

SAT and ACT Guide

**What are the SAT and the ACT?**

The SAT and ACT are tests used for college admission and merit based scholarship opportunities. The scores your child receives will be used to compare them to other applicants. Your child does not have to take both exams but should take one more than once.

**Which one is right for your child?**

We suggest students to take at least one practice test in each to determine which one they like best. One exam is not better than the other. Colleges consider both exams equally when making admission decisions.

**What is the ACT?**

The ACT stands for the American College Testing and focuses on achievement or what students already know via their high school classes. The ACT is a two hour and fifty five minute exam that test english, math, reading, and science reasoning. This test has an optional essay portion.

**What is the SAT?**

The SAT stands for the Scholastic Aptitude Test and test your child’s likelihood of being successful in college. The SAT is a three hour exam that test writing & language, reading, and math. This test has an optional essay portion. In addition to the SAT there is a PSAT that is a practice exam that qualifies your student for national merit scholarships. The National Merit Scholarship Program is very recognized and can give your child the opportunity to get funding from the program itself, college sponsorship, or corporate sponsorship. Every year there are 7,500 winners of this scholarship. To learn more about the National Merit Scholarship Program, [click here](http://www.nationalmerit.org/s/1758/interior.aspx?sid=1758&gid=2&pgid=424).

**When should my child start studying for these exams?**

It is a good idea to have your child start studying the summer before their junior year. We encourage your child to create a study schedule so they can study a little each night. It is very important that your child doesn’t wait until last minute to study.

**Do I have to pay for these exams?**

The SAT cost $45 dollars without the essay and $57 with the essay. The ACT cost $42.50 without the essay and $58.50 with the essay. Both exams offer fee [waivers](https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/fees/fee-waivers) for low-income 11th and 12th grade students who meet established criteria.

Here are the [ACT requirements](https://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/FeeWaiver.pdf) and the [SAT requirements](https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/pdf/sat-fee-waiver-student-brochure.pdf)

**When will my child take these exams?**

Your child must register for these exams online based on their availability. Here are the websites to register for the [ACT](http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration.html#dates) and [SAT](https://www.collegeboard.org/?navId=aru-cb).

**How can my child prepare for these exams?**

There are plenty of resources to help your child study for the SAT and ACT. Here are some [helpful tips](https://www.khanacademy.org/college-careers-more/college-admissions/making-high-school-count/standardized-tests/a/preparing-yourself-for-success-on-the-tests) every test taker should know. We suggest using the best colleges website for the [ACT](http://www.bestcolleges.com/resources/act-prep/) and [SAT](http://www.bestcolleges.com/resources/sat-prep/). [Khan Academy](https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/sat) is also a great resource for SAT test prep.