



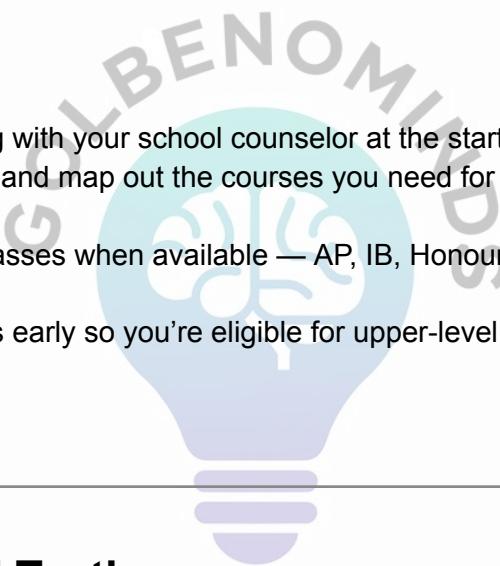
GolbenoMinds – 9th & 10th Grade College Prep Checklist

For high-achieving students aiming for top universities



Coursework

- Schedule a meeting with your school counselor at the start of the year. Review your 9th-grade progress and map out the courses you need for competitive colleges.
- Choose rigorous classes when available — AP, IB, Honours, or advanced options.
- Check prerequisites early so you're eligible for upper-level classes during junior and senior year.



Standardized Testing

- Take the PSAT or Pre-ACT to get familiar with standardized testing.
- Select “yes” for programs to contact you — this helps you discover scholarships, summer programs, and early outreach from colleges.
- Begin light preparation for SAT/ACT.



Extracurricular Activities

- Continue participating in activities that genuinely interest you — school clubs, community work, volunteering, hobbies, or self-initiated projects.
- Explore pathways to leadership roles this year or next (club officer, project lead, team captain, event organizer, etc.).
- Focus on activities that show initiative, creativity, and impact — qualities top colleges value.



Summer Planning & College Exploration

- Make your summer count. Consider academic enrichment — summer classes, online courses, community college options, or challenge-based programs.
- Apply to summer programs offered by universities, nonprofits, or industry organizations. Prioritize those that offer financial aid or scholarships.
- Shadow a professional in a career you're curious about — this builds exposure and real-world understanding.
- Visit nearby college campuses or explore virtual tours online.



Did You Know?

Top colleges often offer generous financial aid — sometimes making them *more affordable* than many local state universities.



For 10th Graders

Sophomore year is the time to build confidence and focus. Use the insights from 9th grade to create momentum. This year sets the foundation for the crucial junior and senior years when college applications become your priority.



Bonus for Serious Students (U.S. Only)

Want personalized guidance on your college path?

Book a free 30-minute college consultation with Dawes Academics - a top-rated U.S. college counseling firm helping students get into Ivy League and other competitive universities.

👉 [Click here to schedule your free consultation](#)