



# *Sylvan's Fast Facts:*

Information about the

# **SAT, PSAT & ACT**

## **2020/2021**

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## SAT® AND ACT® TEST DATES AND REGISTRATION DEADLINES

### SAT® and SAT® Subject Tests

SAT Date	Tests Offered	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
<b>August 29, 2020</b>	SAT and Subject Tests Available	July 31, 2020	August 11, 2020 (for mailed registrations) August 18, 2020 (for registrations made online or by phone)
<b>September 26, 2020</b>	SAT Only	August 26, 2020	September 15, 2020 (for registrations made online or by phone)
<b>October 3, 2020</b>	SAT and Subject Tests Available	September 4, 2020	September 15, 2020 (for mailed registrations) September 22, 2020 (for registrations made online or by phone)
<b>November 7, 2020</b>	SAT and Subject Tests Available	October 7, 2020	October 20, 2020 (for mailed registrations) October 27, 2020 (for registrations made online or by phone)
<b>December 5, 2020</b>	SAT and Subject Tests Available	November 5, 2020	November 17, 2020 (for mailed registrations) November 24, 2020 (for registrations made online or by phone)
<b>March 13, 2021</b>	SAT Only	February 12, 2021	February 23, 2021 (for mailed registrations) March 2, 2021 (for registrations made online or by phone)
<b>May 8, 2021</b>	SAT and Subject Tests Available	April 8, 2021	April 20, 2021 (for mailed registrations) April 27, 2021 (for registrations made online or by phone)
<b>June 5, 2021</b>	SAT and Subject Tests Available	May 6, 2021	May 18, 2021 (for mailed registrations) May 26, 2021 (for registrations made online or by phone)

### ACT

Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Required)
<b>September 12, 2020</b>	August 14, 2020	August 15–28, 2020
<b>September 19, 2020</b>	<a href="https://www.act.org">See ACT.org for deadlines</a>	
<b>October 10, 2020</b>	<a href="https://www.act.org">See ACT.org for deadlines</a>	
<b>October 17, 2020</b>	<a href="https://www.act.org">See ACT.org for deadlines</a>	
<b>October 24, 2020</b>	September 18, 2020	September 19–October 2, 2020
<b>December 12, 2020</b>	November 6, 2020	November 7–20, 2020
<b>February 6, 2021</b>	January 8, 2021	January 9–15, 2021
<b>April 17, 2021</b>	March 12, 2021	March 13–26, 2021
<b>June 12, 2021</b>	May 7, 2021	May 8–21, 2021
<b>July 17, 2021*</b>	June 18, 2021	June 19–25, 2021

\* No test centers are scheduled in New York for the July test dates.

Call Sylvan Learning Center® if you have any additional questions concerning college admissions testing or would like to request a free diagnostic test and computer analysis for the SAT® or ACT.

## REFERENCE NUMBERS

### **The College Board (PSAT, SAT®, SAT® Subject Tests)**

Domestic  
(866) 756-7346

International  
(212) 713-7789

TTY  
(for students who are deaf or hard of hearing)  
Domestic (609) 882-4118  
[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

### **SAT® Services for Students with Disabilities**

212-713-8333  
609-882-4118 (for individuals who are deaf or hearing impaired)

### **Advanced Placement Program (AP)**

888-225-5427  
email for students: [apstudents@info.collegeboard.org](mailto:apstudents@info.collegeboard.org)  
email for educators: [apexams@info.collegeboard.org](mailto:apexams@info.collegeboard.org)  
[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

### **American College Testing (ACT)**

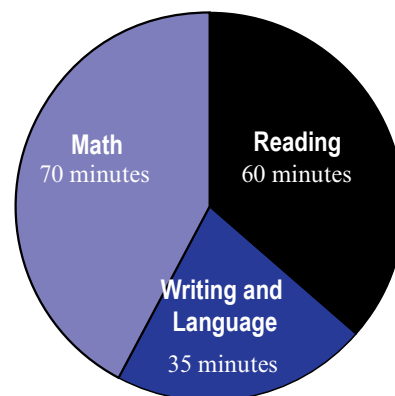
319-337-1270 — Customer Care  
319-337-1332 — Accommodations  
[www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

## THE PSAT

The PSAT is made up of three sections: Evidence-Based Reading, Evidence-Based Writing and Language, and Math. The test format and question types are closely aligned to the SAT®.

### Test Dates

Schools can administer the PSAT/NMSQT to 10th and 11th graders on October 14, October 17, and October 28, 2020. The PSAT 10 will be available to 10th graders between February 22-March 26, 2021 and April 13-30, 2021.



Total Testing Time: 2 hours 45 minutes

The following chart compares the PSAT and SAT®.

	PSAT	SAT®
Total Testing Time	2 hours and 45 minutes	3 hours (plus 50 minutes for optional Essay)
Components	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence-Based Reading and Writing                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading Test (47 questions)</li> <li>Writing and Language Test (44 questions)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Math (48 questions)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence-Based Reading and Writing                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading Test (52 questions)</li> <li>Writing and Language Test (44 questions)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Math (58 questions)</li> <li>Essay (optional)</li> </ol>
Question Format	All questions are multiple choice on the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Test. While most questions are multiple choice on the Math Test, 17 percent are student-produced response questions.	All questions are multiple choice on the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Test. While most questions are multiple choice on the Math Test, 17 percent are student-produced response questions. The optional Essay Test is made up of one essay prompt.
Score Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scores based on total number of correct answers. (No guessing penalty.)</li> <li>Total scale ranging from 320–1520.</li> <li>Scale ranging from 160–760 for both Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and Math Tests.</li> <li>Test subscores ranging from 8–38.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scores based on total number of correct answers. (No guessing penalty.)</li> <li>Total scale ranging from 400–1600.</li> <li>Scale ranging from 200–800 for both Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and Math Tests.</li> <li>Scale ranging from 2–8 on each of three Essay dimensions (reading, analysis, writing).</li> </ul>

## **THE NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Of the 1.6 million 11th graders who take the PSAT/NMSQT, about 50,000 with the highest Selection Index scores (reading + writing and language + math scores) qualify for recognition in the National Merit Scholarship Program, either as a Commended Student or Semifinalist.

### **1. Commended Students**

In September, about two-thirds of the high scorers receive Letters of Commendation. Commended Students will be named on the basis of a nationally applied Selection Index score. This score varies from year to year. Some Commended Students go on to become candidates for Special Scholarships sponsored by corporations and businesses, but they do not continue in the competition for National Merit Scholarships.

### **2. Semifinalists**

Semifinalists advance in the competition for National Merit Scholarships. In September, semifinalists are notified and sent scholarship application materials through their high school principals; their names will be announced publicly in a nationwide news release by NMSC.

Semifinalists are named on a state representational basis. An allocation of semifinalists is determined for each state, based on the state's percentage of the national total of high school graduating seniors. In designating semifinalists, the Selection Index scores of all students within a state who meet program eligibility requirements are arranged in descending order. Eligible students who have a Selection Index at or above the level that fills the state's allocation become semifinalists. Although these qualifying scores vary from state to state and from year to year, the scores of all semifinalists are extremely high.

### 3. Finalists

To qualify, semifinalists must meet all requirements for participation in the competition.

They must:

- be enrolled full time in the last year of high school and be planning to enter college the following fall (or be enrolled in the first year of college, if grades 9 through 12 were completed in three years or less).
- have a record of consistently high academic performance in all grades 9 through 12 (and in any college course work taken).
- be fully endorsed and recommended for a Merit Scholarship award by the high school principal.
- submit the NMSC scholarship application, giving academic, biographical, extracurricular, and other information requested.
- take the SAT® between the October date of the junior year and December date of the senior year and earn scores that confirm the PSAT/NMSQT performance that resulted in semifinalist standing.
- provide all documentation that NMSC requests.

In February of their senior year, students who meet the program requirements will be notified that they have advanced to finalist standing. Approximately 15,000 semifinalists advance as finalists each year and receive Certificates of Merit. Only finalists can be considered for Merit Scholarship awards, but before a finalist can be offered an award, he or she must have notified NMSC of plans to (a) enroll full time in an undergraduate course of study leading to one of the traditional baccalaureate degrees, and (b) use any NMSC award received at a college or university in the United States that holds accredited status with a regional accrediting commission on higher education. NMSC scholarship stipends are not payable for attendance at service academies and certain institutions that are limited in their purposes or training.

### 4. Winners

Approximately 7,600 finalists win Merit Scholarship awards. Winners are notified by NMSC between March and mid-June of their senior year. There are three types of Merit Scholarship awards:

#### A. National Merit \$2500 Scholarships

All finalists are considered for these scholarships, which are awarded on a state representational basis. There are 2,500 single-payment awards offered each year. The number of winners in a state is determined by following the representational procedure used to designate semifinalists, and every finalist competes with all of the others in a particular state. A committee of experienced college admission officers and high school counselors select winners based on academic record (course load and difficulty level, depth and breadth of subjects studied, and grades earned), scores on both the PSAT/NMSQT and SAT®, significant activities and contributions to the school and community, the student's essay, and the principal's written recommendation and characterization of the finalist.

### **B. Corporate-sponsored Scholarships**

About 1,000 finalists are awarded Corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarships each year. These awards are given to students who meet the NMSC eligibility requirements and preferential criteria specified by the corporate sponsors of their awards. Most corporate-sponsored awards are designated for children of the grantor organization's employees or members. Some, however, are offered to residents of a community where a business has operations, and other awards are offered to students with career plans that the sponsor wishes to encourage. Finalists who meet a sponsor's preferential criteria are identified from information that students supply to NMSC on their scholarship applications. NMSC's professional staff chooses winners from the pool of eligible finalists.

Some corporate-sponsored scholarships are nonrenewable awards that provide a single payment; however, others can be renewed for up to four years of college undergraduate study. Renewable awards provide either a fixed yearly stipend that is the same for every recipient, or an annual stipend that is individually determined and takes into account college costs and family financial circumstances. Each sponsor chooses the type and monetary limits of scholarships it finances. Renewable scholarship stipends range from \$500 to \$5,000 per year. Nonrenewable awards range from \$2,500 to \$5,000.

### **C. College-sponsored Merit Scholarships**

Each year, about 4,000 awards are provided for finalists who plan to attend a higher education institution that is a program sponsor (a list of participating colleges appears in the PSAT/NMSQT Student Bulletin). A college-sponsored Merit Scholarship award is renewable for up to four years of study at the sponsor institution and cannot be transferred; it is canceled if a winner does not attend the sponsor college.

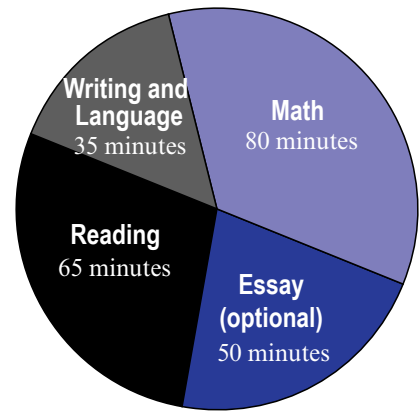
Officials of each sponsor institution choose award recipients from among finalists who have applied for admission and informed NMSC that the college is their first choice. College officials also determine each winner's stipend within a range of \$500 to \$2,000 per year.



## UNDERSTANDING THE SAT®

### Structure and Content

The SAT® is a three-hour test made up of three components: Evidence-Based Reading, Evidence-Based Writing, and Math. The Reading Test is a 65-minute test, consisting of 52 passage-based, multiple-choice questions. The Writing and Language Test is a 35-minute test, consisting of 44 passage-based, multiple-choice questions. The Math Test is an 80-minute test. While most of the 58 questions are multiple-choice, some are student-produced responses. An additional 50 minutes is allotted for students taking the optional Essay Test.



Total Testing Time: 3 hours plus 50 minutes for optional Essay

### Reading Test

All Reading Test questions are multiple choice and based on passages, which are selected from previously published works in the areas of classic and contemporary U.S. and world literature, history/social studies, and science. The questions ask students about what is stated or implied in a passage, paired passage, or supplementary material, including informational graphics.

### Writing and Language Test

The Writing and Language Test questions are multiple choice and based on passages, such as arguments, informative/explanatory texts, or nonfiction narratives. Like the Reading Test, some passages are paired with informational graphics. The questions ask students to revise a passage to improve its development, organization, and effective language use, as well as recognize and correct grammar mistakes.

### Math Test

The Math Test is divided into two sections: Calculator and No Calculator. The questions cover a range of topics including problem solving, data analysis, algebra, complex equations, geometry, and trigonometry.

### Essay Test (Optional)

Students will be asked to read a passage, and then write an essay that explains how the author builds an argument to persuade an audience. The essay writing prompt also asks students to cite textual evidence to support the analysis.

## SCORES OF INCOMING FRESHMEN AT POPULAR SCHOOLS

School Name	SAT-EBRW Mid 50%	SAT-Math Mid 50%
American University	620–700 Test Optional	590–690 Test Optional
Amherst College	650–740	660–780
Auburn University	580–650	570–670
Barnard College**	670–750	670–770
Baylor University**	600–680	600–700
Boston College**	660–730	680–770
Boston University**	650–720	690–790
Bowdoin College	NR	NR
Brandeis University	660–730 Test Optional	690–790 Test Optional
Brown University**	700–770	740–800
Bryn Mawr College	Test Optional	Test Optional
Bucknell University	620–700 Test Optional	635–730 Test Optional
California Institute of Technology	<i>Temporary Moratorium</i>	<i>Temporary Moratorium</i>
Claremont McKenna College**	670–730	690–780
Colby College	Test Optional	Test Optional
Colgate University**	660–730	670–770
College of William and Mary	660–740 Test Optional	660–770 Test Optional
Colorado College	Test Optional	Test Optional
Columbia University**	700–770	740–800
Connecticut College	650–710 Test Optional	660–740 Test Optional
Cornell University**	680–760	720–800
Dartmouth College**	710–770	730–790
Davidson College	650–730 Test Optional	660–755 Test Optional
Duke University**	720–770	760–800
Emory University	670–740	690–790
George Washington University	630–720 Test Optional	650–750 Test Optional
Georgetown University	690–760	690–790
Harvard University**	710–770	750–800
Haverford College	680–750 Test Optional	700–790 Test Optional
Indiana University (Bloomington, IN)	580–670 Test Optional	570–690 Test Optional
Johns Hopkins University**	710–760	750–800

<b>School Name</b>	<b>SAT-EBRW Mid 50%</b>	<b>SAT-Math Mid 50%</b>
Lehigh University**	620–690	660–760
Lewis and Clark College	630–710 Test Optional	590–690 Test Optional
Loyola University, Chicago	570–660	560–660
Loyola University, MD	Test Optional	Test Optional
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	730–770	780–800
Middlebury College	670–750 Test Optional	690–780 Test Optional
New York University	660–740 Flexible Testing	690–790 Flexible Testing
Northwestern University**	700–760	740–790
Ohio State University**	600–690	650–770
Oberlin College	650–730 Test Optional	630–750 Test Optional
Pennsylvania State University**	540–640	530–670
Pomona College**	690–750	700–790
Princeton University**	710–770	750–800
Reed College	670–750	655–770
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute**	620–710	670–780
Rice University**	720–770	750–800
Sarah Lawrence College	640–720 Test Optional	600–702 Test Optional
Scripps College	673–740 Test Optional	660–750 Test Optional
Smith College	Test Optional	Test Optional
Stanford University**	700–770	740–800
Swarthmore College**	680–750	700–790
Syracuse University**	580–670	600–710
Tufts University	680–750 Test Optional	710–790 Test Optional
Tulane University**	680–750	700–770
United States Air Force Academy	610–700	620–740
United States Military Academy	570–680	590–700
United States Naval Academy	620–710	620–750
University of Arizona	560–670 Optional but required for certain colleges/scholarships	550–690 Optional but required for certain colleges/scholarships
University of California, Santa Barbara	620–710 Test Optional	610–770 Test Optional
University of California, Berkeley	650–740 Test Optional	680–790 Test Optional
University of California, Davis	580–680 Test Optional	590–730 Test Optional
University of California, Irvine	570–670 Test Optional	600–750 Test Optional

# SAT/PSAT/ACT PREP

School Name	SAT-EBRW Mid 50%	SAT-Math Mid 50%
University of California, Los Angeles	650–740 Test Optional	650–790 Test Optional
University of California, San Diego	620–710 Test Optional	630–780 Test Optional
University of Chicago	730–770 Test Optional	770–800 Test Optional
University of Colorado	580–670	560–690
University of Connecticut	590–690 Test Optional	610–720 Test Optional
University of Florida	650–720	660–750
University of Georgia	630–700	610–720
University of Illinois (Urbana)**	600–700	610–770
University of Iowa	560–660	570–680
University of Maryland	630–710	650–760
University of Massachusetts - Amherst	590–680	600–710
University of Michigan– Ann Arbor	660–740	680–790
University of Minnesota–Twin Cities	600–710	660–770
University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill	650–730	660–770
University of Notre Dame**	680–760	720–790
University of Oregon	560–660 Test Optional	540–650 Test Optional
University of Pennsylvania**	700–760	750–800
University of Pittsburgh	630–700	630–740
University of Puget Sound	NR - Test Optional	NR - Test Optional
University of Rochester	640–720 Test Optional	670–780 Test Optional
University of Southern California**	670–740	690–790
University of Texas at Austin**	620–720	610–760
University of Virginia**	670–740	670–780
University of Wisconsin	630–700	670–780
Vanderbilt University**	710–760	750–800
Vassar College**	680–750	690–770
Wake Forest University	NR - Test Optional	NR - Test Optional
Washington University in St. Louis**	720–760	760–800
Wellesley College**	680–750	680–780
Wesleyan University	NR - Test Optional	NR - Test Optional
Williams College**	700–760	710–790
Yale University**	720–770	740–800

\*SAT scores are for fall 2019, and were provided by U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Educational

\*\*Due to the impact of COVID-19, these schools are temporarily test optional for at least the 2021 application cycle.

NR - no scores reported

Students should always check with schools of interest to get the latest admissions requirements.

## COLLEGE BOARD'S SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES\*

Students with disabilities, who show that their disabilities affect participation in a College Board exam, can take the SAT®, SAT® Subject Tests, PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 10, and Advanced Placement Exams with the accommodations they need.

### Who Is Eligible?

A request for accommodations must be approved by Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). This process can take up to seven weeks. Generally, SSD approves students who meet the following criteria: 1) The student has a documented disability, such as a current psychoeducational evaluation or a doctor's report. 2) The student's participation in a College Board exam is impacted by his/her disability. 3) The student provides documentation showing that the requested accommodation is needed. 4) The student receives the requested accommodation on school tests.

### What Are Typical Accommodations?

The College Board considers all reasonable requests for documented disabilities. The following are some examples of typical accommodations: 1) Extended Time, such as 50 percent additional time, double time, or more time. Unlimited time, however, is not an option. 2) Computer Use, which may be used to write essays and short-answer responses. 3) Extra and Extended Breaks, such as breaks between test sections and breaks as needed. 4) Reading and Seeing Accommodations, including large-print test book, braille test book, braille graphs, MP3 audio test format, reader, magnifier/magnifying machine. 5) Four-function calculator for math sections that do not permit the use of a calculator.

### How Do I Submit a Request?

Most students have an SSD Coordinator who helps students during the accommodations request process. SSD Coordinators are usually special education coordinators, guidance directors, or school counselors. The College Board recommends that families work with their school to request accommodations because SSD Coordinators can use SSD Online which is a guided and streamlined request process, unlike the paper Student Eligibility Form.

\*This information is taken from the College Board's SAT® Services for Students with Disabilities, 2017.

If you have additional questions about special services or would like to request information about our SAT® preparation programs, call Sylvan Learning Center® and one of our directors will provide answers to all of your questions about the SAT®.

## OVERVIEW OF THE SAT® SUBJECT TESTS

### Verbal Skills

Test	Topics Covered
<b>Literature</b>	Reading Comprehension of prose passages, poetry, and drama

### Math

Test	Topics Covered
<b>Mathematics Level 1</b>	Number and operations, algebra and functions, geometry and measurement, data analysis, statistics and probability
<b>Mathematics Level 2</b>	Same material as Math 1 with the addition of trigonometry and elementary functions (precalculus)

### Additional SAT® Subject Tests

Science	History	Foreign Language
Biology E/M Chemistry Physics	U.S. History World History	French* French with Listening* German* German with Listening* Spanish Spanish with Listening* Modern Hebrew* Italian* Latin Chinese with Listening* Japanese with Listening* Korean with Listening*

\* This test is only given on one date during the year.

## POPULAR SCHOOLS' SAT® SUBJECT TESTS POLICIES

School Name	SAT Subject Test Policy
American University	Not Required
Amherst College	Not Required
Auburn University	Not Required
Barnard College	Not Required
Baylor University	Not Required but can receive course credit for some (see website)
Boston College	Not Required
Boston University	Optional depending on program
Bowdoin College	Optional, required for certain students (see website)
Brandeis University	Choice of taking 3 subject tests or ACT or SAT, or an academic portfolio
Brown University	Not Required
Bryn Mawr College	Not Required
Bucknell University	Not Required
California Institute of Technology	Not Required
Claremont McKenna College	Optional, 2 required for home-schooled students
Colby College	640+ on foreign language subject test may satisfy foreign language requirement
Colgate University	Not Required
College of William and Mary	Optional
Colorado College	Flexible Testing Option available (see website)
Columbia University	Optional
Connecticut College	Test-Optional Policy
Cornell University	Not Required
Dartmouth College	Test Optional
Davidson College	Optional
Duke University	Not Required
Emory University	Not Required
George Washington University	Not Required
Georgetown University	3 SAT Subject tests are recommended
Harvard University	Optional for Class of 2025 (Typically 2 are recommended)
Haverford College	Not Required
Indiana University (Bloomington, IN)	Not Required but can receive credit for some (see website)

School Name	SAT Subject Test Policy
Johns Hopkins University	Optional
Lehigh University	Recommended as college credit may be received for scores +700
Lewis and Clark College	Not Required
Loyola University, Chicago	Not Required
Loyola University, MD	Optional
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Not Considered
Middlebury College	Test Optional
New York University	See website for flexible testing options
Northwestern University	Test Optional
Ohio State University	Not Required
Oberlin College	Not Required
Pennsylvania State University	Not Required
Pomona College	Test Optional
Princeton University	Not Required
Reed College	Optional
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	Not required, except for some accelerated program applicants
Rice University	Optional
Sarah Lawrence College	Optional
Scripps College	Optional
Smith College	Optional
Stanford University	Optional
Swarthmore College	Not required but encouraged for engineering program applicants (Math 2 Subject Test)
Syracuse University	Not Required
Tufts University	Not Required
Tulane University	Optional
United States Air Force Academy	Not Required
United States Military Academy	Not Required
United States Naval Academy	Not Required
University of Arizona	Not Required
University of California, Santa Barbara	Not require but recommended for certain majors (see website)
University of California, Berkeley	Not required but recommended for College of Engineering and College of Chemistry
University of California, Davis	Not Required
University of California, Irvine	Not Required



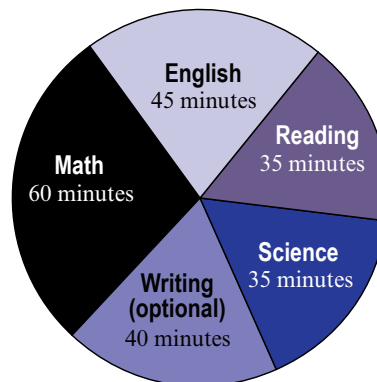
<b>School Name</b>	<b>SAT Subject Test Policy</b>
University of California, Los Angeles	Not required but recommended for School of Engineering
University of California, San Diego	Recommended for prospective engineering, biological, or physical science majors.
University of Chicago	Optional
University of Colorado	Not Required
University of Connecticut	Not Required
University of Florida	May be required for homeschooled students (see website)
University of Georgia	Not Required
University of Illinois (Urbana)	Not Required
University of Iowa	Not Required
University of Maryland	Not Required
University of Massachusetts - Amherst	May receive credit for SAT Subject Foreign Language Test
University of Michigan– Ann Arbor	Not Required
University of Minnesota–Twin Cities	Not Required
University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill)	Optional
University of Notre Dame	Not required
University of Oregon	Required for Home-schooled applicants
University of Pennsylvania	Optional for class of 2025
University of Pittsburgh	Not Required
University of Puget Sound	Not Required
University of Rochester	Optional
University of Southern California	Not Required
University of Texas at Austin	Not Required
University of Virginia	Optional
University of Wisconsin	Not Required
Vanderbilt University	Optional
Vassar College	Optional
Wake Forest University	Not Required
Washington University in St. Louis	Not Required
Wellesley College	Not Required
Wesleyan College	Not Required
Williams College	Not Required
Yale University	Not considered during the 20/21 admissions cycle

\*Information was obtained from school websites and was last updated in summer, 2020. Students should always check with schools of interest to get the latest admissions requirements.

## UNDERSTANDING THE ACT

### Structure and Content

The ACT assessment is a three-hour, multiple-choice examination designed to measure academic achievement in four major curriculum areas: English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science. The ACT is divided into four tests which are always given in the following order: English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science. With breaks, the test will last about three and a half hours. Students may choose to take the optional Writing Test, increasing the length of the ACT to five tests and increasing the time by an additional 40 minutes.



**Total Testing Time: 2 hours 55 minutes**  
**Including Essay: 3 hours 35 minutes**

### English Test

The English Test is made up of 75 passage-based, multiple-choice questions that measure standard written English and rhetorical skills. A variety of topics are covered including punctuation, grammar/usage, sentence structure, organization, and style.

### Mathematics Test

The Mathematics Test consists of 60 multiple-choice questions based on six content areas: pre-algebra, elementary algebra, intermediate algebra, coordinate geometry, plane geometry, and trigonometry.

### Reading Test

The Reading Test is made up of 40 passage-based, multiple-choice questions that measure critical reading skills. The test contains one passage from each of the following categories: prose fiction/literary narrative, social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences.

### Science Test

The Science Test is made up of 40 multiple-choice questions that require the use of many skills such as interpretation, analysis, reasoning, and problem solving. These skills are measured through the topics of biology, chemistry, physics, meteorology, geology, and astronomy.

### Writing Test (Optional)

The Writing Test includes one essay prompt. This essay measures writing skills emphasized in high school and entry-level college courses. This essay does not require any prior knowledge in particular subject areas. Everything you need to know will come from personal experiences and knowledge.

### Experimental Section

On certain test dates, the ACT will consist of an additional test which consists of questions that are being tried out for possible use on future ACTs. This additional section is used for experimental reasons only, and will not be graded or scored.

## SCORES OF INCOMING FRESHMEN AT POPULAR SCHOOLS

School Name	ACT Composite
American University	27–31 Test Optional
Amherst College	30–34
Auburn University	25–31
Barnard College**	31–34
Baylor University**	26–32
Boston College**	31–34
Boston University**	30–34
Bowdoin College	NR
Brandeis University	30–33 Test Optional
Brown University**	33–35
Bryn Mawr College	Test Optional Policy
Bucknell University	28–32 Test Optional
California Institute of Technology	<i>Temporary Moratorium</i>
Claremont McKenna College**	31–34
Colby College	Test Optional
Colgate University**	31–34
College of William and Mary	30–34 Test Optional
Colorado College	Test Optional
Columbia University**	33–35
Connecticut College	30–33 Test Optional
Cornell University**	29–33
Dartmouth College**	32–35
Davidson College	30–33 Test Optional
Duke University**	33–35
Emory University	31–34
George Washington University	30–33 Test Optional
Georgetown University	31–35
Harvard University**	33–35
Haverford College	32–34 Test Optional
Indiana University (Bloom)	24–31 Test Optional
Johns Hopkins University**	33–35
Lehigh University**	29–33
Lewis and Clark College	27–31 Test Optional
Loyola University, Chicago	25–30

School Name	ACT Composite
Loyola University, MD	NR - Test Optional
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	34–36
Middlebury College	32–34 Test Optional
New York University	30–34 Flexible Testing Policy
Northwestern University**	33–35
Ohio State University**	28–32
Oberlin College	29–33 Test Optional
Pennsylvania State University**	23–30
Pomona College**	32–35
Princeton University**	33–35
Reed College	30–34
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute**	28–34
Rice University**	33–35
Sarah Lawrence College	28–31 Test Optional
Scripps College	30–33 Test Optional
Smith College	Test Optional
Stanford University**	32–35
Swarthmore College**	31–35
Syracuse University**	26–30
Tufts University	32–34 Test Optional
Tulane University**	31–33
United States Air Force Academy United States Military Academy	28–33
United States Naval Academy	25–30
University of Arizona	26–32
University of California, Santa Barbara	21–29 Test Optional With Exceptions
University of California, Berkeley	27–34 Test Optional
University of California, Davis	31–35 Test Optional
University of California, Irvine	24–32 Test Optional
University of California, Los Angeles	24–33 Test Optional
University of California, San Diego	29–35 Test Optional
University of Chicago	26–34 Test Optional
University of Colorado	33–35 Test Optional
University of Connecticut	25–31
University of Florida	26–32 Test Optional
	28–33

School Name	ACT Composite
University of Georgia	27–32
University of Illinois (Urbana)**	26–32
University of Iowa	22–29
University of Maryland	29–34
University of Massachusetts - Amherst	26–32
University of Michigan– Ann Arbor	31–34
University of Minnesota–Twin Cities	26–31
University of North Carolina	28–33
University of Notre Dame**	32–35
University of Oregon	22–28 Test Optional
University of Pennsylvania**	33–35
University of Pittsburgh	28–33
University of Puget Sound	NR Test Optional
University of Rochester	30–34 Test Optional
University of Southern California**	31–34
University of Texas at Austin **	27–33
University of Virginia**	30–34
University of Wisconsin	27–32
Vanderbilt University**	33–35
Vassar College**	31–34
Wake Forest University	NR Test Optional
Washington University in St. Louis**	33–35
Wellesley College**	31–34
Wesleyan University	NR Test Optional
Williams College**	32–35
Yale University**	33–35

ACT scores are for fall 2019, and were provided by U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Educational Statistics.

NR=School did not report scores.

\*\*Due to the impact of COVID-19, these schools are temporarily test optional for at least the 2021 application cycle.

## ACT ASSESSMENT SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES AND/OR ENGLISH LEARNER SUPPORTS\*

If you currently receive accommodations in school due to a professionally diagnosed and documented disability and/or receive supports in school due to limited English proficiency, you may provide documentation to support a request for one of the following options:

### National Test Center Option #1

National Testing with Accommodations is designed for students who can test at a regularly scheduled test center, but need an additional accommodation or English Learner (EL) support.

Examples of accommodations include 50% extended time; wheelchair accessible room; large-type (18 point font) test booklet; assistance marking responses in the test booklet; seating near the front to lip-read spoken instructions; sign language interpreter to sign spoken instructions (not test items); use of an approved word-to-word dictionary. Students who receive the extra time accommodations will receive 50% extended time for each section of the ACT. Students who opt to take the optional essay will have 60 minutes to complete the essay.

### Special Testing

Select Special Testing if you have documented disabilities requiring accommodations that cannot be provided at a test center. Examples include: more than 50% time extension or testing over multiple days, alternate test formats (braille, DVDs, or a reader), use of a scribe or computer for the writing test or extending time on the writing test only.

To request accommodations for the ACT the student must work with a school official to submit a request for accommodations in the Test Accessibility and Accommodations System (TAA). School officials are the only one who can access the website at <https://readiness.act.org>. Please be aware of registration and accommodation request deadlines.

### Steps for Requesting Special Accommodations for the ACT:

1. Create or log in to an existing account ACT web account and register for the test.
  - a. Indicate the need for accommodations and/or English learner supports
  - b. Select the type of accommodation and/or English learner supports you need
2. After you register, you will receive an email that contains instructions on how to work with your school to submit the request.
  - a. Forward that email to your school along with a completed *Consent to Release Information to ACT* form. This email will start the process.
3. Your school official will then submit your request to ACT. ACT will review the request and email a Decision Notification to the school official who will then contact you with the decision within two weeks of submitting the request.

Please visit [www.act.org/the-act/accomms](http://www.act.org/the-act/accomms) for complete instructions and information on accommodations and EL support for the ACT. You may also contact ACT via phone at 319-337-1332 or email: [actacom@act.org](mailto:actacom@act.org).

## SAT® AND ACT COMPARED

	SAT*	ACT
Content Covered:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading comprehension</li> <li>• Analysis in social studies</li> <li>• Analysis in science</li> <li>• Command of evidence</li> <li>• Words in context</li> <li>• Grammar and rhetoric</li> <li>• Expression of ideas</li> <li>• Math through trigonometry</li> <li>• Essay (optional)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standard written English</li> <li>• Rhetoric</li> <li>• Reading comprehension</li> <li>• Math through trigonometry</li> <li>• Science reasoning, data analysis, interpretation, and problem solving</li> <li>• Writing (optional)</li> </ul>
Scoring Method:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scores based on total number of correct answers. (No guessing penalty.)</li> <li>• Scale ranging from 200–800 for both Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and Math Tests. Scale ranging from 2–8 on each of three Essay dimensions (reading, analysis, writing).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scores based on the total number of correct answers. (No guessing penalty.)</li> <li>• English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science scores converted to scaled scores from 1–36, with an average of all subtests 1–36.</li> <li>• Optional Writing Test scored on a 2–12 scale. This score is an average of four 2–12 domain scores.</li> </ul>
Other:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Calculators allowed on one of two Math sections</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Score Choice (Choice of which test date/scores to send)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Calculators allowed</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Score Choice (Choice of which test date/scores to send)</li> </ul>

## CONCORDANCE BETWEEN SAT AND ACT SCORES

In 2018, the SAT and ACT organizations worked together to complete a concordance study comparing scores of the two tests. The information collected reflects data from a group of students who took both tests, which was used to provide an estimated comparison of the two tests' scores. To access information about SAT and ACT concordance, follow this link:

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/scores/understanding-scores/sat-score-converter>

## SYLVAN PREP GUIDE TO COLLEGE RESOURCES ON THE WEB

### College Information and Applications

College Navigator — <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>  
*Provides an in-depth look into over 7,000 US colleges and universities.*

CollegeSource Online — [www.collegesource.org](http://www.collegesource.org)  
*Provides online access to more than 100,000 college catalogs.*

CollegeNET — [www.collegenet.com](http://www.collegenet.com)  
*A standard collection of information and links on colleges and financial aid.*

Go College — [www.gocollege.com](http://www.gocollege.com)  
*Another good example of a useful college search site.*

Peterson's Education — [www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com)  
*The publisher has online guides to colleges, careers, summer jobs, and test preparation among others.*

US News and World Report.edu — [www.usnews.com/education](http://www.usnews.com/education)  
*Students and parents can access the latest US News college rankings as well as helpful information on getting into the school of their choice.*



## Scholarships and Financial Aid

College Board — [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

*The College Board provides information on scholarships and financial aid in addition to their testing information.*

fastWEB — [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

*A free, searchable database of more than 1.5 million scholarships.*

The Financial Aid Information Page — [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)

*The most comprehensive listing of financial aid information available online. From financial aid calculators to scholarship searches to the latest scams, students and parents can find out about it here.*

FAFSA on the Web — [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

*Families can now apply for financial aid online in a secure, encrypted format.*

Student Loan Marketing Association — [www.salliemae.com](http://www.salliemae.com)

*Provides useful information regarding the student loan process and financial aid in general.*

Federal Student Aid, An Office of the U.S. Dept. of Education — [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov)

*Provides student loan information, including guidance on completing the FAFSA.*

## College Admission Testing

College Board — [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

*A wonderful resource for counselors and students, providing a wealth of information on tests, such as the SAT®, PSAT and AP, as well as college-planning and financial aid resources. Students can register online for the SAT®.*

ACT — [ACT.org](http://ACT.org)

*A resource for parents, students and counselors. A wealth of information on the test, sample questions, and updates are provided. Students can register online for the ACT.*

FairTest — [www.fairtest.org](http://www.fairtest.org)

*For a critical look at standardized tests, counselors and students can visit the FairTest site.*

Sylvan Nation — [www.sylvannation.com](http://www.sylvannation.com)

*Get free college/university prep advice, resources and tips.*

## Career Guidance

Career Resource Center — [www.careers.org](http://www.careers.org)

*This site maintains a comprehensive database of links to career-oriented websites.*

Occupational Outlook Handbook — [www.bls.gov/ooh/](http://www.bls.gov/ooh/)

*The government's guide to hundreds of jobs and careers.*

## Other Sites for Counselors and Students

American School Directory — [www.asd.com](http://www.asd.com)

*An online guide to over 105,000 K-12 schools with key facts and links.*

LD Online — [www.ldonline.org](http://www.ldonline.org)

*A guide to learning disabilities for parents, students and teachers.*

Learning Disabilities Association of America — [www.ldaamerica.org](http://www.ldaamerica.org)

*This advocacy group for those with learning disabilities provides resources for parents, students and teachers.*

National Association for College Admission Counseling — [www.nacacnet.org](http://www.nacacnet.org)

*NACAC has plenty of information about college admissions for parents, students and counselors.*

National Association of Secondary School Principals — [www.nassp.org](http://www.nassp.org)

*Although probably of more interest to counselors than to students, the NASSP does make the Common Application available at their website.*

NCAA — [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org)

*The NCAA provides a wealth of information to student athletes and their parents.*

Center for Parent Information and Resources — [www.parentcenterhub.org](http://www.parentcenterhub.org)

*This site provides information on disabilities and disability-related issues for families, educators and other professionals.*

## WHY CHOOSE SYLVAN FOR SAT® & ACT® PREPARATION?

[www.SylvanLearning.com](http://www.SylvanLearning.com)

The college/university admissions process can be a nail-biting experience. We can help reduce everyone's stress level and increase test scores!

### With Sylvan Prep, students

- **Learn in ways that improve skill mastery.** Our test prep tutors use a proven mix of personal instruction and online activities to get concepts to click. We use technology in new and smart ways, so teens can achieve the best results.
- **Improve individual skill areas that need a boost.** With Personalized Tutoring, teens get an individualized lesson path to improve the skills and subjects that need the most work. It's so much more than practice on worksheets!
- Learn from **highly trained instructors.** Our teachers are subject area experts, superb motivators and personal success coaches. They'll use proven techniques to bring your teen up to peak performance level, so on test day your teen will be ready.

### Compare and Decide

We don't think that you should have to pay a lot to receive the best test preparation available, so we charge about the same for Sylvan Prep small classes as what other leading test prep companies charge for classes with many more students.

**Call 1-800-EDUCATE to learn about your options today!**

