



PHS 9TH/10TH GRADE COLLEGE PLANNING CHECKLIST

9TH GRADE

- ☐ Students and parents, register for SCOIR
- ☐ In SCOIR, under Discover → Careers → Your Assessment, complete the *PrinciplesYou Assessment* and the *Career Interest Assessment*
- ☐ In SCOIR, in the “Me”, “View Profile” section, fill out the *Personal Bio* **AND** *Activities & Achievement* sections to keep track of your activities and involvement as you navigate high school.
- ☐ Meet with your school counselor: Your counselor knows how to get the most out of high school. Be sure to take time to discuss post-secondary plans with them.
- ☐ Create your 4-year plan: Think about what you’d like to accomplish in the next four years of high school
 - Get to know the levels of courses offered at PHS via the [PHS POS](#)
 - Build a document with your course trajectory for all four years of HS
- ☐ Participate in extracurricular activities. Explore your interest in a sport, school club, music or drama group, or a volunteer activity
 - Remember that colleges like to see breadth and depth in your activities. This means deep involvement in one activity versus loose involvement in several activities.
 - If you’re interested in playing sports in college, research the [National Collegiate Athletic Association \(NCAA\)](#) eligibility requirements. The NCAA requires completion of certain core courses.
- ☐ Start researching/estimating financial aid needs by using:
 - [Federal Student Aid Estimator](#)
 - **Net Price Calculator** on respective websites of colleges
- ☐ Explore summer opportunities: look for a job, volunteer, or shadow to help you learn about a field of interest.



10TH GRADE

- ☐ Students and parents, register for SCOIR
- ☐ In SCOIR, take PrinciplesYou Assessment if you haven't already. Take or retake the Career Interest Assessment
- ☐ In SCOIR, in the "Me", "View Profile" section, continue filling out/updating the Personal Bio AND Activities & Achievement sections
- ☐ Meet with your school counselor and update them on your summer activities and course planning
- ☐ Update your 4-year plan: Think about what you'd like to accomplish in the next four years of high school
 - Continue to explore course offerings or take a class in a new subject
 - Revise your 4-year plan document based on any new interests
- ☐ Continue your participation in extracurricular activities. Start thinking ahead to clubs that interest you and leadership roles in junior year
- ☐ Prepare to the PSAT: Taking the PSAT in 10th grade is purely for practice to assess your strengths and areas of development (October)
- ☐ Attend the Financial Aid Presentation (October)
- ☐ Continue researching/estimating financial aid needs by using:
 - [Federal Student Aid Estimator](#)
 - **Net Price Calculator** on respective websites of colleges
- ☐ Read, Read, Read: The NYT, WSJ, The Atlantic, The Economist, The Washington Post: Reading helps to develop reading comprehension skills and writing skills, which also helps with standardized testing
- ☐ Visit some local colleges: Rutgers, TCNJ, Rider, NJIT: Get a feel for campus size, geographic locations, student body vibes
- ☐ Continue to explore summer opportunities: look for a job, volunteer, shadow to help you learn about a field of interest. Take an online class via MOOC's