

College Planning Checklist for 10th grade & beyond

- Be an engaged, active learner in all classes; maintain a solid GPA.
 - Important for college admissions and scholarships.
 - May be used to determine placement in elective course at Mercy.
 - Helps students discover and develop their strengths, interests and skills for life.
- Build your résumé.
 - Get out of your comfort zone.
 - Make meaningful contributions in extra/co-curricular activities. Colleges like to see “depth not breadth.”
 - Explore leadership opportunities (in and out of the classroom)
 - Participate in meaningful service.
 - Keep résumé updated in Naviance.
- Research colleges, admissions requirements, costs and scholarships.
 - Familiarize yourself with college websites and admissions data.
 - Speak with college reps who visit Mercy in the fall, current college students and college grads. Attend a college fair.
 - Build a list of prospective colleges in Naviance.
 - Begin to visit college campuses--definitely by junior year. Attend some for virtual tours now while you have some extra time.
- It's not too early to prepare for SAT or ACT. Ongoing preparation is most effective and many programs are free, including everything below.
 - Khan Academy (www.khanacademy.org)
 - ACT Academy (www.academy.act.org)
 - College Board and ACT sites
 - www.collegeboard.org
 - www.actstudent.org
 - SAT Question of the Day app
 - ACT Question of the Day: <http://kaplanquizzes.com/act/>
- Develop and use effective time management and organizational strategies.
 - Get an expandable folder or file box for college literature.
 - Write tasks and due dates in your planner.
 - Create a spreadsheet with college data.
- Maintain a growth mindset: Embrace challenges, put forth the effort recognizing it will pay off, accept constructive feedback and learn from mistakes.
 - Ask yourself: If I were to apply to a school right now, is it likely that I would be accepted with my current profile (GPA, test scores, involvement)?
 - Set goals for yourself and commit to working towards them.