



As students settle into the high school experience, it's a great time for them to take on new challenges. It's also not too early to explore colleges, college majors and career goals. Use the list below to help make 10th grade count.

SUMMER

- ❑ **Visit a college campus together.** It's a great way to get excited about college. Learn more about how you can [prepare for a campus visit](#).
- ❑ **Explore career interests together.** Students can make a list of interests, talents and favorite activities and start matching them with occupations. Learn how students can use [CareerExplorer.com](#) to explore careers.
- ❑ **Discuss internship opportunities with your school counselor.** Internships help students get acquainted early with career opportunities, influence what college degree they want to pursue, and set them apart from their peers on applications. Explore more on the [Keys to Success app](#).
- ❑ **Get the facts about what college costs.** You may be surprised at how affordable higher education can be. Start by reading about [Paying for College](#).

FALL

- ❑ **Set up an appointment to meet with your school counselor and GEAR UP advisor.** Talk about college and career options, academic requirements for college admissions, discuss how to earn college credit in high school, and learn about the most-appropriate classes your child should take. Find out who the [GEAR UP advisor at your school](#) is.
- ❑ **Set goals for the year.** Working toward specific goals will help students and families stay motivated and focused.
- ❑ **Make a plan to check in regularly about schoolwork.** Using your [myDSD](#) or [MyWeber](#) account, you can keep up with your child's tests, papers and homework assignments, and celebrate successes and address problems as a team. Get [homework tips](#) for your child and find ways to help them [overcome test anxiety and improve their academic skill set](#).
- ❑ **Talk about extracurricular activities.** Getting involved in GEAR UP, clubs, and other groups is a great way for a student to identify interests and feel more engaged in school. Read more about [the benefits of extracurriculars](#) and find out how to [get involved in GEAR UP](#).
- ❑ **Learn about tutoring options at your school.** Subjects like Math, Chemistry, and English can be difficult to learn. Even the best students take advantage of tutoring. Some schools may offer tutoring online or in-person.

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WINTER

- ❑ **Get ready to take the Utah Aspire Plus, if their school offers it to sophomores.** Taking the Utah Aspire Plus test this year can help 10th graders prepare for next year's **ACT** and get on track for college. Sophomores can also use their score reports to figure out which academic areas they need to work on. Learn more about the **Utah Aspire Plus**.
- ❑ **Prepare now to apply for the New Century Scholarship and other financial aid opportunities.** Scholarships are an important tool for paying for college. It's never too early to start preparing and applying for scholarships.
- ❑ **Discuss next year's classes.** Make sure your child will be challenging him- or herself and taking the courses college admission officers expect to see. Learn more about the **high school classes that colleges look for**.
- ❑ **Start thinking about ways to pay for college.** Most families get help paying for college costs. Read **7 Things You Need to Know About Financial Aid** to learn more.

SPRING

- ❑ **Make a college wish list together.** Talk with your 10th-grader about qualities he or she may want in a college in terms of location, size, majors offered and so on. Check out **How to Find a College That Fits You** to learn more about deciding on college must-haves.
- ❑ **Make summer plans that include participating in GEAR UP activities.** Summer is a great time to explore interests and learn new skills — and colleges look for students who pursue meaningful summer activities. Find out ways students can **stay motivated this summer** and get involved in **community** and **GEAR UP activities**.
- ❑ **Begin preparing for the ACT** by using your free **Shmoop** account (see GEAR UP advisor for login information), taking an ACT prep course offered at their high school, and registering for the GEAR UP Summer ACT Boot Camp.
- ❑ **See how much you need to save for college.** Use the **College Savings Calculator** to get an idea of where you are in terms of your savings goal.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

GEAR UP is here to assist Undocumented Students with or without Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) in every way possible, and are committed to their success. You and your student should meet with your **GEAR UP advisor** regularly to find out how to apply for colleges and what scholarships are available to them, and refer to the guidelines and resources below.

- ❑ **Applying for College.** Utah House Bill 144 allows qualifying undocumented students to pay the same tuition as Utah residents do at any Utah college or university. Those who meet the requirements of HB 144 must print and fill out the **Non-Resident Tuition Exemption Affidavit** and submit it to the admission office of the Utah college they wish to attend. Affidavits and instructions can be found on each college's website by searching for the term "HB-144 affidavit."
- ❑ **Strongly consider taking college classes in high school.** Students who take and succeed in college classes such as **Concurrent Enrollment (CE)** or **Advanced Placement (AP)** can save time and money by earning college credit before graduating from high school.
- ❑ **Paying for College.** Dreamers can apply for scholarships to help pay for college. To learn more about what scholarships are available for undocumented, DACA, and non-FAFSA eligible students, talk to your GEAR UP advisor and visit the Undocumented Student Resources web pages for **Weber State University** and **EDÚCATE UTAH**
- ❑ **Additional Resources:** **Dreamers Road Map**, **Educate Utah**, **My Undocumented Life**

****Note:** The *online version* of this Family Action Plan allows you to click on the **yellow text** above to access important resources/websites**

Visit **weber.edu/stategearup/students.html** for more info.