

College Admissions Testing



Below is a list of tests used for college admissions purposes. Not all students take all tests. The tests below should be used in the proper combination to add strength to a student's college applications. It is important to research colleges of interest to determine which tests are required, recommended or if they are considered.

Advanced Placement

Advanced Placement testing can be used to improve a student's application in addition to earning college credit and advanced placement after admissions. AP tests are offered in May and are taken upon completion of AP courses in specific subject areas. To learn about Advanced Placement visit: www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/about.html

PSAT/NMSQT

The Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSAT) is given only once each year in mid October. AMSA administers the PSAT to all students in grades 9-11 and the cost is \$15. It is used to familiarize students with the types of questions used on the SAT. The Score Report is used to help students to recognize where they need to improve their test taking skills in preparation for the SAT. The PSAT/NMSQT is also used as a qualifier for 11th grade students interested in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Free PSAT/NMSQT resources, publications and tutorials are available at: www.collegeboard.com/psatdownloads.

SAT Reasoning Test

The SAT Reasoning Test is the nation's most widely used admissions test among colleges and universities. It tests students' knowledge of subjects that are necessary for college success: reading, writing and mathematics. The SAT is typically taken by high school juniors and seniors and assesses the critical thinking skills students need for academic success in college. Each section of the SAT Reasoning Test is scored on a scale of 200-800, with two writing sub-scores for multiple-choice questions and the essay. For more information visit the SAT Preparation Center at: www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/prep_one/prep_one.html

SAT Subject Test

Subject Tests (formerly SAT II: Subject Tests) measure a student's knowledge and skills in particular subject areas, and the student's ability to apply that knowledge. Many colleges use the SAT Subject Tests for admission, for course placement, and to advise students about course selection. Some colleges specify the Subject Tests that they require for admission or placement, while others allow applicants to choose which tests to take. For more information visit: www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/about/SATII.html

To register for SAT Reasoning or Subject tests visit <http://sat.collegeboard.com/register/>

Test Dates	Test	U.S. Registration Deadlines (Expire at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time, U.S.A.)	
		Regular	Late (a fee applies)
October 11, 2014	SAT & Subject Tests	September 12, 2014	September 30, 2014
November 8, 2014	SAT & Subject Tests	October 9, 2014	October 28, 2014
December 6, 2014	SAT & Subject Tests	November 6, 2014	November 24, 2014
January 24, 2015	SAT & Subject Tests	December 29, 2014	January 13, 2015
March 14, 2015	SAT only	February 13, 2015	March 3, 2015
May 2, 2015	SAT & Subject Tests	April 6, 2015	April 21, 2015
June 6, 2015	SAT & Subject Tests	May 8, 2015	May 27, 2015

Anticipated Test Dates for 2015-2016:

<http://secure-media.collegeboard.org/digitalServices/pdf/professionals/sat-and-sat-subject-test-dates-2014-15.pdf>

SAT Fees

Regular Registration:
\$52.50

Late Registration:
add \$28.00

Test Date Change:
add \$28.00

SAT Subject Test Fees

Base fee:
\$26.00

Language with Listening Tests:
add \$26.00 (per tests)

All other subject tests:
add \$16.00 (per test)

ACT

The American College Testing (ACT) program is a college entrance examination that is used in place of the SAT Reasoning Test. There is a writing section that is optional, however, most colleges and universities require it if no SAT's will be submitted. The ACT is also used primarily by mid-western and some southern colleges. For more information regarding ACT go to: www.act.org/news/aapfacts.html.

To register for ACT visit: www.actstudent.org/regist/index.html

Test Date	Registration Ends	Late Registration Time Frame
September 13, 2014	August 8, 2014	August 9 – 22, 2014
October 25, 2014	September 19, 2014	September 20 – October 3, 2014
December 13, 2014	November 7, 2014	November 8 – 21, 2014
February 7, 2015	January 9, 2015	January 10 – 16, 2015
April 18, 2015	March 13, 2015	March 14 – 27, 2015
June 13, 2015	May 8, 2015	May 9 – 22, 2015
September 12, 2015	August 7, 2014	August 8 – 21, 2015
October 24, 2015	September 18, 2015	September 19 – October 2, 2015
December 12, 2015	November 6, 2015	November 7 – 20, 2015
February 6, 2016	January 8, 2016	January 9 – 15, 2016
April 9, 2016	March 4, 2016	March 5 – 18, 2016
June 11, 2016	May 6, 2016	May 7 – 20, 2016

ACT Fees **ACT (no writing):**

\$38.00

Late Registration:

Add \$24.00

ACT Plus Writing:

\$54.50

Test Date Change:

Add \$23.00

SAT vs. ACT

SAT	vs.	ACT
reasoning test	Type of Test	content-based test
Critical Reading: 2, 25-min sections and 1, 20-min section; Math: 2, 25-min sections and 1, 20-min section; Writing: 1, 25-min essay, 1, 25-min section, and 1, 10-min section	Test Format	English: 1, 45-min section; Math: 1, 60-min section; Reading: 1, 35-min section; Science: 1, 35-min section; Writing: 1, 30-min essay (optional)
reading, vocabulary, grammar & usage, writing, and math	Content Covered	grammar & usage, math, reading, science reasoning, and writing (optional)
tricky: questions can be phrased in ways that make them difficult to decipher	Test Style	straightforward: questions may be long but are usually less difficult to decipher
Math, Critical Reading, and Writing scores will each range between a 200-800; total SAT score ranges between 600-2400	Scoring	English, Math, Reading, and Science scores will each range between 1-36. Composite ACT score is the average of your scores on the four sections; ranges between 1-36

yes – you lose ¼ of a point for incorrect answers (except on the grid-in math questions)	Penalty for Wrong Answers?	no – you do not lose points for incorrect answers
yes – you can choose which set(s) of SAT scores to submit to colleges	Score Choice?	yes – you can choose which set(s) of ACT scores to submit to colleges
questions increase in difficulty level as you move through that question type in a section (except reading passage questions, which progress chronologically through the passage)	Difficulty Levels	difficulty level of the questions is random
arithmetic, data analysis, algebra I and II, functions, geometry; formulas are provided in the test booklet	Math Levels	arithmetic, algebra I and II, functions, geometry, trigonometry; no formulas are provided
with private schools and schools on the east and west coasts; however, every four-year college in the US accepts SAT scores	Tends to be more popular?	with public schools and schools in the Midwest and south; however, every four-year college in the US accepts ACT scores
seven times per year: January, March or April, May, June, October, November, December	Offered when?	six times per year: February, April, June, September, October, December (note that some states offer the ACT as part of their state testing requirements; these tests are not administered on the national test dates)
typically about four weeks before the test date	Registration deadline?	typically about five to six weeks before the test date
www.collegeboard.com	More Information	www.act.org

The ACT is an achievement test, measuring what a student has learned in school. The SAT is more of an aptitude test, testing reasoning and verbal abilities.

The SAT has only 3 components: Critical Reading, Mathematics, and a mandatory Writing Test. The ACT has up to 5 components: English, Mathematics, Reading, Science, and an optional Writing Test. (Hint: most colleges require the writing test, so it's best to register for the ACT with writing).

The ACT is scored based on the number of correct answers with no penalty for guessing. The SAT penalizes you for wrong answers, so guessing is discouraged.

The SAT has a stronger emphasis on vocabulary, and the ACT tests more advanced math concepts. In addition to basic arithmetic, algebra I and II, and geometry, the ACT tests your knowledge of trigonometry, too. That said, the ACT Math section is not necessarily harder, since many students find the questions to be more straightforward than those on the SAT.

College admissions officers care about how you did on each section of the SAT. On the ACT, they're most concerned with your composite score. So if you're weak in one content area but strong in others, you could still end up with a very good ACT score and thus make a strong impression with the admissions committee.