

Advanced Placement (AP)

- When do I take them?
 - Upon completion of the appropriate AP courses.
- How do I register?
 - CHHS registration procedure is publicized each spring.
 - \$86/test
 - Fee reductions are available

Advanced Placement (AP)

- What if I need special accommodations?
 - www.collegeboard.com/ssd
- How do I prepare?
 - Pursue rigorous coursework!
 - www.collegeboard.com

SAT Subject Area Tests (SAT 2)

- What are they?
 - One hour multiple choice tests that measure how much you know about a particular academic subject.
 - Tests available in five subject areas:
 - English
 - History
 - Mathematics
 - Sciences
 - Languages
- Why take them?
 - Some colleges require them for admission or placement.

SAT Subject Area Tests (SAT 2)

- What's on them?
 - Content and format varies from test to test.
- How are they scored?
 - Scores are reported on a scale from 200-800.
- When are they taken?
 - Upon completion of the appropriate preparation.
 - Language tests - at least two years of study

SAT Subject Area Tests (SAT 2)

- How do I register?
 - Use paper SAT Registration Booklet
 - www.collegeboard.com/sat
 - \$20 basic subject test fee
 - \$9 for additional tests
 - Add \$20 language test w/listening
- What if I need special accommodations?
 - www.collegeboard.com/ssd

SAT Subject Area Tests (SAT 2)

- How do I prepare?
 - Pursue rigorous coursework
 - www.collegeboard.com/subjecttests
 - *The SAT Subject Test Preparation Booklet*

Test of English as a Foreign Language
(TOEFL)

- What is it?
 - A test that measures the ability of nonnative speakers of English to understand English as it is spoken, written, and heard in academic settings.
- Why take it?
 - It is required as a prerequisite for admission for international students into some colleges and universities where English is used or required.

Test of English as a Foreign Language
(TOEFL)

www.ets.org/toefl

College 101:
Getting Ready, Getting In, Getting Through

Workshop 1: The Academic Record (REPEAT)
Saturday, October 18, 2008

Workshop 2: Standardized Tests (REPEAT)
Saturday, November 1, 2008

10 AM Brody/Nelson Room of the Lee Road Library

Workshop 3: Choosing a College
Monday, November 10, 2008
7 PM
CHHS Social Room

Topics will include choosing a major, researching colleges, types of colleges, campus visits, resources, and much more!

Resources

pps. 12 -13	National Standardized College Tests
pps. 122 - 123	ACT and SAT Score Reports
p. 169	SAT Score Reports/ACT Score Reports
pp. 1-2 of 2	Should You Take the SAT or the ACT?
pp. 1-4 of 4	ACT – SAT Concordance Tables
letterhead	PSAT Letter to Parents
last page	AP Exams/SAT Subject Tests



National Standardized College Tests

ACT, SAT®, and SAT® Subject Tests

The ACT, SAT®, and SAT® Subject Tests are used by colleges in combination with the student's class rank, high school curriculum, recommendations (and sometimes essays) to determine the probability of success at their college and, therefore, acceptance to their institution. Sometimes your score determines placement in college courses. Most colleges will accept either the ACT or the SAT®, but applicants should check. The tests are offered several Saturday mornings a year and may be taken more than once. Test registration packets are available at school and need to be mailed to complete your registration.

ACT The scores range from 1–36. The test has four parts: English, math, reading, and science reasoning. There is a composite score and 11 sub-scores broken down by subject areas. Ninety-eight percent of the Midwest colleges, including Oakton and Triton, prefer the ACT results. Calculators are permitted on the math test, but not on the science test. Pick up registration forms at your school or register online at www.act.org.

SAT® The scores range from 200 to 800 in each of the three sections (writing, math, and critical reading). By definition, a score of 500 on any section would mean that 50 percent of test takers did more poorly than you on that section. One adds the writing, math, and critical reading scores to answer the question, “What did you get on the SAT®?” The SAT® is frequently preferred and sometimes required by colleges on the East and West Coasts. Bring a calculator to use for the SAT® math section. Pick up registration forms at school or register online at www.collegeboard.com.

SAT® Subject Tests Some competitive schools that ask for the SAT® will also require SAT® Subject Tests in one, two, or three subjects. Some will specify which subject tests must be taken; others may only recommend the SAT® Subject Tests. The SAT® Subject Tests are multiple-choice and are one hour each; up to three may be taken on a Saturday morning.

SAT® Subject Tests are often taken in the spring of junior year or fall of senior year. Take the test in your junior year (spring semester) if you are finishing a subject you won't be taking in your senior year (e.g., U.S. History, a science, a foreign language). Some students choose to take SAT® Subject Tests in their senior year to maximize course preparation. Looking at sample test questions at your school or on the www.collegeboard.com Web site may help you decide.

Students wishing to apply *early decision* to those few very competitive schools that require SAT® Subject Tests must take them in the spring to meet fall deadlines.

CLEP (College Level Exam Placement) A series of tests in a variety of college disciplines offered at more than 1,000 test centers. There are five broad-based liberal arts areas and 30 examinations in specific areas, such as U.S. History, accounting, Spanish, etc. Students should check with their college as to whether they can receive college credit by achieving an acceptable CLEP score. Each test costs about \$50, plus a service fee.

Activity 1.4 (2 of 2)

TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) Often used by colleges for admitting students who have been in the U.S. for fewer than two years before applying to college. Some schools ask any student who has not been in a U.S. high school all four years to take this test. See your college counselor in the fall of your senior year about the TOEFL.

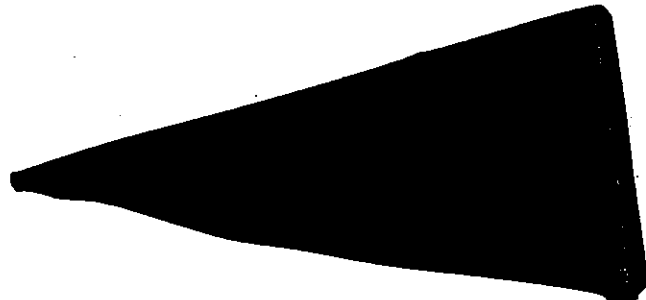
AP® Tests (Advanced Placement Tests) Taken in May after completing a specific AP® high school course of study. Scores range from 1 to 5. Colleges agree to grant to a student who has been accepted either advanced placement in their college curriculum or actual credit toward college graduation based on the student's AP® scores. The minimum scores and the benefits granted are entirely up to each college.

Do I need to know my college choice before taking a college entrance test?

Although it would be helpful, this is not necessary. The test application asks you to list four schools to which you want your scores sent. The fee for sending your scores to these four schools is included in the test registration fee whether or not you take advantage of this score reporting service. If you ask for scores to be sent at a later time, a fee will be assessed, so it's better to list your best four college choice "guesstimates" at the time of registration. Colleges consider your highest scores when determining your admissibility. The ACT reports only the test dates you request; SAT® reports your entire testing history when a score report is requested.

Why would I take both the SAT® and the ACT since both are college entrance exams?

Many juniors take both tests since *most schools* have no preference between the two. Students use the best score from whichever test to submit with their application.



ACT and SAT® Score Reports

What Do ACT Scores Mean?

1. The number of questions answered correctly is counted. (*Note:* points are not deducted for incorrect answers.)
2. Test scores (English, Math, Reading, and Science) range from 1 (low) to 36 (high). A composite score is the average of the four test scores.
3. The seven sub-scores (usage/mechanics, rhetorical skills, etc.) range from 1 (low) to 18 (high).
4. The Combined English/Writing score weights the English Test score two-thirds and the Writing Test score one-third to form a combined score that ranges from 1 (low) to 36 (high).
5. The essay is scored holistically. Two readers will read and rate the essay, scoring from 1 (low) to 6 (high). The sum of those ratings is the writing sub-score, which can range from 2 to 12.

What Are National Ranks?

The printed Student Report gives the ranks of scores as dashed lines, and the ranks show the percent of recent high school graduates who took the ACT and scored at or below each of these scores. The ranks provide a sense of strengths and weaknesses in the four broad areas represented by the test scores and in the seven specific areas represented by the sub-scores. A high rank in a content area may suggest a good chance of success in related college majors and careers. A low rank may indicate that skills need to be developed more in that area.

Nearly half of all test takers score with a range of 17–23. All tests will vary, but here are some typical results

Composite Score	Percentile Rank	Approximate Number Correct
31	99%	90%
26	90%	75%
23	76%	63%
20	54%	53%
17	28%	43%

What Do SAT® Scores Mean?

1. The number of questions answered correctly is counted. (*Note:* $\frac{1}{4}$ point is deducted for each incorrect answer.)
2. Raw scores are converted to 200–800 scaled score for each section (Math, Critical Reading, and Writing).
3. The essay is scored holistically, and the sub-score can range from 0–12.

Colleges haven't published an average combined score for the new test, so, the easiest way to understand test scores is to break it down into sections, and compare only the reading and math scores (with a maximum 1600 score, rather than the 2400 score on the new SAT®). It is important to remember that SAT® scores are reported on a bell-curve. This means that the median score on each section will always be close to 500 (the midpoint between 200 and 800), with a decreasing frequency of scores down to 200 and up to 800.

The Writing Section

Not all schools are using the writing section in the same way. Elite schools that have traditionally required the SAT® Subject Writing Test are indicating they will require the SAT® Writing score for admissions. Other schools may look at it, but not give it much consideration. Be sure to find out what select schools require (and if and how they will use the writing score).

Testing Again

If you are satisfied with your score, congratulations! Then there is more time to focus on SAT® Subject Tests, AP® exams and applications.

However, don't despair if the score should be higher. Most students take the SAT® more than once, and some even take it three times! Use the information in the score report to help understand strengths and weaknesses in order to hone preparation for retaking either the SAT® or ACT.



SAT® Score Reports

Making Changes to Score Recipients

When students register for the SAT®, they can also register to send score reports to four colleges at no additional cost.

The SAT® Online Score Report

Students can also view their SAT® online score report. The SAT® online score report is available free to every student who takes the SAT®—through a collegeboard.com account.

Send SAT® Scores

In addition to the score reports a student chooses to send when registering for the SAT®, scores can be sent to additional colleges and scholarship programs for a small fee by accessing a collegeboard.com account.

- Only score reports from completed and scored tests will be sent.
- Scores are mailed approximately three weeks after requests are submitted.
- All available scores will be sent, including those from previous test administrations. Scores cannot be sent for latest or highest SAT® Reasoning Test scores, or separate scores for critical reading or math or writing, or only SAT® Reasoning Test or only SAT® Subject Tests scores.
- Rush reporting is available at an additional cost. Rush scores are sent two business days after a request is received.
- Remember, most colleges and universities require official score reports sent from the College Board.

ACT Score Reports

ACT scores from national test dates can be viewed online. During the early viewing period, normally for about two weeks after scores are first available to view, a fee will apply. This service allows students to view scores before the official score report arrives by mail.

ACT scores may be sent to other colleges and scholarship agencies in addition to the ones (up to four) selected during registration. Requests are processed **AFTER** the test has been scored and all results from it are available in ACT computer files.

- ACT reports **ONLY** the scores from the test date a student authorizes and not any other test scores.
- A complete report is processed within one week after the request is received. ACT delivers these to colleges and agencies selected depending on their preferred schedule, at least twice a month.
- A priority report (available for institutions within the U.S.) is processed one working day after ACT receives the request and usually delivered three business days later.