

College Admissions Tests

ACT vs SAT

Compare the ACT and SAT tests

- ACT includes a Science section
- SAT includes one SAT Math Section on which you may not use a calculator

SAT

ACT

Why Take It	Colleges use SAT scores for admissions and merit-based scholarships.	Colleges use ACT scores for admissions and merit-based scholarships.
Test Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading• Writing & Language• Math• Essay (Optional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• English• Math• Reading• Science Reasoning <p>Essay (Optional)</p>
Length	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 hours (without essay)• 3 hours, 50 minutes (with essay)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 hours, 55 minutes (without essay)• 3 hours, 40 minutes (with essay)

SAT

ACT

Calculator Policy	Some math questions don't allow you to use a calculator.	You can use a calculator on all math questions.
Essays	Optional. The essay will test your comprehension of a source text.	Optional. The essay will test how well you evaluate and analyze complex issues.
How It's Scored	Scored on a scale of 400–1600	Scored on a scale of 1–36

<https://www.princetonreview.com/college/sat-act>

SAT

ACT

Reading	5 reading passages	4 reading passages
Science	None	1 science section testing your critical thinking skills (not your specific science knowledge)
Math	<p>Covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arithmetic• Algebra I & II• Geometry, Trigonometry and Data Analysis	<p>Covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arithmetic• Algebra I & II• Geometry and Trigonometry

Should I Take the ACT or SAT?

Students are increasingly taking [both the SAT and ACT](#). Changes made to the SAT in 2016 have made it easier than ever to prep for both tests concurrently—and earn competitive scores on both!

The best way to decide if taking the SAT, ACT, or both tests is right for you is to take a timed [full-length practice test](#) of each type. Since the content and style of the SAT and ACT are very similar, factors like how you handle time pressure and what types of questions you find most challenging can help you determine which test is a better fit. Try our [QUIZ: SAT, ACT, or Both?](#) to learn more.

TAKE A FREE PRACTICE TEST

Helix offers practice tests for both exams and will offer more in Fall 2019

How is the test score used to determine college admissions?

Different Colleges use it different ways:

- California Community Colleges use it for Placement in Math and English
 - If you score above a 570 Math and a 550 English, then you are eligible to enroll in college level courses
- California State Universities use it for Admissions and Placement
 - Admissions uses it as part of a formula is your A-G 10 - 11 GPA to determine your eligibility
 - They also **Super Score** (Best English/Math no matter the testing date)
 - Placement uses it just like a Community College
 - If you score above a 570 Math and a 550 English, then you are exempt mandatory summer school

How is the test score used to determine college admissions?

Different Colleges use it different ways:

- University of California uses it for admissions only
 - One of the 14 elements the UC Campuses consider is your SAT or ACT score
 - They will use the best total score from ONE testing date
- Private/Out of State Schools use it in varying forms
 - They all will use it as part of the admissions decision and some for placement
 - Not all schools require the test, but if you share it they will use it. Sometimes it can help you get admitted.

How do I register for the tests?

SAT

www.collegeboard.com

ACT

www.actstudent.org

1. Make an account

2. Record Username and Password on a Google Doc for College accounts

3. Have payment method (credit/debit card or Fee Waiver Code) ready

4. Complete online registration form (be sure to submit)

Once submitted it costs money to make changes, so make sure everything is accurate before submitting

How do I register for the tests?

SAT

ACT

5. Arrange for scores to be sent to colleges at time of registration
 - Everyone gets 4 FREE reports with registration
 - these expire the day you take the test
 - You can make changes up until you take the test
 - If you do not use them now, you lose them and have to PAY later

1. California State University, Apply
3594

1. Send to any ONE California State University
Campus, they will share with other
campuses to which you apply

2. Send to any ONE University of California Campus, they will share with other campuses to which
you apply

3. & 4. Choose 2 more campuses....Private Schools, Out of State Schools, NCAA

Helix Platinum Cap Eligibility

Different ways to be “College Ready:
To get the Cap, you must qualify in English AND Math

Math	English
1.SBAC Score: Standard Exceeded	1.SBAC Score: Standard Exceeded
2. SAT Math score of 570 or higher	2. SAT English score of 550 or higher
3. ACT Math Score of 23 or higher	3. ACT English Score of 22 or higher
4. AP Calculus or Statistics Exam score of 3 or higher	4. AP English Exam Score of 3 or higher

Helix Platinum Cap Eligibility

Different ways to be “College Ready:
To get the Cap, you must qualify in English AND Math

Math	English
1.SBAC Score: Standard Met AND passing an approved Math class senior year	1.SBAC Score: Standard Met AND passing an approved English class senior year
2. SAT Math score of 520-560 AND passing an approved Math class senior year	2. SAT English score of 510-540 AND passing an approved Math class senior year
3. ACT Math Score of 20-22 AND passing an approved Math class senior year	3. ACT English Score of 19-21 AND passing an approved Math class senior year

When to take the test:

SAT		ACT	
Test Date	Registration Deadline	Test Date	Registration Deadline
June 1st	May 3rd	June 8th	May 3rd
August 24th	July 26th	September 14th	August 11th
October 5th	September 6th	October 26th	September 22nd
November 2nd	October 4th		

QUESTIONS?

**WHICH TEST DO YOU THINK IS BEST FOR
YOU?**

College Board Opportunity Scholarships

Free Money For Getting College Ready!

College Board Opportunity Scholarships

- ❑ College Board is now offering hundreds of new scholarships to students simply for preparing for college.
- ❑ 50% of all scholarships go to students, whose families earn less than \$60,000/year
- ❑ **You can get entered into scholarships for doing the following tasks:**
 - ❑ Build a list of colleges you want to apply to
 - ❑ Study for the SAT through Khan Academy
 - ❑ Submit your FAFSA
 - ❑ Apply to college

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The Scholarships

The more effort you put in, the more opportunities you have to earn a scholarship. Complete all six, and you're eligible to earn \$40,000. Scholarships will be awarded through monthly drawings to students who complete each action.



1. Build Your College List: \$500

Get started by [exploring colleges](#) you're interested in. [Learn More](#)



2. Practice for the SAT: \$1,000

Use [Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy®](#) to get ready for test day. [Learn More](#)



3. Improve Your Score: \$2,000

Show how practice pays off by improving your SAT score. [Learn More](#)



4. Strengthen Your College List: \$500

Make sure your college list has a mix of academic safety, fit, and reach schools. [Learn More](#)



5. Complete the FAFSA: \$1,000

Fill out the free government form to apply for financial aid. [Learn More](#)



6. Apply to Colleges: \$1,000

Apply to the schools you want to attend. [Learn More](#)



Complete Your Journey: \$40,000

Complete all six scholarship steps to be eligible for a \$40,000 scholarship. [Learn More](#)

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Build Your College List

100 scholarships given every month January to June!!

\$500 each

Link: <https://opportunity.collegeboard.org/about/build>

- Create a list of 6 colleges you are interested in applying to.
- First: Log-into Naviance to build your list under “Colleges I’m Thinking About”
- Once you have your Naviance list, enter the same schools onto Big Future-
<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>
- Update your list in future months to receive further entries.



Practice for the SAT

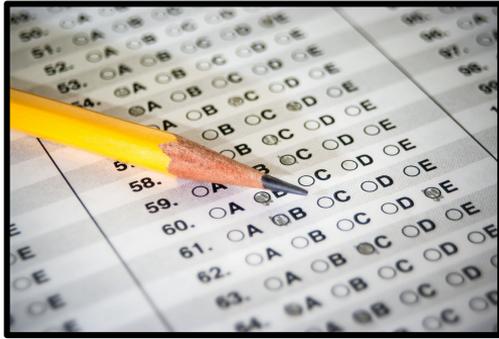
150 scholarships given every
month January to October!!
\$1,000 each

Link: <https://opportunity.collegeboard.org/about/practice>

- Practice for six hours on Khan Academy to earn an entry in the monthly drawing.
- Earn one entry for each additional hour you practice (up to 20)

Get Started

1. Join College Board Opportunity Scholarships program.
2. Sign in to your College Board and Khan Academy® accounts.
3. [Link your College Board and Khan Academy® accounts.](#)
4. Start practicing for the SAT on Khan Academy®.
5. Practice for six or more hours.



Improve Your Score

25 scholarships given after every
SAT starting in April!!
\$2,000 each

Link: <https://opportunity.collegeboard.org/about/improve>

- Practice for 12 hours on Khan Academy and improve your score by 100+ points.
- Either from PSAT to SAT or SAT to SAT.
- You can double dip your practice time with the “Practice for SAT” scholarship and earn extra entries



Strengthen Your College List

100 scholarships given every month from July to October
\$500 each

Link:

<https://opportunity.collegeboard.org/about/strengthen>

- Update your college list on Big Future to have a mix of safety, match, and reach schools.
- Opens in July 2019



Complete the FAFSA

200 scholarships given every month from October to December and 100 from January to February!!
\$1,000 each

Link: <https://opportunity.collegeboard.org/about/complete>

- Fill out your FAFSA- probably the easiest one!
- You need to do this anyway to receive financial aid.
- You will receive an entry every month, so the sooner you file, the better!





Apply to Colleges

500 Apply scholarships given in
February 2020!!
\$1,000 each

Link: <https://opportunity.collegeboard.org/about/apply>

- Apply to two or more colleges for an entry.
- Opens in October 2019.





Complete Your Journey

25 scholarships given in February
2020!!
\$40,000 each

Link:

<https://opportunity.collegeboard.org/about/complete-your-journey>

If you complete the requirements of all six other scholarships, you will earn the chance to win a \$40,000 scholarship!!

