

What are the differences between the ACT and SAT?

The ACT is an achievement test that measures what a student has learned in school. The SAT is more of an aptitude test that focuses on reasoning and verbal abilities. The ACT has up to 5 components: English, Mathematics, Reading, Science, and an optional Writing section. The SAT has only 3 components: Critical Reasoning, Mathematics, and a required Writing section. While the ACT is scored based on the number of correct answers with no penalty of guessing, the SAT takes off points for wrong answers.

Should I take the ACT or SAT?

Since both tests are very different, we recommend taking diagnostic tests for both. The PLAN is a practice test for the ACT and the PSAT is a practice test for the SAT. Students can talk to their school counselors regarding how to register for both tests.

Do all colleges accept the ACT?

Colleges will accept either the ACT or SAT.

Do I have to take the Writing section for the ACT?

While the Writing section is optional, some colleges may require it. We recommend signing up for the Writing section each time.

Are SAT Subject Tests required?

SAT Subject Tests are not required at the majority of colleges. However, many of the top tiered colleges may require two or more SAT Subject Tests (see admission requirements for each university).

When should I start taking the ACT or SAT and how many times should I take it?

We recommend taking a test twice during your junior year, and maybe one last time during the beginning of your senior year if you think you can improve your score. However, keep in mind that this varies based off of each individual student's situation. Some colleges may require that you send in all your test scores, so taking a test multiple times may not look as good. Check with all the universities your thinking about applying, before you take your tests, regarding their standardized testing requirements.



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Where do I go to sign up for the ACT?

<http://www.actstudent.org>

Where do I go to sign up for the SAT?

<http://Sat.collegeboard.org>

What is superscoring?

With this policy, a college will select a student's highest subscores across multiple ACT/SAT test dates, and using those numbers, create a composite score.

Which colleges consider superscores?

Whether a college will consider a student's superscore depends entirely upon the college. Unfortunately, most colleges do not publish their policy regarding superscores. However, colleges will answer this question when specifically asked, so it is definitely a worthwhile question to ask admissions officers or campus tour guides.

Do I have to send in all of my test scores to colleges or just my best one?

For many colleges, you can just send in your best test score. However, many of the top tiered colleges may require you to send in ALL your test scores (see admissions requirements for each university).

What are the benefits of taking AP tests?

Depending on the college, passing an AP test can earn you college credit. It also shows admissions officers that you have the academic drive to succeed in college. However, some colleges set limits on how many AP credits they accept. Some many also limit the AP scores that qualify for college credit.

Do I need to send my AP test scores to colleges?

You do not need to send in your AP test scores to colleges until after you have been accepted and they request them from you.



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