

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT TESTING (ACT & SAT)

Should I take these college entrance exams?

These exams are necessary for enrollment into college. The American College Test (ACT) is required by many colleges in the West and Midwest. All state-supported schools in Ohio will accept the ACT. The Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) is required or accepted for admission for many private and Ivy League schools. Students should check carefully the admissions requirements at prospective colleges to determine which test is acceptable for admission.

What is the ACT?

The ACT is a four-part, two hour and forty minute test of the abilities which students need to succeed in college. It deals more with the use of skills than with specific subject matter. In addition, the student is asked to complete a twenty-five minute Student Profile Section to indicate his/her grades, background, goals, personal needs, and non-classroom achievements.

What are the areas of study tested on the ACT?

English usage -measures ability to understand conventions of standard written English and rhetorical skills.

Reading -measures reading comprehension as a product of skill in referring and reasoning

Mathematics -measures use of reasoning skills to solve practical mathematics

Science reasoning -measures interpretation, analysis, evaluation, reasoning and problem-solving skills

When do I take the ACT exams?

It is advisable in most cases to take the ACT exams as early as possible. Those juniors who are applying to colleges and scholarships requiring ACT scores may take the exams in June at the end of the junior year. Adjustments are made in scoring so that juniors do not penalize themselves by taking the exams early and seniors do not benefit by taking them at a later time.

Why does ACT request my high school grades?

ACT reports to the colleges which you designate a predictive correlation between your test scores and your grades to estimate how well you will probably do in college work.

What is the SAT?

The SAT is a three-hour examination that measures the student's ability to communicate and to reason with words and abstract concepts.

What are the areas tested on the SAT?

The SAT is divided into two parts—a verbal section, which has vocabulary and reading comprehension sub-scores, and a math section. All students must take the TSWE (Test of Standard Written English) which is a grammar test.

When do I take the SAT?

It is recommended that the SAT be taken at the last administration date in the spring of the junior year. One reason for taking the SAT at this time is that many schools requiring the SAT are highly competitive, and information must be sent to them early in the senior year so that a student may be considered for admission.

What is the SAT II (also known as Achievement Tests)?

Achievement tests are one-hour examinations that measure the student's level of achievement in certain subject areas. Some colleges require or recommend three achievement tests for admission or placement purposes.

Should I take the achievement tests?

The only way to determine if a student should take the Achievement Tests is to check the specific college requirements.

How do I register for the ACT, SAT and SAT II?

Registration packets for the ACT and SAT are available in the guidance office. The SAT has two registration packets—one for the SAT I and one for the SAT II. Both tests also come with a practice booklet to give students practice on the types of questions on the tests. After completing the forms, the student mails them directly to SAT or ACT. The high school does not handle registrations. The deadline for test registration is usually 4-6 weeks prior to the test date.

How do colleges receive my test scores?

A student may request on the registration form that his/her test scores be forwarded to three colleges for the ACT and four colleges for the SAT. Your scores are always also posted on your transcript if the high school has received them.

Should I take the tests more than once?

Studies have shown that repeated testing does not cause a significant change in score unless the person was definitely not himself/herself on the testing day (physically ill, excessively fatigued, extremely emotionally upset, or totally lacking in seriousness about the test.) However, if a student only needs to raise a score slightly to achieve a scholarship award, college credit or special

placement, taking the test again may be advisable.

How do colleges use ACT and SAT scores?

Some schools actually use the scores, along with high school records, for admission decisions. Other schools use the results for placement in the appropriate level of classes at the university.

NOTE: In order that the ACT and SAT may keep all your records properly and report your scores to colleges you designate, be sure to give your name exactly the same way on all forms. Also, be careful to enter your social security number correctly; many larger schools keep records using this number.