



Marian Catholic College Counseling News December 2024

Testing Information - ACT and SAT

Second semester of junior year is when students usually take the ACT and/or SAT for the first time.

As was announced in the December 5th newsletter, the juniors will be taking a practice ACT on Wednesday January 15th. Later in January, Analyze Ed will provide each junior with an individualized report on what areas to focus on to prepare for the School Day ACT that they will take on Tuesday April 8th. More details about the report from Analyze Ed and the School Day ACT will be provided after we return from Christmas.

Juniors should not register to take the ACT on Saturday April 5th. If they choose to retake the ACT later in June or July (dates are below on the right) or in the 1st semester of senior year, they will register at MyACT.org.

The SAT is now Digital! As of March 2024, there is no longer a paper and pencil test for the SAT - it may only be taken as a digital test. For more information about the Digital SAT, click [here](#) to go to the [College Board website](#).

As you and your junior discuss whether they will take the SAT, or if they will retake the ACT, or if they should do test prep, we suggest reading this blog post:

[**Should You Take the SAT/ACT or Not?.**](#)

While the blog is from October 2021 when the impact of COVID on testing was still very new, the topics it covers are still ones to discuss now in 2024. The writers states:

"I want parents to come away with the tools to make the 3 binary testing decisions on the road to college application:

1. *to prep for tests or not to prep*
2. *to test or not to test*
3. *to submit scores or not to submit"*

ACT / SAT Test Prep Opportunities

ACT Test Prep Class - Watch for information in January about an in-person ACT test prep class to be taught here at Marian. Details are being finalized and information will be available after we return from Christmas Break.

If you / your junior are considering ACT test prep for the April ACT and are not interested in the class that will be held at Marian, you should start looking now. Test prep classes in advance of the April ACT will begin in late January or early February.

Analyze Ed - As mentioned above, juniors will take a full-length practice ACT on Wednesday January 15th. After the test, every junior who takes the test will receive an individualized program to assist them in preparing for the ACT in April. More information will be given to the juniors in mid to late January about this program.

Other Test Prep Possibilities

Jeanius Prep offers online classes for all ACT and SAT test dates. For their complete schedule, go to www.jeaniusprep.com

Revolution Prep offers online classes for all test dates and is also offering a holiday gift. Revolution Prep has a team of professional tutors who have been teaching online for over a decade. They are offering a discount to Marian families. Visit www.revolutionprep.com for more information **before December 20th!**

ACT offers FREE online test prep. Click [here](#).

SAT offers FREE online test prep. Click [here](#).

ACT / SAT

Test Dates

SAT March 8

Registration Deadline:
Feb. 21

ACT Tuesday April 8 At Marian - School Day ACT

--Registration completed by Marian.

SAT May 3

Registration Deadline:
April 18

SAT June 7

Registration Deadline:
May 22

ACT June 14

**Marian is a test center.
The registration
deadline is May 9**

Test Optional update

The number of colleges and universities that are test optional for the Class of 2025 is over 1,700. Who will be test optional for the Class of 2026 is still to be determined. In 2020 due to COVID, many colleges and universities decided to become test optional permanently. Others announced that they would be test optional through the Class of 2025 while they conducted a pilot study to look at the effect / impact of not requiring test scores for admission. Some colleges and universities may announce in the upcoming months that they will return to requiring a test score for students in the Class of 2026. Be sure to check with any college or university that your student is considering applying to to find out if they will continue to be test optional.

Another excellent source for a directory of test optional schools is Fair Test. They regularly update their directory of test-optional, 4-year schools. It is available free online at <https://www.fairtest.org/university/optional> -- sort geographically by clicking on "State".

Even with the number of schools that are test optional, we recommend that juniors have at least one test score on hand, either from the ACT or SAT. Test scores may be required for some majors and scholarships. Another factor is that having a strong test score may also strengthen a student's application. This is one reason that we are offering the School Day ACT so that students will have a score available should they need it next year.

If a student applies to a school that is not test optional and does require a test score, scores from either the ACT or SAT may be submitted.

What to do 2nd semester to get ready for next year

When we met with the students at the start of this year, we asked them to consider two questions - "*Why do I want to go to college?*" and "*What do I want to do in college?*" instead of focusing on "*Where do I want to go to college?*". The following are some of the activities that the college counselors will be doing with the juniors in second semester to assist them in getting ready for next year.

Selecting Classes for Senior Year

ACT July 12

Registration Deadline:
June 6

To register for either test and for more information about the tests, go to their websites.

ACT www.act.org

SAT www.collegeboard.org

College Counselors

Class of 2026

Mr. Rodewald

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Mr. O'Brien

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Code

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In second semester, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. O'Farrell, and Mr. Rodewald will meet with juniors to begin the process of selecting classes for senior year.

The counselors will meet individually with each junior to check that the student is on track to meet graduation requirements as well as admission requirements for college. Marian's graduation requirements are listed on page 6 in the [curriculum guide](#).

College Counseling Conferences

In January, parents will receive information about requesting and scheduling dates for conferences. During second semester, juniors and their parents are encouraged to meet with a college counselor to discuss the college search and application process. Conferences will be scheduled beginning in late January / early February. These conferences provide an excellent opportunity for the student, parents, and college counselor to meet together and get "on the same page" as senior year approaches!

Junior Parent Night

A date for Junior Parent Night is in the process of being finalized. The program will be an informational presentation on the **college search and application process** by representatives from private and public universities. Also upcoming changes to the ACT will be covered. Watch for more information in future newsletters and emails and on the Marian website!