

SAT/ACT Testing Strategies

(Source: College Board)

Ask a hundred students how to prepare for the SAT or ACT and you will probably get a hundred different answers. You can invest endless amounts of time and money preparing to take the SAT or ACT from online practice tests to private tutoring. We can't tell you the single best way to prepare for the SAT or ACT, but we can explain three techniques and how to decide which is best for you.

1. Prepare for the SAT or ACT with Practice Tests

If you take a practice SAT or ACT and ace it, you may not need to concentrate on preparation as much as some of your friends. But even if you think you have the test nailed, you probably should take some sample quizzes online or buy a book or two about the test.

2. Prepare for the SAT or ACT with a Prep Class

If you don't do well on standardized tests, did badly on a practice test or are simply terrified of test day, ACT and SAT prep courses can help. The classes involve homework and practice tests. They sometimes offer live

online lectures. A physical class, however, will better prepare you for the SAT or ACT because it more closely replicates the environment of the real test. Not sure about a class? Check with your counselor for offerings on your campus or in Mesquite ISD.

3. Prepare with Individual SAT or ACT Tutoring

If you need more personalized attention to prepare for the SAT or ACT, you can be tutored online or in-person. Having to answer to a teacher face-to-face can help motivate you to invest the time to prepare for the SAT or ACT. Tutors can tailor your test preparation to your strengths and weaknesses, providing instant feedback and explanations that make sense to you.

Don't make SAT or ACT test day even more stressful by arriving unprepared. Be honest with yourself about how much time you need to prepare for the SAT or ACT. If you realize you need the extra work, do it. You will probably be so happy with your higher SAT or ACT score that you will soon forget the chore of preparing!

Online Planning Tools

Preparing for college, scholarships, financial aid, and college entrance exams can be mind-boggling for both students and parents. Here are some useful online references you may find helpful for all these processes.

Explore Schools and Careers,
Prepare for Entrance Exams,
Research Financial Aid..... www.princetonreview.com

College Advice, Admission Applications... www.ctmentor.org

Plan for College, Find a College,
Apply to College, Pay for College.... www.collegeboard.com

Financial Aid, Financial Aid Process..... studentaid.ed.gov

Guide to Colleges and Financial Aid.... www.collegenet.com

Preparing and Paying..... www.collegeispossible.com

Choosing and Applying
for College, Scholarship,
and Financial Aid..... www.infoplease.com/edu/highered

ACT Test Dates,
Registration, and More..... www.actstudent.org

Guide to Financial Aid..... www.finaid.org

FREE Application for
Federal Student Aid..... www.fafsa.ed.gov

Info on Preparing for,
Applying for and Paying for
College in Texas..... www.collegefortexans.com

Getting on the Path to College and
Career Education, Selecting Classes and
Tests, Applying for College, Financial Aid..... GentX.org