



ACT/SAT Preparation

What is it?

The ACT and SAT are exams used to admit students to four year colleges and are used to determine placement in academic classes at the college level.

When should I take it?

These exams are based on information you are learning in high school. Therefore, give yourself the most time to be taught before taking the test. That is why it is recommended that you take the exam the spring of your JUNIOR year. However, it can be taken more than once, and colleges will accept your best score.

The Best way to prepare is by taking a good college preparatory curriculum, which consists of:

English, Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, Trigonometry, Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

*These are minimum courses that will help prepare you for the ACT/SAT exam.

Which test should I take?

Often, a college will accept either test. However, refer to your chosen college to determine what test and/or test score is typically required for admission.

What will the test look like?

The ACT (no writing) is made up of four multiple choice test in English, math , reading and science. The ACT Plus Writing consists of the four tests plus a 30 minute Writing Tests. The best score is a 36 composite. The SAT consists of a verbal, critical reading and math test along with other optional subject tests. The best score is 1600.

What if I have a diagnosed disability?

If you have a diagnosed disability, log onto www.actstudent.org and click on “students with disabilities” for further information.

How much does it cost?

The ACT (No Writing) is \$33.00 . The ACT Plus Writing is \$48.00. The SAT is \$47.00 plus additional fees for subject tests. Fee waiver forms are available IF students are receiving free or reduced lunch at the high school. See your counselor for details.

How do I register?

ACT: www.actstudent.org

SAT: www.collegeboard.org

What are the test dates?

The ACT is offered in September, October, December, April and June each year. The SAT is offered the months of October, November, December, January, March, May and June. Check the website for specific dates and registration deadlines.

Differences between the ACT and SAT

ACT	SAT
Science reasoning section	No science
Math includes trigonometry	No trigonometry questions
Entirely multiple-choice	Non multiple-choice questions
No guessing penalty	Guessing penalty
English grammar tested	No English grammar
Math accounts for 25% of your score	Math accounts for 50% of your score
Easy and hard questions mixed	Questions go from easy to hard
Vocabulary less important	Vocabulary emphasized

Comparable Scores on the ACT and SAT:

36=1600	25=1180	20=960
29=1300	23=1080	18=870
27=1200	21=1000	15=740

TEST PREP and STUDY GUIDE RESOURCES:

- ACT Prep test offered at Bradford; listen for announcements and/or contact Marsha Nelson at 359-7550. PSAT test offered at Bradford; listen for announcements
- Actstudent.org ACT prep is provided
- Collegeboard.org is the website to register for the SAT
- Gocollege.com
- <http://www.number2.com/index.cfm>
- Contact UW - Parkside at 595-2345 for ACT Prep classes
- Old ACT booklets are available in counselor offices
- ACT/PSAT/SAT prep books available at public libraries