



Saint Joseph's

CATHOLIC ACADEMY



College Search Timeline for Seniors

SEPTEMBER

By September 1 - if not earlier - students WILL have a list of schools (ten is the suggested maximum) where they are applying. This is an expectation for all students! Athletes interested in playing sports in college at the Division I or II level, must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>

Keep working on college applications and essays. When you've finished one application (including the essay), you will have a better idea of how long it will take you to do the rest. Make a goal to complete one or two applications a week.

Find out which financial aid applications your college choices require and when the forms are due. Some private colleges and universities may require that you register for CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE at this time.

Finalize portfolios, audition tapes, writing samples, or other evidence of talent if required.

[Plan to visit your top schools - if possible - this fall.](#)

OCTOBER

Use October 1 as a target date for completing all of your college applications and sending them via the Common App or directly to the college. Submit transcript requests through Naviance for these colleges at this time as well.

Submit the FAFSA online after October 1.

<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

Take the SAT or ACT exam, if necessary.

Continue to visit college campuses.

Research sources for outside funding and/or scholarships.

NOVEMBER

Take the SAT or ACT if needed

If you haven't already, complete and submit your college applications. Submit transcript requests through Naviance for these colleges at this time as well. Write thank you notes to the teacher and counselor who wrote your recommendation letter.

DECEMBER

Continue to research sources for outside funding and/or scholarships. If high school alumni

visit during the holidays, be sure to talk with them about their college experiences.

JANUARY

If you have not already, submit the FAFSA as soon as possible. Whether you think you qualify for aid or not, you need to file. This is important for state scholarship programs especially. Highly recommended: Plan on setting aside the first two weeks in April to visit the colleges where you have been accepted.

FEBRUARY

Mid-year transcripts have already been automatically sent to the schools to which you have applied. If your grades are exceptional, students may want to send their own copy to the admissions office.

Whether you have heard from all of your colleges or not, preliminary rank your preferred list of colleges.

MARCH

If you submitted your FAFSA early, look for your Student Aid Report (SAR) in the mail. Your SAR contains federal financial aid information.

Watch the mail for college acceptance and financial aid award letters. Compare the financial aid awards you receive.

Continue to prepare for any Advanced Placement (AP) examinations at school. AP testing will be in May.

APRIL

Make your final decision and send in a deposit by the deadline. Notify the other schools that you will not be attending. Watch for important deadlines at your chosen college (housing, financial aid, etc.).

MAY

Be aware of any summer orientation sessions that you must attend at the school in which you will enroll, and make plans accordingly. Finalize summer educational, travel or job plans. **If** you choose the last option, make a plan for saving a portion of your summer earnings.

JUNE

Prepare a realistic student budget using your college costs, taking into consideration the cost of books, supplies, and personal expenses. Finalize plans for travel and begin preparing for move-in day.