

COLLEGE TIMELINE FOR JUNIORS

2021-2022

September – December

1. All juniors will take the **PSAT** (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test) this year as your standardized test for the year here at York Catholic on the morning of Wednesday, October 13. You will receive a preparation book in homeroom in mid-September. Plan to spend some time reviewing the procedures in the book and taking the practice test. Ask someone at home to time you when you take the practice test. Practice on the College Board website is also encouraged through Khan Academy.
2. Do as well as you can in your **classes!** This year's grades really count. Get help from teachers if you do not understand something. Don't let problems go unattended – talk with your teacher about getting extra help, ask for a tutor, or talk to your counselor. **Attendance** counts as well, and is part of your permanent record.
3. Do Initial **Assessments**: We will be working with the online SCOIR system this year for career exploration. Make sure to login to your SCOIR account as all juniors created accounts as sophomores. The YouScience program will be our focus this fall for a personality inventory and career exploration. A self-assessment is also available online at www.educationplanner.org to help you figure out the kind of student you are and what type of career you might find interesting. Additional websites for career and college searches include www.collegeboard.com, www.cappex.com, and www.careeronestop.com. Visit the YC College & Career Counseling Office located in the Guidance Center and explore resources there. Become familiar with “The College Handbook” and other college and career guides. You may sign out books overnight or for the weekend.
4. Attend the **College Fairs** at the local high schools: (www.pacac.org)

Pennsylvania Association for College Admission Counseling (PACAC) College Fairs
PACAC College Fairs are being planned for Fall 2021.
Visit the PACAC website at <https://www.pacac.org/> for details and updates.

National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) National College Fairs
NACAC College Fairs will be virtual. Visit <https://www.nacacfairs.org/attend/attend-virtual-college-fairs/> for details and updates.

5. Encourage your parents to attend **College Admission Night** here at York Catholic on October 28, 2021 at 6:30 PM in the Media Center. The YC College & Career Counselor and a college representative will speak about the college selection process. Your parents may find this very helpful, especially if you are the first in your family to be applying to college.
6. **Mock Interviews**: All Juniors will participate in a 10-minute mock interview at York Catholic, with a human resource professional from the York community, on April 19, 20, and 21, 2022. Juniors will receive more information about the mock interviews in early April through a classroom guidance lesson.

7. Meet with **college representatives** visiting York Catholic High School. A calendar of college reps coming to our school will be posted on the YC website, on the SCOIR website, and in the College & Career Counseling Center along with a sign-up sheet. Check with the teacher of the class you will be missing to get their permission to attend. You will receive a pass in homeroom on the day of the visit and you will be expected to attend.
8. Attend the York Catholic Career Day on January 31, 2022. Continue to research careers by using SCOIR, reading, talking with people about their jobs, and participating in shadowing programs. Talk with your counselor if you have questions. Use the **College Board Book of Majors** for information and the Occupational Outlook Handbooks in the College & Career Counseling Center.
9. If you plan to take **the SAT or ACT** college admissions tests in the spring, register now and spend some time working through the SAT/ACT online practice questions. As guidance, we also have prep books such as The Official SAT Guide, ACT Strategies, and Baron's SAT in the College & Career Counseling Center. You should register online at www.collegeboard.org or www.act.org. You may also take advantage of the practice materials in Khan Academy and offered in paper format.

Juniors are encouraged to take at least one college admission test during the spring of junior year. Register early, at least 6-8 weeks ahead, for the SAT or ACT. If you wait, you run the risk that the test center you want will be filled. In that case you will need to choose the next nearest test center, which may be located in the Lancaster, Gettysburg, or Harrisburg areas. This can add extra stress on test day when you want to be calm and relaxed.

10. York Catholic, York College, Penn State York, and Sylvan Learning Center offer **SAT preparation courses**. Please check their websites for more information or visit the York Catholic College & Career Counseling Center.
11. Plan to attend the **College Financial Aid Night** at York Catholic on Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 6:30 PM in the Media Center. A financial aid specialist will be on hand to explain the process and to answer questions. Parents are encouraged to bring their tax information from 2020 and stay for the FAFSA Completion workshop following the information session. Students are invited to attend as well. If you and your parents have questions about how to finance your college education, this will give you some ideas to think about.