

SAT vs ACT Timeline Planner

A one-page plan for diagnostics, first test date, retake window, and stop rule.

How to use

Fill in target dates, then set a stop rule so testing doesn't expand endlessly. Print this page or mark it up digitally.

Step	Task	Target date	Notes
1	Take a full-length SAT diagnostic (timed; realistic conditions).		
2	Take a full-length ACT diagnostic (timed; realistic conditions).		
3	Review diagnostics: label misses as content vs timing vs careless.		
4	Choose SAT or ACT based on best improvement path (8–12 weeks).		
5	Set a target score range (not a single number).		
6	Pick a first official test date with an 8–12 week prep block.		
7	Reserve a retake window (only if practice data supports upside).		
8	Set a stop rule (hit target range OR stop after 2 official tests if plateau).		
9	Build a weekly cadence (4–5 short sessions + 1 longer timed session).		
10	Schedule 2–4 full practice tests (spaced out).		
11	After each practice test, update your error log + focus areas.		

12	Decide score reporting plan (Score Choice / superscoring varies by school).		

Educational information only. Requirements vary by institution.

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