



ACT vs SAT:

Which test is a better fit for you?

Students may take whichever test they prefer (assuming there are available testing locations for both tests). If you're not sure which test your child would prefer, consider the key differences between the ACT and SAT. Some students find that the ACT caters to their strengths more so than the SAT, and vice versa. Need a quick side-by-side comparison of the tests? Check out our ACT vs. SAT Comparison Chart.

SAT www.collegeboard.org	vs.	ACT www.act.org
Content based test	Type of Test	Content based test
Reading: 1, 65-min section; Math: 1, 25-min section (no calculator) & 1, 55-min section (w/ calculator); Writing & Language: 1, 35-min section; Essay: 1, 50-min section (optional)	Test Format	English: 1, 45-min section; Math: 1, 60-min section; Reading: 1, 35-min section; Science: 1, 35-min section; Writing: 1, 40-min essay (optional)
Reading, relevant words in context, math, grammar & usage, analytical writing (optional)	Content Covered	Grammar & usage, math, reading, science reasoning, and writing (optional)
Questions are evidence and context-based in an effort to focus on real-world situations and multi-step problem-solving	Test Style	Straightforward, questions may be long but are usually less difficult to decipher
Math and Evidence-Based Reading & Writing are each scored on a scale of 200-800. Composite SAT score is the sum of the two section scores and ranged from 400-1600.	Scoring	English, Math, Reading, and Science scores will each range between 1-36. Composite ACT score is the average of your scores on the four sections; ranges between 1-36
NO! – you do not lose points for incorrect answers	Penalty for Wrong Answers?	NO!– you do not lose points for incorrect answers
Yes – you can choose which set(s) of SAT scores to submit to colleges	Score Choice?	Yes – you can choose which set(s) of ACT scores to submit to colleges
Questions increase in difficulty level as you move through that question type in a section (except reading passage questions, which progress chronologically through the passage)	Difficulty Levels	Difficulty level of the questions is random
Arithmetic, problem-solving & data analysis, heart of algebra, geometry, and trigonometry; formulas provided.	Math Levels	Arithmetic, algebra I and II, functions, geometry, trigonometry; no formulas are provided
With private schools and schools on the east and west coasts; however, every four-year college in the US accepts SAT scores	Tends to be more popular?	With public schools and schools in the Midwest and south; however, every four-year college in the US accepts ACT scores
Seven times per year: January, March or April, May, June, October, November, December	Offered when?	Six times per year: February, April, June, September, October, December (note that some states offer the ACT as part of their state testing requirements; these tests are not administered on the national test dates)
Typically about four weeks before the test date	Registration deadline?	Typically about five to six weeks before the test date

SAT/ACT prep

Because standardized tests follow a specific structure and assess a standard set of concepts, test preparation can help you succeed on these tests. Test prep is effective because it is an accurate representation of what is on the actual exam, because the format and content are standard year over year. Test preparation also allows you to become familiar with the format, timing, and content before taking the actual exam.

When you know what to expect and how to pace yourself on tests like the SAT and ACT you're more likely to be relaxed and comfortable, which typically leads to better scores than if you're full of anxiety and stress.

Online Test Preps

www.actstudent.org (Free and \$)	www.march2success.com (Free)
www.number2.com (Free)	www.studyhall.com (\$)
www.princetonreview.com (Free and \$)	www.satpractice.org (Free)
www.collegeboard.org (Free and \$)	www.kaplan.com (\$)
www.prepfactory.com (Free)	www.freetestprep.com (Free)

Test Prep Apps



Kahn Academy	ACT Up
ACT Math Prep Problems	SAT Ladder
ACE the SAT	No 2 SAT Prep
SAT Vocabulary Cards	ACT Student



Face to Face Options

Ace It Test Prep	www.aceittestprep.com	(386) 405-2128
UCF Test Prep	www.ce.ucf.edu/Program-Search/1303/Ucf-Test-Prep/	(407) 882-TEST (8378)
Stetson University Test Prep	www.stetson.edu/portal/boundless-learning	(386) 822-7518
High School Prep Courses	Please see your school counselors for information.	Times and Offerings Vary

*See your School Counselor for more Test Prep options