

College Planning

Important Dates:

ACT Dates

2021 ACT Test Dates & Registration Deadlines

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
September 11, 2021	August 6, 2021	August 20, 2021
October 23, 2021	September 17, 2021	October 1, 2021
December 11, 2021	November 5, 2021	November 19, 2021

College Application Date:

Common Application	Opens Aug 1, 2021
2021-2022 FAFSA opens	Oct. 1, 2021
Early Action/Early Decision	Nov. 1, 2021 (check individual schools)
Regular Decision	Nov/Dec 2021

Early Action vs. Early Decision

The biggest difference between **early action** and **early decision** programs is the attendance agreement. Students who are accepted through **early action** programs can reject the offer and attend a different school without repercussions. The nonbinding nature of the program also allows students to apply to several schools through early action. This is helpful for students in need of financial aid who can compare award offers from several schools. **Early decision** is a binding agreement between you and the college/university. You can only submit to one early decision.

4 Year College Planning Timeline

Freshman Year

Plan a strong academic course path. Recommended for college admission;

- Four years of English
- Three years of social studies
- Three years of mathematics
- Three years of lab science
- Two years of a foreign language

St. Patrick High School requirements can be found on page 16 of the student handbook.

Sophomore Year

- Take the PSAT, the official precursor to the SAT — mirrors the SAT by testing students in three core areas: mathematics, reading comprehension, and writing/grammar. The PSAT takes place in mid-October.
- Continue with extracurricular that demonstrate leadership, community service, and/or exceptional ability.
- Meet with your counselor to create a list of colleges or career areas that interest you.
- Take the ACT or SAT - SAT attempts to assess a student's critical thinking skills, while ACT measures core knowledge.

Junior Year

- Junior students are required to take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test (ASVAB).
- Take the ACT in March as required by the state of Kentucky (can take the ACT throughout Junior year act.org)
- Start college visits
- Start talking with teachers and coaches securing recommendations
- Take the PSAT in October
- Take college level classes through MCTC

Senior Year

- Take the ACT or SAT to improve scores (act.org)
- Begin Common Application (Opens Aug 1st)
- Gather materials and fill out FASFA (Opens Oct 1)
- Plan college visits
- Request recommendations for submission to your college applications.
- Meet application deadlines (early action, early decision, honors, regular admission)
- Look for scholarships, community, national, and selected colleges

Meet with your school counselor at any time to discuss all college/post-secondary options.

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Resources

- ACT, Inc. is the leading US college admissions test measuring what you learn in high school to determine your academic readiness for college.
- College Board helps more than seven million students prepare for a successful transition to college through programs and services in college readiness and college success.
- FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) helps students pay for college.
- FastWeb provides access to over 1.5 million scholarships to help students pay for college.
- The Student Guide shares valuable information about preparing for college and financial aid.
- College Navigator helps you search and find the right college.
- College Majors 101 allows students to find the perfect fit and review over 150+ majors.
- Education Planner supports students and parents with careers, selecting colleges, financial aid, and scholarships.
- Popular Scholarship Websites help you search for scholarships.
- The Common Application provides access to over 700 colleges.