

COLLEGE PASS

Winter 2014 Newsletter



What is College PASS?

The purpose of the College PASS (Preparation, Access, Strategies for Success) Initiative is to match Utah State University (USU) mentors with incoming high school students who have been historically underrepresented in postsecondary education.

College PASS engages current 10th -12th graders in 5 high schools, across 3 districts, in activities to receive information on postsecondary education in 3 phases: (1) Preparation, (2) Access, and (3) Strategies for Success.



WHO PARTICIPATES IN COLLEGE PASS?

Bear River High School

- Group 1: Seniors
- Group 2: Juniors

Box Elder High School

- Group 1: Seniors
- Group 2: Juniors

Logan High School

- Group 1: Sophomores
- Group 2: Juniors

Mountain Crest High School

- Group 1: Juniors
- Group 2: Seniors

Sky View High School

- Group 1: Juniors
- Group 2: Seniors

How can College PASS help?

College PASS Mentors will be on each high school campus for 1, 1.5-hour session during the school week. Student mentees will be encouraged to participate for a minimum of a ½ hour each week to continually make progress on College PASS goals and objectives. Sessions will be held during lunch or during a school-designated time such as RoCK, BEE, FLEX, or CLAW time.

During session time students will participate in several activities throughout the school year focusing on the development of course selection and credit attainment, ACT/SAT preparation skills, college requirements, financial literacy skills, and debt management skills. Students will be given individual attention and personalized help with preparing for postsecondary educational goals. According to student grade level, students will fill out either authentic FAFSA and college applications for future use or for immediate submission.

GROUP 1: STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS PHASE

What does this mean?

How to be successful in college

Mentors will help students complete a series of activities that teach financial literacy skills, budgeting, and debt management skills. Students will also be guided in preparing for freshman registration and purchasing course textbooks.

College is expensive.

During this phase students will receive help in accessing scholarships information. Mentors will help students search for, fill out, and submit applicable scholarship applications.

Students will also receive assistance in completing a FAFSA form. By filling out this form students may be eligible to receive grants, low- to no-interest loans and work study opportunities from the government to help facilitate a large portion of college expenses.

What is FAFSA?

A Free Application for Federal Student Aid is a form that can be prepared annually by current and prospective college students to determine their eligibility for student financial aid.

What financial aid options are available to those who qualify?

- Pell Grant: up to \$5,500 that does not need to be repaid
- Loans: up to \$12,500 with lower interest rates and flexible payment options
- Work Study: provides part-time employment, allowing students to earn money for education expenses.

Want to know more?

Please visit studentaid.ed.gov for more information.



"At least **1.7 million** students fail to file the FAFSA each year because they incorrectly believe themselves to be ineligible."

GROUP 2: ACCESS PHASE

What does this mean?

Completing college application material required is an important step towards college. In this phase the students will complete a college application paper draft to use as a model for authentic applications. Then we will discuss the importance of the ACT/SAT assessment and score interpretation. Students will be assisted in completing a paper draft form of the FASFA, among other activities that we will prepare for the students

UESP: Have you heard of it?



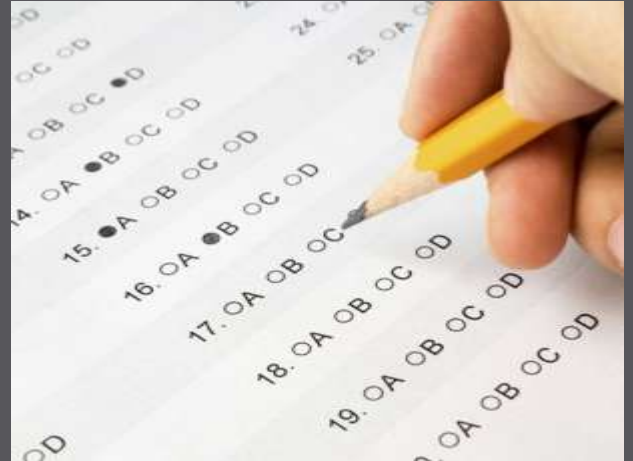
College PASS will host a Utah Educational Savings Plan (UESP) meeting to inform students and families how to make college education more affordable. A UESP officer will provide a startup kit to students and families to assist them in opening a savings account.

Did you know?

Each higher education level a person receives is directly related to an increase in earnings. The statistics on the right show an average of popular professions in Utah.



For more information visit: www.utahscholars.org



Average Salary

- Registered Nurse: \$58,070 (27.92/hr)
- Entry Level Chef: \$30,000 (\$14.40/hr)
- Mechanical Engineer: \$70,200 (\$33.78/hr)
- High School Teacher: \$43,000 (\$20.02/hr)
- Lawyer: \$100,000 (\$48/hr)





RESOURCES TO SUPPORT MY STUDENT IN COLLEGE

As a parent/guardian this is what you can do to help your student during College PASS.

- You want the best for your student. You most likely talk to your student about everything from activities to what's for dinner, so why not make college part of the conversation? The earlier you start, the more prepared your child will be to take the next step to higher education.
- Check out utahfutures.org or stepuputah.com with your student and discuss which school he/she is interested in, how he/she will pay for it, future careers, other planning tips and more.
- Encourage your student to ask for help with difficult subjects in school. Stay informed on how your student is doing in his/her high school classes.



FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO SUPPORT MY STUDENT IN COLLEGE

There are things you can do now to help your child prepare financially for college.

- Start a College Savings Program for your student. Visit www.uesp.org for more information
- Help your student search for and apply for scholarships.
- Assist your student with filling out a FAFSA application.
- Diversity Days and Hispanic Leadership Conference at Utah State University awards many students with full or half tuition scholarships. See the website or more information <http://www.usu.edu/admissions>



Utah Educational Savings Plan®
uesp.org

Director: Nicole Pyle

Phone number: 435-797-0398

Email: nicole.pyle@usu.edu or email your School Counselor