**10th Grade Steps to Success**

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**Fall:**

**Keep your grades up!**

There’s probably a lot competing for your attention, but it’s important to remain focused on doing well in your classes. Remember – you’re working on your hard (academic) and soft skills (leadership, teamwork, communication, problem solving, time management, work ethic, adaptivity, interpersonal skills) – these make a difference in gaining and maintaining employment and in your personal life!

**Take on new roles:**
Get involved with your [extracurricular activities](https://www.petersons.com/articles/college-admissions/college-prep-extracurricular-activities) and work toward leadership positions in the activities you like best. Become involved in community service and other volunteer activities.

**Attend College Fairs:**
Our office provides opportunities for virtual and face-2-face college visits and fairs in the fall for Pope students and information about other fairs you can take advantage of. These offer you an excellent opportunity to speak directly with admissions representatives, learn specific college admission requirements, learn more about their majors, extracurricular programs, and explore colleges and programs that you might not be aware of. <https://popecounselor.wixsite.com/mysite/college-fairs>

**Take the PSAT in October:**
Taking the [PSAT](https://www.petersons.com/testprep/product/psat-nmsqt-practice-tests/) as a sophomore and junior will help prepare you for the real thing (the SAT and the ACT). It also allows you to get free personalized online test prep offered through the Khan Academy. You can start taking the actual SAT and ACT when you are half-way through Algebra II. Consider taking a diagnostic SAT/ACT through Applerouth Tutoring Services to help you decide which test might be the best fit for you (email your counselor for dates and times for a Diagnostic SAT/ACT).

**Attend our PSAT Results and College Testing Info Meeting:**

**Dec. 13th 6:30pm in the PAC –** We’ll explain your PSAT results and how best to use them and educate you about the SAT and ACT. You will learn how to plan out your college testing timeline.

**­­­­­­Continue exploring potential careers:**
Explore your career options in more detail using ***Naviance***—research possible careers to learn about the tasks, education, and training necessary for each occupation. Also, visit our College/Career Planning tab on the Pope School Counseling webpage for excellent information and resources for career and college planning. GAFutures.org is also a great resource for career and college planning information and tools.

**Winter:**

**Read, read, read!!!**
Reading interesting or award-winning books/journals/periodicals keeps you informed and makes you a well-rounded individual. Developing your reading skills will build your vocabulary and help prepare you for SAT/ACT and future success.

**Create an account at  to check your HOPE Scholarship GPA**

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**Get advice from teachers and counselors in Jan./Feb.!**Prior to course registration for 11th grade, meet with teachers from every subject area by attending one of our Advisement Nights. This is a great opportunity to get in-depth advice and information about our curriculum and selecting your courses for the rest of high school. Counselors will be on hand to help answer questions about balance and “the big picture”. We will advertise when and how to sign up to attend in January.

**Spring:**

**Keep your grades up!**
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**Other options after high school/Career Fairs:**

Our website has information about many career, apprentice, and trade programs around Georgia where students can receive training in industries and skill areas that can lead to high paying jobs with excellent benefits. Pope Counseling Department hosts a Career Fair usually in March or April. We will advertise when this event will take place.

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**Summer:**

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**Consider taking courses over the summer**:

This can help to open up space in your schedule for other coursework in subsequent school years. Summer school courses cost around $275 per half credit and are usually taken through the Cobb Virtual Academy or Georgia Virtual School.

**Get a summer job:**
Finding steady summer work will look good to prospective colleges and employers. Putting the money you earn away will also help you get a head start on a personal savings plan.