# PCHS College & Career Planning Timeline / Checklist

## Freshman Year

- ❑ Talk with your parents, friends, and community members about their college experience, and start thinking about what you want out of yours.
- ❑ Make a plan to pay for college with your parents. For example, part-time work in high school and college can help you pay for college costs and start building your resume.
- ❑ Begin building a scholarship and college admissions resume to track your achievements
- ❑ Sign up for at least one school club or after-school program.
- ❑ Attend your CCR meeting in the spring of freshman year
- ❑ Take the Pre-ACT in September of Freshman year.
- ❑ Ask your counselor about Career and Technical Education (CTE), Advanced Placement (AP), (CE), and technical education courses available at your high school.
- ❑ Attend college visits and career fairs. PCHS hosts admissions representatives from colleges across the U.S. in the fall of each school year.

## Sophomore Year

- ❑ Participate in extracurricular activities. Explore your interest in a sport, CTSO, school club, music or drama group, or community volunteer activity.
- ❑ Remember that colleges would rather see real involvement in your area of interest instead of a loose connection to several.
- ❑ Get familiar with ACT/SAT assessments. ACT/SAT tests are designed to be taken during spring of junior year or fall of senior year. Many four-year colleges consider applicants' scores on these college admission tests.
- ❑ Attend your CCR meeting in Spring of Sophomore year.
- ❑ Explore summer opportunities. Look for a job, internship, or volunteer position that will help you learn about a field of interest.
- ❑ Attend college visits and career fairs. PCHS hosts admissions representatives from colleges across the U.S in the fall of each school year.

## Junior Year

- ❑ Continue to explore your career pathway; select purposeful courses for senior year, do an internship or a job shadow, and see what training/education you might need for your chosen career.
- ❑ Keep your grades up! Admissions counselors look closely at your junior year
- ❑ Stay involved and take on leadership roles in your activities
- ❑ Attend your CCR meeting in Winter of Junior year.
- ❑ Prepare for ACT/SAT
- ❑ Attend College Day in February at PCHS to hear from Utah admissions reps
- ❑ Take the ACT at PCHS in March (and maybe again later in the spring)
- ❑ Start developing a list of colleges, including "likely", "target", and "reach" schools. Use Schoolinks as a research tool and save to "favorites".
- ❑ Visit colleges and post-secondary programs locally (or virtually!) to get an idea of what they offer and what might be a good fit
- ❑ Start working on your essays and consider which teacher(s) you might ask for a

recommendation (if required)

- ❑ Research the cost of the colleges you are considering, what scholarships and financial aid they have available, and complete the FAFSA4caster to see what aid you might receive

## Senior Year

- ❑ Attend your CCR Meeting in Fall of Senior year.
- ❑ Take the ACT/SAT one more time if needed
- ❑ Attend college visits at PCHS or on-site at colleges you are interested in
- ❑ Determine your final list of colleges you are applying to, considering program and major offerings, "likely", "target", and "reach" schools, and cost and scholarship opportunities.
- ❑ Add to your "Final List" on Schoolinks and determine deadlines for when you need to apply (consider early action/early decision and scholarship/priority deadlines).
- ❑ Communicate with your counselor and seek help when needed!
- ❑ Request transcripts and letters of recommendation (if required) to be sent to colleges via Schoolinks, send your ACT/SAT scores, and complete all the required steps for applying
- ❑ Make sure to meet ALL deadlines for applications and scholarships!
- ❑ Take charge of your extracurricular activities and continue to demonstrate leadership
- ❑ October/November- Utah College Application Week
- ❑ FAFSA opens in October to complete
- ❑ Keep your grades up! Senior year matters, and colleges will look at your performance
- ❑ Before winter break, you should have a final list of colleges you have or will be applying to, transcripts and letters requested, and ACT scores sent