

College Entrance Exams

Why Should Students Take These Tests?

Most colleges require applicants to take one or more standardized tests prior to admission. Test scores are part of the student's application and are one factor colleges use to predict success.

When Should Students Take These Tests?

Most students take standardized test late in the spring of their junior year or early in the fall of their senior year in high school.

How Do I Know Which Tests to Take?

ACT (American College Test): The ACT assessment is a general standardized college admissions test. The highest total score on the ACT is 36. The student's score on the ACT is a good predictor of his or her freshman year grade point average. The score does not measure a student's intelligence, nor does it predict whether the student will graduate from college. Students who are not strong in math may want to consider taking this test. Your counselor can help you decide which test is best for you.

PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test): The PSAT/NMSQT is taken in the 10th grade to help students prepare for the SAT. During the junior year, the PSAT/NMSQT serves as the qualifying test for scholarships awarded by the National Merit Scholarship Program.

SAT (Standardized Admissions Test) I: Reasoning Test: The SAT will measure mathematical problem-solving, critical reading, and writing skills. Each section is reported on a scale of 200 – 800 points. Students should take this test no sooner than the spring of their junior year. The SAT does not measure intelligence, nor does it measure skills like motivation or creativity.

Critical Reasoning Section – measure's a student's ability to analyze language at the passage, paragraph, and sentence levels.

Math Section – measures problem-solving skills in arithmetic, geometry, and Algebra I and II.

Writing Section – measure's a student's ability to apply rules of English Language and organize and support an argument in a short essay.

SAT II: Subject Tests: Subject tests are one-hour, mostly multiple choice tests, that measure how much students know about a particular subject and how well they can apply that knowledge. There are 22 different tests in five general areas: English, history, science, mathematics, and foreign languages. Students should check with an admissions officer to their chosen college or university to determine if the SAT II is required.

THEA (Texas Higher Education Assessment): The THEA Test is designed to provide information about the reading, mathematics, and writing skills of students entering public colleges, universities, and educator preparation programs in public and private institutions. Students may be exempted from this test based on ACT, SAT, or TAKS scores. Check with your counselor to see if you are exempted. If not, plan to take the test in the spring of your senior year.

Useful Websites:

ACT Assessment Test Dates: www.act.org

SAT Assessment Test Dates: www.collegeboard.com

THEA: www.thea.nesinc.com

Helpful Websites for Parents and Students

Financial Aid and Scholarships

www.fastweb.com

www.finaid.org

www.srnexpress.com

www.salliemae.com

www.tgslc.org

www.scholarships-page.com

www.college-scholarships.com

www.petersons.com

www.collegenet.com

www.fafsa.ed.gov

General College Information

<http://collegeprep.okstate.edu>

www.asla.state.ar.us

www.arkansashighered.com

www.applytexas.org

<http://mapping-your-future.org>

www.ecola.com

www.adhe.arknet.edu

<http://usnews.com>

www.ncaa.org/eligibility/cbsa/clearinghouse

www.adventuresineducation.org

www.education-world.com

www.students.gov

www.collegetours.com

www.ed.gov/free

www.trioprograms.org

Testing for School Administrators

www.kaplan.com

www.collegeboard.org
www.ets.org
www.thea.nesince.com
www.window.state.tx.us/scholars/schools
www.act.org
www.number2.com
www.princetonreview.com
www.thecb.state.tx.us

Career/Vocational Choices

www.umanitoba.ca/counseling/careers
<http://stats.bls.gov/>
<http://ridleysd.k12.pa.us/guidance/careers>
www.petersons.com
<http://easi.ed.gov>
<http://mapping-your-future.org>

College/Technical School Choices

www.ecola.com
<http://easi.ed.gov>
www.claus.ufl.edu/CLAS/american-universities
www.collegeview.com
www.collegescape.com

Study Skills and Research Sources

www.ipl.org/teen/aplus
<http://cybersleuth-kids.com>
www.algebraonline.com
www.thegateway.org
www.homeworkhelp.com
www.unc.edu/depts/unc_caps/resources.htm#academic
www.researchpaper.com
www.libraryspot.com
www.biography.com
<http://learn.msn.com/Homework>
www.si.edu