

PCHS Elective Course Descriptions

PCHS offers a variety of elective options. On-campus and online electives are listed below.

PCHS also offers **Career Technical Experience Electives (CTE)*** that are listed on the [eDynamic website link](#) located on the 'Courses' section of the PCHS website.

*CTE electives offer career-based training or exposure to skills needed in specific career areas. Discuss with your Faculty Advisor if you would like more details.

- **PCHS Created electives**
- [CTE eDynamic Electives](#) (see separate link)
- **Archived Electives located at the bottom of this section**

PCHS Electives

Art I & II

On-campus 9 week/quarter course/ 5 credits/fine arts

Students will explore various media and learn basic terms, techniques and styles of expression. The Five Basic Perceptual Skills of Drawing are emphasized. The students will complete numerous projects (at home) using the in-class techniques introduced during the on-campus class meetings.

Art Exploration 1 & 2

a-g approved

On-campus 9 week/quarter course/ 5 credits/fine arts

Students learn basic terms and explore different media and styles of expression. Students create a variety of projects and research artists from different art periods. A visit to an art museum concludes the course requirements.

Career Exploration

Online/9 week/quarter course/ 4 credits/elective

Students will be given a variety of introspective-related activities to help them become aware of their career preferences. Data from these activities and assessments will assist students in considering career goals.

College Experience

Online/full semester/5 credits/elective/

The purpose of this course is to help you to succeed in the college environment. Over the course of the semester, following the syllabus, you will reflect on your experiences and explore tips for getting the most out of your college courses. Requires simultaneously enrollment in college course.

Concepts of Psychology

Online/9 week/quarter course/ 5 credits/elective

Students examine intriguing topics in psychology, which include: B.F. Skinner, Sigmund Freud, Jean Piaget, and general information. Students demonstrate basic knowledge of several theories and major scholars on the area of psychology. A meaningful service learning project is incorporated in the course.

Consumer Awareness

Online/9 week/quarter course/ 5 credits/elective

Consumer Awareness addresses the following topics: The Online Marketplace; E-Commerce; Social Media; Media; Synergy; Online Privacy; and Strategies for Engaging in the Online Marketplace.

Drama

On-campus/full semester/5 credits/elective

In this course, the student will continue with understanding of drama from Theatre Arts 2. Students will perform in plays and/or musicals.

Pre-requisite: Theatre Arts 1 & 2.

Driver's Ed

Online/9 week/quarter course/ 5 credits/elective

This course teaches the principles of road awareness and safety for first time drivers and can serve as a refresher for a more seasoned driver.

Fine Arts Survey A

Online/full semester course/ 5 credits/fine arts

In this course, the student will discover the elements and principals of design in the Fine Arts of the world. They will research online or do virtual tours of an architectural masterpiece, a famous artist, a musician, a classic movie, discover Old Time Radio, and a favorite video game or App.

Fine Arts Survey B

Online/full semester course/ 5 credits/fine arts

The student will continue their discovery of different genres in the Fine Arts. They will research online or do virtual tours of automobile design, a costume designer, the art of cooking through presentation, the world of advertising, landscape design, a famous photographer, and a classic television program.

Humanities

Online/9 week/quarter course/ 5 credits/elective

This course students explore areas of humanities which cover: Greek & Roman architecture/philosophy, Middle Ages, renaissance, Baroque Era and Art evaluation. Upon completion of the course, students identify selected cultures, political institutions and major art forms.

Rosetta Stone Languages

Online/full semester course/ 5 credits/fine arts

Languages include: Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), Danish, Dutch, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hindi, Irish, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latin, Persian (Farsi), Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish, Tagalog, Vietnamese.

Spanish 1, 2 or 3

a-g approved

Hybrid (on-campus meetings with online component)/full semester/5 credits/fine arts

This course provides students with communication experience: speaking, reading and writing in Spanish. They also become familiar with culture, geography and customs.

Spanish 2 pre-requisite Spanish 1. Spanish 3 pre-requisite Spanish 2.

Speed Reading

On-Campus/9 week/quarter course/ 5 credits/elective

In this course, students will master three techniques designed to increase reading rate and comprehension.

Study Skills

On-Campus/9 week/quarter course/ 5 credits/elective

In this course, students address note-taking techniques, learning styles, thinking skills, and memory techniques.

Theatre Arts 1 & 2

a-g approved

Theatre Arts 1: On-campus/full semester/ 5 credits/fine arts

This course is a performance-based class exploring the craft. Students will use their abilities with a wide variety of dramatic projects and activities including sense memory, improvisation, scene work, and play productions. Students will look at the foundations of dramatic performance through film, television, and filmed stage productions with a basic understanding of the history of drama and technical language.

Theatre Arts 2: On-campus/full semester/ 5 credits/fine arts

Students will be improving skills through performances. Major areas of focus will include: processing, analyzing, and responding to sensory information through the language and skills unique to theatre, creative expression, historical and cultural context, aesthetic valuing, connections, relationships and applications.

Yearbook

On-campus/full semester/ 5 credits/elective

The yearbook staff participates in all the decisions made for the yearbook each year. They work as a large group to determine layout, themes, and the cover of the yearbook.

ARCHIVED COURSES

(listed for students who may have taken these courses on their prior transcript)

Advanced Film Production (3rd in series of Video classes)

On-Campus/full semester (pre-req: Intermediate Video Production)/ 5 credits/elective Continuation of Intermediate Video Production course.

Art & World Cultures (gradpoint) Online/full semester/5 credits/fine arts

This course provides an introduction to fundamental techniques and concepts of representational expression of drawing within a variety of media.

Civics (gradpoint)

Online/full semester/5 credits/government requirement

This course provides an in-depth look at the community of people who make up the country. The course also explores the American economy and forms of government and the rights and responsibilities of living in the United States.

Comparative Literature (Senior/Early Grad Class)

On-campus/9 week/quarter course/ 5 credits/elective

This course will offer an introduction to the works of leading writers and provide training and practice in the basics of discussion, composition, grammar, and mechanics. Select titles will be compared, contrasted and evaluated.

Computer Science Elective (No longer offered)

On-campus/9 week/quarter class/5 credits/elective

As a student in this Exploring Computer Science course, you will learn the most important topics in Computer Science and technology and how to effectively employ these resources.

Computer Science Principles A & B

Hybrid (required on-campus labs with online component)/full semester/5 credits each semester Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra 1

This two-semester course exposes students to a wide variety of concepts in computer science (CS), specifically the big ideas in Computer Science. This course utilizes computational practices to teach computational thinking and CS principles. Students explore the global and personal impact of computer science plus the use of computational tools in data analysis. Computer programming basics are introduced using MIT's Scratch and AppInventor, Python, and Java while emphasizing problem-solving and logic development. Students are introduced to various computer tools to solve problems creatively. Most projects are open-ended and students will work on them either in pairs or alone but with a focus on collaboration skills. As students create projects, they will be asked to narrate the project as well as reflect on their work by writing reports or responding to prompts.

Consumer Math A & B

Hybrid (book/Syllabus) full semester course/each level = 5 credits/elective

In this course the student will gain a basic understanding of mathematic concepts and operations. These are experienced in practical applications of earning money, buying and working with food, shopping for clothes, managing a household, buying and maintaining a car, budgeting money, and planning a vacation.

Cosmetology A & B (gradpoint)

Online /full semester course/each level = 5 credits/elective

This course provides an introduction to the basics of cosmetology. Students will explore career options, learn about the common equipment and technologies used by cosmetologists, and examine the skills and characteristics that make a good cosmetologist.

Creative Writing (gradpoint)

Online/full semester course/5 credits/elective

This course provides students with a solid grounding in the writing process story using complicated literary techniques and creating strange, hybrid forms of poetic prose and prose poetry. By the end of the course, students will learn how to discover their creative thoughts and turn those ideas into fully realized pieces of creative writing.

Criminal Justice Today (gradpoint)

Online/full semester course/5 credits/elective

In this course, students will explore different areas of the criminal justice system, including the trial process, the juvenile justice system, and the correctional system. Careers in each field will be explored.

Criminology (gradpoint)

Online/full semester course/5 credits/elective

Students will study the field of criminology—the study of crime, looking at possible explanations for crime from the standpoint of psychological, biological and sociological perspectives, explore the categories and social consequences of crime, & investigate how the criminal justice system handles not only criminals, but their deeds.

Cyber Skills (formerly known as Computer Skills)

Online/9 week/quarter course/ 5 credits/elective

Cyber Skills addresses the following topics: How to Succeed in an Online Course; Canvas Learning Management System; Mental Health and the Internet; Internet Safety; Social Media; Gaming; Information Literacy; and Plagiarism and Copyright.

Drawing

On-campus/9 week/quarter course/5 credits/ fine arts

Students will explore various media and learn basic terms, techniques and styles of expression. The Five Basic Perceptual Skills of Drawing are emphasized. The students will complete numerous projects (at home) using the in-class techniques introduced during the on-campus class meetings.

Economics with Financial Literacy (gradpoint)

a-g approved Online/full semester course/5 credits/elective

This course will recognize economics in daily life and see how the economic choices of businesses and governments affect the student and others. It will help students become a smarter consumer who understands the economy between business, government and the rest of the world.

Environmental Science (gradpoint)

Online/full semester course/ 5 credits/science requirement

This course presents relationships between organisms and how these relationships relate to the functioning of ecosystems and cover ways to promote biodiversity and create a sustainable future.

Fashion & Interior Design A & B (gradpoint)

Online/full semester course/ 5 credits each/elective

Student will learn the basics of color/design through hands-on projects. They will explore the career possibilities and background needed to work in the industry. Students will start to develop a portfolio to enter this exciting field.

Forensics 1 & 2 (gradpoint)

Online/full semester course (pre-req for Forensics 2 is Forensics 1)/ 5 credits each/elective

This course focuses on some of the techniques and practices used by forensic scientists during a crime scene investigation (CSI). Starting with how clues and data are recorded and preserved, the student follow evidence trails until the CSI goes to trial.

Guitar I

On-campus/ 9 week/quarter course/ 5 credits/elective

This class is for new guitar players and those with basic knowledge. Between on-campus classes, and practice at home, students will be playing right away. Maintenance of the instrument, tuning, finger board knowledge, beginning chords, strumming patters, reading music, and basic concepts in music theory will be covered.

Guitar 2 (Prerequisite Guitar 1, unless approved by instructor)

On-campus/9 week/quarter course/5 credits/ elective

This class is a continuation of Guitar 1. Emphasis on advanced chords, fingerboard knowledge, the basics of Chord progressions, advanced strumming patterns, beginning guitar scales, solo improvisation, advanced music theory and song structure will be covered.

History of Holocaust (gradpoint)

a-g approved Online/full semester course/5 credits/elective

In this course, students will study the history of anti-Semitism, the rise of the Nazi party, and the Holocaust, from its beginnings through liberation and the aftermath of the tragedy.

Hospitality & Tourism (gradpoint)

Online/full semester course/ 5 credits/elective

This course will introduce students to the hospitality and tourism industry, including hotel and restaurant management, cruise ships, spas, resorts, theme parks, and other areas.

Human Geography (gradpoint)

(a-g approved) Online/full semester course/ 5 credits/elective

Students will explore the diverse ways in which people affect the world around them and how they are affected by their surroundings. They will learn how ideas spread, cultures form and how beliefs and architecture are part of a larger culture complex.

Intermediate Video Production (2nd in Video series classes)

On-Campus/full semester (pre-req: Intro to Video)/ 5 credits/elective

Continuation of Intro to Video course utilizing advanced concepts including a 10-page screenplay.

Intro to Communication (gradpoint)

Online/ full semester/ 5 credits/ elective

This course will examine the communication (verbal, nonverbal, listening) process. Students will explore ways in which communication elements operate between self, individuals, and groups.

Intro to Robotics

On-campus/9 week/quarter course/ 5 credits/elective

Students in this course will become familiar with computer science concepts and coding through on-campus Lego Mindstorms labs.

Intro to Sociology (gradpoint)

Online/ full semester/ 5 credits/ elective

Students will look at the sociological processes involved in everyday life with a focus on critical thinking, cultural diversity, and the growing influence of the mass media.

Intro to Video (1st in series of video classes)

On-campus/full semester/5 credits/elective

This course will teach the basic of digital video production, pre-production and post-production. Students will learn script writing, story board development, camera functions, basics of lighting and editing. They will analyze contemporary film and media.

International Business (gradpoint)

(a-g approved) Online/full semester course/ 5 credits/elective

This course helps students develop appreciation, knowledge, skills and abilities to live and work in a global marketplace. They will learn to understand how economic, social, cultural, political and legal factors influence domestic and cross-border business.

Intro to Entrepreneurship A & B (gradpoint)

Online/full semester course/5 credits each/elective

This course can give you a head start in learning about what you'll need to own and operate a successful business of your own. Students will learn how to create a business plan, financing a business and pricing products and services, the regulations that apply to businesses, marketing products and services.

Intro to Homeland Security (gradpoint)

Online/full semester course/5 credits/elective

This course provides an overview of the elements involved in the homeland security functions, as well as the challenges manager in government and industry can face while maintain operations and accountability.

Intro to Law (gradpoint)

Online/full semester course/ 5 credits/elective

Students receive an overview of substantive and procedural areas of law and legal practice. They explore the legal profession, courts, ethics, sources of law, and alternative dispute resolution systems, and they analyze an application of law to factual circumstances.

Intro to Medical Assisting (gradpoint)

Online/full semester course/5 credits/elective

Students explore the roles of the medical assistant, including professionalism, duties and responsibilities, and medical specialties.

Intro to Paralegal Profession (gradpoint)

Online/full semester course/ 5 credits/elective

Students explore the role of the paralegal in the legal system, their skills, working environments, ethical considerations and career opportunities.

Journalism (gradpoint)

(a-g approved) Online/full semester course/ 5 credits/elective

Students will respond to current news and shifts in journalism, create original projects and reflect upon the changing face of news. Assessments and interactive examples will give them an understanding and prepare them for work in the field of journalism.

Law & Order (gradpoint)

Online/full semester course/5 credits/elective

This course focuses on the creation and application of laws in various areas of society. By understanding the workings of our court system, as well as how laws are actually carried out, we become more informed and responsible citizens.

Medical Law and Ethics (gradpoint)

Online/ full semester course/ 5 credits/ elective

Students will look at the impact of professional roles in the health care industry. Students will study laws that regulate the health care industry such as HIPAA, the Patient's Bill of Rights, and standard of care.

Medical Terminology (gradpoint)

Online/full semester course/ 5 credits/elective

Students explore medical terminology, symbols, abbreviations and how they apply to the language in health care. Medical terms will relate to body structure and function. The main focus will be on medical vocabulary and word parts such as roots, suffixes and prefixes.

Music Appreciation

Online/9 week/quarter course/ 5 credits/fine arts

This course will provide students with an aesthetic and historical perspective of music, covering a variety of styles and developments from the Middle through the 21st century.

Pastels

On-campus/ quarter course/ 5 credits/ fine arts

Students will experiment with a variety of media while blending and creating definition and shadows with pastels. Students will complete assorted projects.

Painting

On-campus 9 week/quarter course/5 credits/ fine arts

Students will explore various media and learn basic terms, techniques and styles of expression. The Five Basic Perceptual Skills of Drawing are emphasized. The students will complete numerous projects (at home) using the in-class techniques introduced during the on-campus class meetings.

Personal Finance (gradpoint)

Online/ full semester/ 5 credits/ elective

This course introduces students to basic financial habits such as setting financial goals, budgeting, and creating financial plans. Students will also learn about taxation and money management.

Psychology (gradpoint)

Online/full semester/5 credits/elective

Through this highly interactive course students will acquire an understanding of and an appreciation for human behavior, behavior interaction, and the progressive development of individuals.

Public Speaking (gradpoint)

Online/ full semester/ 5 credits/ elective

Students will learn both the theory and the practice of effective speaking. Students will learn to build a strong argument, speak with confidence, and know what makes a successful speech.

Real World Parenting (gradpoint)

Online/full semester/ 5 credits/elective

Students will learn to prepare, what to expect, and what vital steps parents can take to create the best environment for their children.

Sociology (gradpoint)

Online/ full semester/ 5 credits/ elective

Students will learn how their beliefs, values, and behaviors affect other people in our increasingly Connected world. Social problems will also be examined.

Social Problem - A World in Crisis (gradpoint)

(a-g approved) Online/full semester course/ 5 credits/elective

Students will learn more about the challenges facing societies and the relationships between societies, governments, and individuals in these areas. Each unit will focus on a particular area of social concern, often with a global view, and examine possible solutions at both a structural and individual level.

Social Problem - B Crisis, conflict and Challenges (gradpoint)

(a-g approved) Online/full semester course/ 5 credits/elective

Students will learn more about the challenges facing societies and the relationships between societies, governments, and individuals in these areas. Each unit will focus on a particular area of social concern, often with a global view, and examine possible solutions at both a structural and individual level.

Sports & Entertainment Marketing (Gradpoint) a-g approved

Online/full semester course/ 5 credits/elective

Students will explore basic marketing principles, delve into the sports & entertainment marketing industry and learn how athletes and entertainers are marketed. The fundamentals of major sporting events will be covered.

Veterinary Science (gradpoint)

Online/full semester course/5 credits/elective

This course will examine some common diseases and treatments for domestic animals.