAid.gov/types**.
- Think about starting to research different colleges. Play around with the College Scorecard tool at collegescorecard.gov to explore schools based on size, location, programs, and more.

Parents To Do List:

- Find out when WHS has college night (FAFSA, College planning, Graduation). Plan to attend that with your child!
- Help your child develop independence by encouraging him/her to take responsibility for balancing homework with other activities or a part-time job.

To Explore:

- Learn about the standardized tests your child will take during 10th, 11th, and 12th grades: the PSAT, SAT and SAT subject Tests (see www.collegeboard.org) and /or the PreACT and the ACT (see www.act.org).
- Get a brief overview of financial aid from Federal Student Aid at a Glance at **StudentAid.gov/glance**.