



## POST-SECONDARY PLANNING TIMELINE FOR JUNIORS

### January – February

- Attend your Junior meeting with your counselor.
- Prepare for the April 14th SAT.
  - ✓ Link your College Board account to Khan Academy.
  - ✓ Prep for the test (Method Test Prep & Khan Academy are free!)
- Think about possible majors and career choices → Use results from Career Matchmaker in Career Cruising to do research.
- Attend Career Cab experiences related to career interests.
- Review college admission requirements at schools you are considering.
  - ✓ Select senior year courses accordingly. Make any adjustments during your Junior meeting.
- Begin building a list of colleges → Complete School Selector in Career Cruising.
  - ✓ Consider academic programs, location, size, cost, activities, athletics, housing, etc.
- Take on leadership roles in clubs, community service activities.

### March

- Continue post-secondary planning discussions with your family.
  - ✓ Share your Career Cruising portfolio with your parents/guardians.
  - ✓ Estimate costs for each school if you are considering college by using the Net Price Calculator on each college/university website.
- Plan campus visits.
  - ✓ Visit different types of schools, e.g., large public universities, small private colleges, junior & community colleges, career and technical schools, etc.

### April – May

- April 14<sup>th</sup>: take the school-based SAT (do you want/need the optional essay portion?).
- Take Advanced Placement (AP), Concurrent Enrollment (CE), and IB exams as appropriate.
- Use NoCo Inspire to explore jobs, internships, and apprenticeships.
- Apply for summer jobs or internships in your proposed career field.
- Considering a military academy or a ROTC scholarship. Research deadlines. Connect with the Point of Contact for each opportunity.

### Summer

- Register for the SAT and/or ACT on the national test dates as needed.
- Participate in community service related to career interests.
- Work in a career-related internship. Refer to NoCo Inspire for opportunities.
- Search for scholarships via Career Cruising and Scholarship Search Engines.
- Combine vacation plans with campus visits.
- Start working on your college essays. Refer to the Common Application for prompts.
- Update your resume.
- Talk to graduates who are home for summer about their college, internship, work experiences.

### All College Bound Juniors (2-year, 4-year, Career Tech Ed)

- Complete Career Cruising School Selector.
- Be sure to Save colleges of interest to your Portfolio. This list will help us contact you when an Admission Representative from these colleges visit the PHS College, Career, & Military Center.

## **Paying for College**

Merit based scholarships may be available through your chosen school. Be sure to complete and submit the FAFSA to qualify for both institutional and need-based federal financial aid. The FAFSA is available starting October 1<sup>st</sup>. A list of Scholarship Search Engines are on the PHS Counseling website. The Scholarship Selector via Career Cruising is also a valuable resource.

Helpful financial resources include:

[www.Fafsa4Caster.ed.gov](http://www.Fafsa4Caster.ed.gov)

[www.collegedata.com](http://www.collegedata.com)

<http://netpricecalculator.collegeboard.org/>

o All Colorado residents are eligible to receive an annual stipend for tuition via the College Opportunity Fund. Register at [www.collegeincolorado.org](http://www.collegeincolorado.org). Students need only register once, and it is part of the CE course registration process.

## **Four-Year College Bound**

- Admissions requirements. Have you taken the courses required for admission to the college/university or to a particular program? Does your GPA and SAT score fit into the middle 50% of accepted students? Use this information to determine reach and likely schools.
- Application due dates. If the school is one you are especially interested in, you might consider applying early. Make a note of all regular and early application deadlines for any college you are interested in. Know the difference between Early Action and Early Decision.
- Cost of attendance and available aid. Talk with your family about what you can afford for college. Some expensive schools might offer more aid, making them more affordable than they first seem. Financial aid is based on the information submitted via the FAFSA.
- Consider using the Common Application for many of your applications. 700+ colleges and universities use the Common Application so check it out at [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)
- In the Spring of Junior year & Fall of Senior year check the Career Cruising Calendar to see when college reps are coming to PHS. This is an opportunity to make that personal contact with the colleges you are considering.
- College Fairs- Check Career Cruising for upcoming fairs. Fairs are a great venue to talk directly to admissions reps about majors, scholarships, admission criteria, etc.

## **Two-Year College or Technical School Bound**

- Many two-year career/technical institutions require fewer materials for admission. If you are planning to attend one of these schools, check out their website, [Career & Technical Schools in Colorado](#)
- Check websites for admissions processes and deadlines regarding applying, submitting financial aid applications, registering for classes, and payment.

## **Military Academies**

- Research admissions requirements and deadlines
- Meet with your counselor to discuss application requirements including supplemental materials. This admission process begins in the junior year.

## **Military**

- Check the College, Career, & Military Center calendar for dates when representatives from various branches of the military will be at PHS.
- Schedule to take the ASVAB - administered at PHS in April (TBD)

## **Apprenticeships & Workforce**

- Check NoCo Inspire via Career Cruising for job and apprenticeship opportunities. Have questions answered by Mrs. Bryner or Ms. Tomaschow
- Look for northern Colorado apprenticeship postings on Larimer County Workforce website
- Update and revise your resume. Your counselor can help refine your resume and help edit cover letters for job applications.

## **Student Athletes NCAA/NAIA**

Student athletes planning to play DI or DII sports in college need to register with NCAA at

- NCAA [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org)
- or NAIA <http://www.naia.org/>

See your counselor to make sure you have qualifying coursework.