



Saint Joseph's

CATHOLIC ACADEMY



College Search Timeline for Juniors

AUGUST

Students should continue with test preparation through The Khan Academy. It will help prepare them for the PSAT and any fall administrations of the SAT. Due to recent rule changes, be mindful of NCAA requirements if you want to play Division I or II sports in college. For more information and to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center, go to www.eligibilitycenter.org

Students can register for SAT exams online by this time. Given the increased volume of test takers, register now for any of the tests during the upcoming school year. High achieving students should take the December SAT exam.

SEPTEMBER

Keep in mind that colleges look for a student with a challenging curriculum, strong grades and depth (i.e. quality) in co-curricular activities. Visit <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/> Preparation tips for the PSAT, sample test questions, and information on what test scores really mean are included on this web site.

Start a file for ALL of your writing assignments. Some colleges require graded papers as a part of the application process. Start planning to take the SAT at some point in time. It is expected that each student take the SAT at least once during their junior year. Students should also take the ACT toward the end of their junior year. Check with the colleges you are applying to and find out specific testing requirements. Check www.sat.collegeboard.com and www.actstudent.org for registration deadlines.

OCTOBER

Take the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

Visit and tour a college online. Be sure to review requirements for admissions.

Get to know your school counselor. The more frequent your contact with your counselor, the more assistance he/she can give you.

NOVEMBER

Start looking into eligibility requirements for federal and alternative student loans.

Within their Family Connection account in Naviance, students must complete the Career Interest Profiler, Career Cluster Finder, Resume, StrengthsExplorer and the College Search Information Form early this month. If high school alumni visit during the holidays, talk with them about their college experiences.

DECEMBER

PSAT/NMSQT score reports typically released. Thoroughly review your results and identify the test skills you need to develop before taking the SAT. Register and study for the ACT and SAT accordingly. Individual and small group college search meetings will commence with students.

JANUARY

Through the specific college admissions website for prospective students, request to be placed on their mailing lists. More importantly, visit the college website regularly and conduct research on the institution.

FEBRUARY

Start seriously investigating private scholarships and other student aid programs.

Begin to research summer opportunities now. Colleges pay attention to enrichment programs, internships or jobs that mirror a student's interests.

Go to www.commonapp.org and create an account for this online college application platform. Essay topics for next year may be posted as well on this site.

MARCH

Advanced Placement (AP) exams are scheduled in May so start preparing now.

Begin visiting as many of the 3-5 schools that are on your interest list. Additional hints:

Arrive the afternoon before the visit and just explore the college and surrounding area on our own. Take the college tour the next morning. Be sure to see academic areas, dining halls, and the dorms. Keep notes or a folder on each college. Do this on the ride home while it is still memorable. View folders later during additional college visits.

Try to do something fun at the end of visiting colleges on the way home.

APRIL

Take the ACT exam.

Continue to refine your college search list and visit colleges when you can. Discuss choices with parents/guardians and your college advisor.

If you travel this summer, schedule a number of college visits.

If you are a prospective student-athlete, request your official transcript to be sent to the NCAA Eligibility Center.

MAY

Brainstorm for college/scholarship essay topics. Read college websites for essay questions. Start on a rough draft. See www.commonapp.org for their topics.

Be aware of the test dates and registration deadlines for the remaining SAT and ACT exams. More than likely, you will take them again during your senior year in high school. If registered, take the SAT or SAT Subject tests held this month. Review material received from colleges.

JUNE

Take the SAT or SAT Subject test or the ACT if you did not take them last month.

Complete essays, writing samples and personal statements and have them reviewed by your English teacher and/or another reviewer. Read a variety of books and magazines and review your math skills over the summer. This will help you to prepare for the SAT, when you take it in the fall. If possible, save some money from your summer job to pay for college costs. Students can register now for SAT exams in August. Given the increased volume of test takers, register now for any of the tests during the upcoming school year.

SUMMER - Stay involved!

Review college search plans and narrow the list to an appropriate number of colleges.

Students applying for ROTC scholarships and the service academies should complete these applications during this time. Work to help pay for college. Attend a summer program on a college campus. Get involved in an internship relevant to your career interest. **Read! Read!! Read some more!**