

SAT OR ACT

Many students begin the college prep process by comparing the ACT and SAT. Both tests are used for college admissions and merit-based scholarships, and both test the same types of content. The biggest differences between them are that the ACT has a Science test, and there is one SAT Math section which does not allow the use of a calculator. Most Colleges require taking the optional Essay at least once.

SAT

ACT

Why Take It	Colleges use scores for admissions and merit-based scholarships	Colleges use scores for admissions and merit-based scholarships
Test Structure	Reading Writing and Language Math Essay (optional)	English Math Reading Science Reasoning Essay (optional)
Length	3 hours(without essay) 3 hours, 50 min. (with essay)	2 hours, 55 min. (without essay) 3 hours, 40 min. (with essay)
Reading	5 reading passages	4 reading passages
Science	None	1 science section testing your Critical thinking skills (not your Specific science knowledge)
Math	Covers: Arithmetic Algebra I&II Geometry, Trigonometry, and Data Analysis	Covers: Arithmetic Algebra I&II Geometry and Trigonometry
Calculator Policy	Some math questions don't allow you to use a calculator	You can use a calculator on all math questions
Essays	Optional. Will test your Comprehension of a text	Optional. Will test how well you evaluate and analyze issues
How It's Scored	Scored on a scale of 400-1600	Scored on a scale of 1-36