



# Big goals start with small steps

A guide for 10th graders thinking about college

You don't need to know your major, your college, or your career. You just need to focus on right now. This year, make time to:

## 1 Build good habits

Develop good study habits, manage your time, and take care of yourself. Sleep, rest, and time with people you care about all matter.

## 2 Explore your interests

Clubs, sports, volunteering, part-time work, or summer programs — these are how you figure out what you actually like. Try something new. It's okay to change your mind.

## 3 Take on a challenge

Take classes that challenge you but are still manageable. Meet your credit requirements and check out dual credit classes. Doing your best work matters more than being perfect.

## 4 Find your people

Get to know the adults in your life who can support you: teachers, counselors, coaches, family members. Ask questions. Let them know what you're thinking about. They want to help you plan.

## Every path is different

There's no single right way to prepare for college. Washington's colleges and universities welcome students with different interests, backgrounds, and goals. The best thing you can do right now is stay curious and keep exploring.



Talk to your school counselor or another trusted adult about your classes, your interests, and your plans after high school.

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