

SOPHOMORE YEAR CHECKLIST

January - March To-Dos

At Private Prep, our diverse team of tutors and experts cover a wide range of academic needs at the high school level. We've compiled advice from our team into a single to-do list to help you manage the middle of the school year and plan for the future without getting overwhelmed or burned out.

ALL STUDENTS

- Get some perspective on how things are going by writing down one positive and one challenging item for each class you are taking.
- Revisit your first-semester goals. Cross off the ones you reached and circle the ones you missed. Use this reflection to create a new set of attainable goals for second semester.
- Define any obstacles (and be specific!) that could prevent you from reaching your new goals. Then identify who you can go to for support, be it a teacher, parent, tutor, or friend, when you're struggling to overcome these obstacles.
- Scope out your timeline by populating your calendar with weekly/monthly check-ins and mini-goals. Be sure to lock in times for rest, recovery, and adventure. Now is the halfway point in a long grind, so it's vital to take breaks and stay energized.

SOPHOMORES

- For each class note when you started preparing for midterms, and how those exams went. Write down anything you want to change about your approach for finals.
- By February you'll have a few quizzes under your belt. The results of these can provide essential data to make an informed decision on whether or not a subject tutor could be helpful for the rest of the school year, even if just for homework help or test support.
- Consider the demands on your schoolwork in combination with any sports, extracurriculars, and rest/recovery time. Do you feel like you have the right balance to keep stress under control? Overlay your academic goals against your extracurriculars schedules to ensure that you won't be overscheduled and overextended.
- Now is a good time to start thinking about the college admissions process. Coming up with a strategy early on will ease stress and pressure in the years to come. If you have a skill in the arts, consider how you'll use this to your advantage on college applications.
- As a sophomore you might be taking a course whose curriculum aligns well with an SAT Subject Test, such as Biology, and it could benefit you to take it while the material is fresh. However, these classes often don't cover all the material on Subject Tests, so getting support early will help you fill in any content gaps come May and June.
- Don't wait for summer planning. Application deadlines for camps, classes, and internships can fly by while you're busy with school work in these coming months. Research summer ideas, make plans now, and add those registration deadlines to your calendar.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

- If English is not your first language, enroll in supplementary classes to accelerate English acquisition. Watching movies, TV, and YouTube with English audio and subtitles can be an enjoyable way to improve English skills and vocabulary.
- Challenge yourself to read a classic novel in English each month. Reading, discussing, and writing about English literature is a critical skill you'll need if you are considering university in the United States or another English-speaking country.

It is important to keep the momentum high after the first few months of school and winter breaks. We are here to help ensure you are supported, contact us if you have any questions or need guidance along the way.

[CONTACT US](#)