

Applying to college can feel immense and intimidating; these tests don't have to be. Whether you are focused on a dream school or just getting an idea around it all, there are options and this can feel overwhelming; so here is a quick overview to help you sort through a big decision that is right for you!

### Where to Sign Up

- SAT – [collegeboard.org](https://collegeboard.org)
- ACT – [act.org](https://act.org)
- CLT – [cltexam.com](https://cltexam.com)

### The Big 3

- **SAT** – Focuses on reading/writing and math. Digital, fast-paced, and accepted by most colleges across the country. The test is scored out of 1600, with each section contributing up to 800 points. The SAT is 2 hours 14 minutes long broken down in the following way:

#### Evidence-Based Reading and Writing

Module 1: 32 minutes

Module 2: 32 minutes

#### Math

Module 1: 35 minutes

Module 2: 35 minutes

- **ACT** – Includes English, math, reading, science, and an optional essay. Great for students who want a well-rounded challenge. The test takes 2 hours and 55 minutes when taking the four main sections and 3 hours and 35 minutes if you add the writing test.
- **CLT** – Built around logic, grammar, and classical texts. A solid option for private, liberal arts, or faith-based colleges. Composite score: 0 to 120

### Do They Matter?

Yes — but not in the way you might think.

More colleges are becoming test-optional, meaning that your future doesn't ride on a singular score. But let's face it: a good score will still open doors. It can really enhance your application, help you nab a scholarship, and give you a valuable edge, especially if you're applying to competitive programs.

But remember: no test is a measure or judgment of your worth, your potential, or your dreams. These tests are tools—not labels. If you take one, do so on your terms and prepare thoughtfully, play to your strengths, and trust yourself to rise to the occasion. You are so much more than a number, but that number still might help tell your story.

**So Own it.**

**ACT. “The ACT Test for Students.” *ACT*, 2019,**

**[www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act.html](http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act.html).**

**“CLT Exam.” *Cltxam.com*, 2020, [www.cltxam.com/](http://www.cltxam.com/).**

**Southern Utah University. “What Is the ACT Test and When Should Students Take It?” *SUU*, 19 Aug. 2021, [www.suu.edu/blog/2016/02/what-is-the-act.html](http://www.suu.edu/blog/2016/02/what-is-the-act.html).**

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**Princeton Review. “What Is the SAT? | the Princeton Review.” *Princetonreview.com*, 2019, [www.princetonreview.com/college/sat-information](http://www.princetonreview.com/college/sat-information).**