



Standardized Testing Overview

For Montgomery Academy Upper School Students

Standardized test scores will likely be an important part of your college applications. All colleges that require or consider test scores will accept either the ACT and SAT. We recommend that you take each test once, then focus additional preparation on the one that suits you best.

These guidelines will help you as you prepare for the ACT and SAT:

When to test and how to register:

- Most Montgomery Academy students first take the SAT or ACT during the fall of their junior year. This allows plenty of time to retest if necessary.
- Juniors are automatically registered to take the October in-school SAT test. Seniors are also encouraged to take the October in-school SAT and will need to complete a registration form using a link provided by the school.
- MA is a closed ACT testing site. This means that on certain ACT test weekends, MA students can take a paper-and-pencil test on our campus proctored by our teachers. Registration information is sent to students and parents in advance of these ACT test dates.
- It is best to only test after you have completed Algebra II.
- Test only after you have reviewed content and are very familiar with the test format. **We strongly advise against taking a test “cold turkey” without preparation!**
- Registration for all SAT and ACT Saturday testing administrations is your responsibility.
- If you are taking an AP course, you already have a [College Board account](#). This same account is used for SAT registration.
- You will set up an [ACT account](#) at school in the fall of your junior year prior to the in-school ACT. If you already have an ACT account, you will need your username and password to log in.
- Because of application deadlines, you should plan to be finished with all testing by October of your senior year.
- If you meet the criteria for an [ACT](#) or [SAT](#) fee waiver, please see Mrs. Poundstone.

Test Preparation:

- All Upper School students have access to Methodize which offers extensive resources for both ACT and SAT prep.
- Beginning in 10th grade, you will have structured ACT prep using Methodize during the Enrichment block.
- We recommend that you use the many free resources available for test prep before considering paid options.
- There are a number of free test prep resources available for students:
 - [Free ACT Practice Test and Resources](#)
 - [ACT Test Prep](#)
 - [Methodize \(ACT and SAT Prep\)](#)
 - [Khan Academy/SAT](#)
- Some of the many online paid options include:
 - [Compass Prep](#)
 - [Applerouth](#)
 - [Revolution Prep](#)
- Some students use paid local tutors or attend in-person classes offered by organizations and colleges for a fee.

Sending Scores:

- Montgomery Academy does not submit student test scores to colleges.
- You are responsible for sending official score reports from the appropriate testing agency. Log into your ACT or College Board account and request that scores be sent to colleges well in advance of your application deadline as it may take two weeks.
- Several free score sends are available each time you take an ACT or SAT, but many students prefer to see their scores before sending them. College Board and ACT charge a fee to send post-test scores.
- Some colleges may allow you to self-report scores when you apply, then send official reports if you are accepted. Check each college's policy carefully and follow all directions!

Test Optional:

- Many colleges have “test optional” or “test flexible” policies, meaning they will evaluate your application without test scores or that they will accept scores other than the ACT and SAT. Your college advisor can help you decide if you should apply without test scores.
- For additional information including a list of test optional colleges, go to www.fairtest.org.

Disability Testing Accommodations:

- If you have a diagnosed disability and an official school-based accommodations plan that has been in place for a certain period of time, you may be eligible for accommodations on standardized tests. Specific documentation is required.
- [ACT Testing Accommodations Information](#)
- [SAT Testing Accommodations Information](#)
- For more information, email or call Testing Accommodations Coordinator, [Mrs. Poundstone](#), (334) 273-7113.

Additional Information:

- [ACT/SAT concordance table](#)
- [Changes to the ACT](#)
- [ACT vs. SAT: Which One is Your Test?](#)
- [The Digital SAT vs The Enhanced ACT](#)

