

Going Digital: The New SAT-ACT Landscape

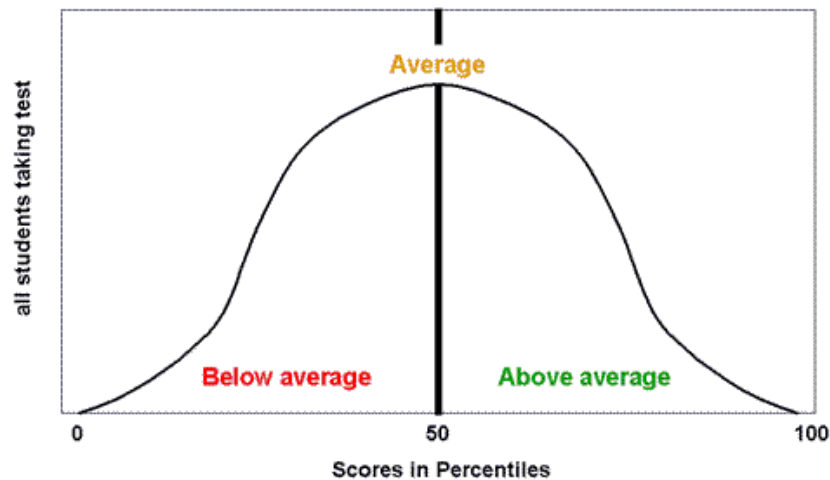
Presented by Goldstein Test Prep

412-874-7645

What It Is Really All About

SAT

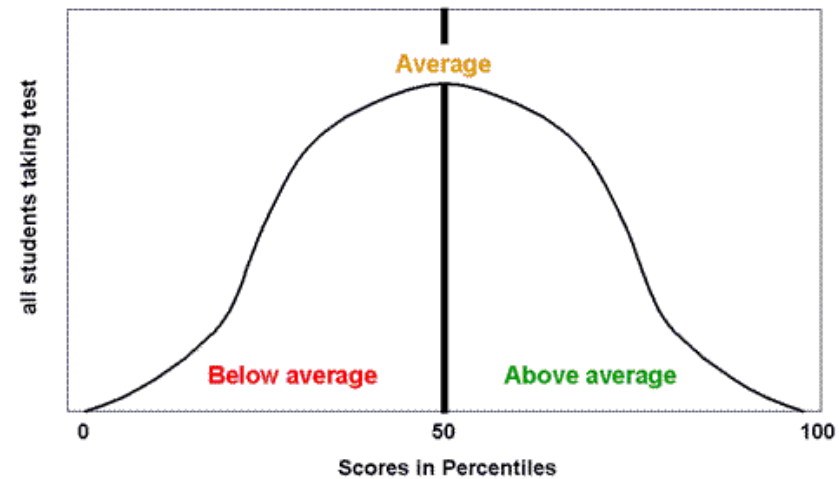
The Bell Curve



Easy Q - Most Get Right
Med Q - Half Get Right
Hard Q - Most Get Wrong

ACT

The Bell Curve



Questions Straight-Forward
Huge Time Crunch
More Advanced Math

2026-27 SAT and ACT Testing Dates

SAT Testing Dates

SAT Testing Dates

- ▶ August 22
- ▶ September 12
- ▶ October 3
- ▶ November 7
- ▶ December 5

- ▶ March 6
- ▶ May 1
- ▶ June 5

ACT Testing Dates

ACT Testing Dates

- ▶ July 11
- ▶ September 19
- ▶ October 17
- ▶ December 12

- ▶ February 27
- ▶ April 10
- ▶ June 12

Planning a Testing Timeline: Start with Math

Complete Algebra 2 Sophomore Year

- ▶ First Testing Date During Fall of Junior Year
 - ▶ Ideally November or December, but **best to plan around extracurriculars**
- ▶ Involved in Fall Sport or Activity?
 - ▶ December SAT to start
- ▶ Involved in Winter Sport or Musical?
 - ▶ October or November SAT
- ▶ Second Test February ACT or March SAT
- ▶ Third Test (If Necessary) May/June SAT/ACT or August/September SAT/ACT

SAT Testing Dates

-
- The diagram lists SAT testing dates with brackets on the right side grouping them into three categories:
- ▶ August 22
 - ▶ September 12
 - ▶ October 3
 - ▶ November 7
 - ▶ December 5
 - ▶ March 6
 - ▶ May 1
 - ▶ June 5
- Brackets on the right indicate the following groupings:
- August 22, September 12, and October 3 are grouped under the label "Probably Too Early".
 - November 7 and December 5 are grouped under the label "1st Test".
 - March 6, May 1, and June 5 are grouped under the label "2nd Test".

Planning a Testing Timeline: Start with Math

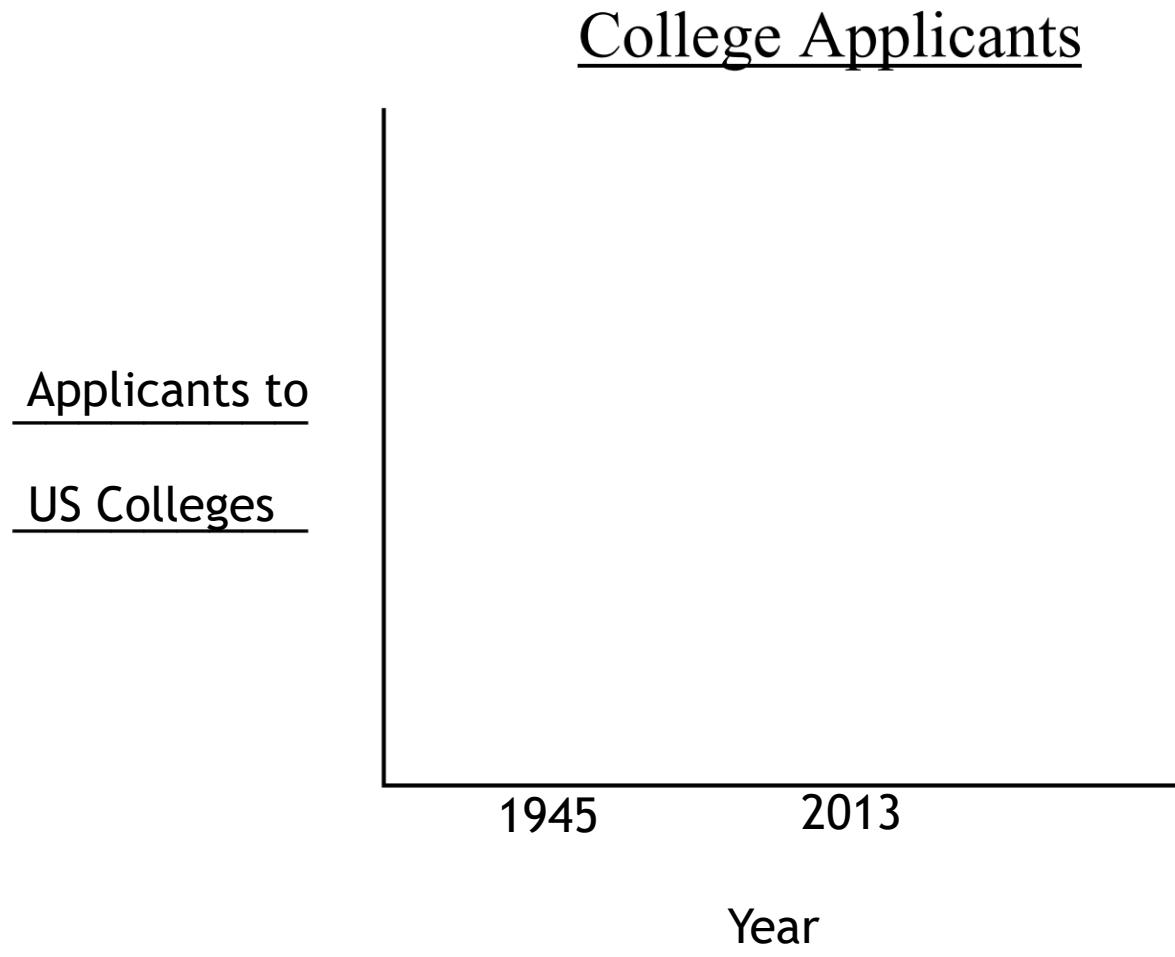
Completed Precalculus Sophomore Year

- ▶ First Testing Date During Fall of Junior Year
 - ▶ May be able to test as early as August or September of junior year (no rush, though)
- ▶ May be able to consider the ACT earlier in process
- ▶ Determine if you want to try the SAT, ACT, or both
- ▶ SAT and/or ACT in fall,
- ▶ One or the other again in the spring
- ▶

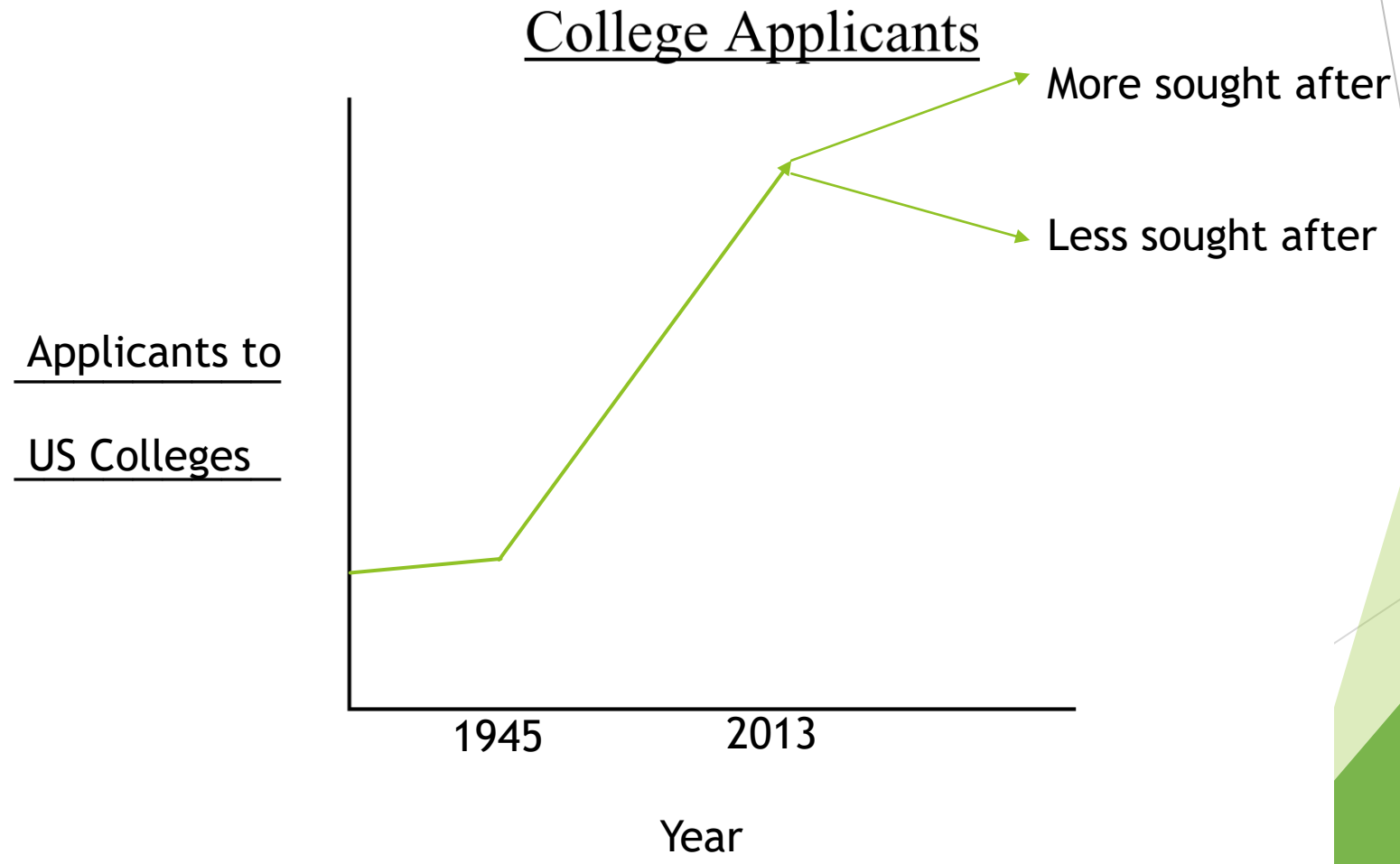
SAT Testing Dates

- | | | |
|----------------|---|--|
| ▶ August 22 | } | 1 st Test or
Possibly SAT and
ACT |
| ▶ September 12 | | |
| ▶ October 3 | | |
| ▶ November 7 | | |
| ▶ December 5 | | |
| ▶ March 6 | } | 2 nd Test
SAT or ACT |
| ▶ May 1 | | |
| ▶ June 5 | | |

Why Standardized Tests



Why Standardized Tests



Two Keys to Preparation

Learning About the Test

- ▶ This can happen anytime
 - ▶ Best time is summer before junior year
- ▶ Students can try practice tests and practice questions on own
 - ▶ AND REVIEW THEM
- ▶ Possibly consider a preparation program

Practice

- ▶ This should be happening for 4-6 weeks leading up to a student's testing date
- ▶ Very best resources are Bluebook Practice Test and College Board [SAT Questions Bank](#)
- ▶ Taking proctored practice test important for endurance and comfort with digital format

Digital SAT Format

- ▶ Most Notable Changes

- ▶ Shorter Testing Time: 2 Hours 14 Minutes

- ▶ 2 Sections, Each with 2 Modules

- ▶ R&W Module 1 (32 minutes for 27 questions)
 - ▶ R&W Module 2 (32 minutes for 27 questions)
 - ▶ Math Module 1 (35 minutes for 22 questions)
 - ▶ Math Module 2 (35 minutes for 22 questions)

- ▶ Adaptive Testing

- ▶ Difficulty of Module 2 Sections Adapted to Performance on Module 1

How Adaptive Testing Works: Module 1 and 2

- ▶ Module 1 Sections Feature Easy, Medium, Hard Questions
- ▶ Establish Students Into Lower or Higher Ranges
- ▶ Module 2 Narrows in on Precise Score Within That Range

Module 1:
Lower
Performance

- Stage 2 with Easier Questions
- Estimated Range: 200-600

Module 1:
Higher
Performance

- Stage 2 with Harder Questions
- Estimated Range: 450-800

Digital SAT: Logistics

- ▶ Students Still Go to Testing Sites
- ▶ Students Bring Their Own Laptop or Tablet
 - ▶ College Board's Bluebook App Must Be Downloaded in Advance
- ▶ Scratch Paper Will Be Provided (And Will Be Essential)
- ▶ Testing Tools Built Into Bluebook App: Calculator, Highlighting Tool, Question Flag, Answer Choice Eliminator

2025 Changes to the ACT

- ▶ Acquired by For-Profit Venture Capital Firm in Spring 2024
- ▶ Desire to Increase Market Share After Overtaking SAT in 2014-16
- ▶ Issues They Sought to Address
 - ▶ Timecrunch
 - ▶ The Length of the Test
 - ▶ Fear of the Science Section
 - ▶ Make the Test More Pleasant to Take
- ▶ But How Will They Maintain Their Bell Curve?

ACT Practical Changes: New Section Structure

	Old Format	New Format	Other Changes
English Section	45 minutes 75 questions	35 minutes 50 questions	Every question will include specific directions to indicate rule being tested
Math Section	60 minutes 60 questions	50 minutes 45 questions	Four answer choice options instead of five
Reading Section	35 minutes 40 questions	40 minutes 36 questions	
Science Section	35 minutes 40 questions	40 minutes 40 questions	OPTIONAL

ACT Practical Changes: What We Know and What We Don't

► What We Know

- Not an Adaptive Test
- Shorter (without Science Section): 2 hours 5 minutes
- Slightly More Time Per Question
- Less Proportional Margin for Error

► What We Don't Know for Sure

- Bell Curve Mechanism Appears to Still be TIMECRUNCH
- How Will Colleges Respond to Optional Science?
- Will Colleges Superscore Across Testing Types?

Scale Score	Raw Scores					Scale Score
	Test 1 English	Test 2 Mathematics	Test 3 Reading	Test 4 Science	Writing	
36	75	60	40	40	47-48	36
35	72-74	58-59	39	39	46	35
34	71	57	38	38	44-45	34
33	70	55-56	37	37	42-43	33
32	68-69	54	35-36	—	41	32
31	67	52-53	34	36	40	31
30	66	50-51	33	35	38-39	30
29	65	48-49	32	34	37	29
28	63-64	45-47	31	33	35-36	28
27	62	43-44	30	32	34	27
26	60-61	40-42	29	30-31	33	26
25	58-59	38-39	28	28-29	32	25
24	56-57	36-37	27	26-27	31	24
23	53-55	34-35	25-26	24-25	29-30	23
22	51-52	32-33	24	22-23	28	22
21	48-50	30-31	22-23	21	26-27	21
20	45-47	29	21	19-20	25	20
19	43-44	27-28	19-20	17-18	24	19
18	41-42	24-26	18	16	23	18
17	39-40	21-23	17	14-15	21-22	17
16	36-38	17-20	15-16	13	20	16
15	32-35	13-16	14	12	—	15
14	29-31	11-12	12-13	11	18-19	14
13	27-28	8-10	11	10	17	13
12	25-26	7	9-10	9	16	12
11	23-24	5-6	8	8	—	11
10	20-22	4	6-7	7	14-15	10
9	18-19	—	—	5-6	13	9
8	15-17	3	5	—	12	8
7	12-14	—	4	4	—	7
6	10-11	2	3	3	10-11	6
5	8-9	—	—	2	9	5
4	6-7	1	2	—	—	4
3	4-5	—	—	1	—	3
2	2-3	—	1	—	—	2
1	0-1	0	0	0	8	1

Scale Score	Raw Score				Scale Score
	English	Mathematics	Reading	Science	
36	40	40–41	27	34	36
35	38–39	39	26	33	35
34	–	37–38	25	32	34
33	37	36	–	31	33
32	–	35	24	30	32
31	36	34	–	29	31
30	–	33	23	28	30
29	35	31–32	–	27	29
28	34	30	22	26	28
27	33	28–29	–	25	27
26	32	27	21	24	26
25	31	26	20	22–23	25
24	30	25	19	21	24
23	29	24	18	19–20	23
22	27–28	23	17	18	22
21	26	22	16	17	21
20	24–25	21	15	16	20
19	23	19–20	–	15	19
18	22	18	14	13–14	18
17	21	15–17	13	12	17
16	20	13–14	12	11	16
15	18–19	10–12	11	10	15
14	17	8–9	10	9	14
13	15–16	6–7	9	–	13
12	14	5	7–8	7–8	12
11	12–13	4	6	6	11
10	9–11	–	5	5	10
9	8	3	4	4	9
8	7	–	–	–	8
7	5–6	2	3	3	7
6	4	–	–	2	6
5	3	1	2	–	5
4	–	–	–	–	4
3	2	–	1	1	3
2	1	–	–	–	2
1	0	0	0	0	1

Contact Information

- ▶ If you want help planning, please be in touch!
 - ▶ Mike Goldstein
 - ▶ 412-874-7645
 - ▶ mike.goldstein@goldsteintestprep.com
 - ▶ View programs at www.goldsteintestprep.com