

## College Testing

There are two college entrance exams, the **ACT** (American College Test) and the **SAT** (Scholastic Assessment Test), which are used for admission, placement, and scholarships. Both the ACT and the SAT are universally accepted for admission testing purposes. Check directly with each institution being considered for their testing requirements. In addition to the ACT or SAT some may require SAT Subject tests. Registration materials are available in the College/Career Information Center and online. Students who require testing on a Sunday for religious reasons should check online or pick up a Registration Bulletin for required documentation, locations and dates of exams offered.

### ACT (American College Testing Program)

The ACT is a set of four multiple choice tests covering English, mathematics, reading, and science. The ACT Plus Writing Test includes the four multiple choice tests plus the Writing Test.

Test			
English	75 questions	45 minutes	The test consists of five essays/passages, each one followed by multiple-choice test questions. Different passage types are included to provide variety.
Mathematics	60 questions	60 minutes	The test measures the mathematical skills students have typically acquired in courses taken by the end of 11th grade.
Reading	40 questions	35 minutes	The test measures reading comprehension. Several texts are read followed by answering questions to show understanding.
Science	40 questions	35 minutes	The test measures skills in the natural sciences: interpretation, analysis, evaluation, reasoning and problem solving.
Optional Writing	1 prompt	30 minutes	Essay test that measures writing skills emphasized in high school English classes and in entry-level college composition courses.

The ACT registration fee for the Assessment Plus Writing is \$48.00. To find out if the Writing Test is required, visit the website or call the admissions office of each college or university to which you plan to apply. If a student chooses to take the ACT without writing, the fee is \$33. Late registration: \$21; Standby fee: \$41. Most scores are available online within 2 1/2 weeks after the test for an additional fee. The service allows students to view their scores before the official score report arrives by mail. Scores are based on the number of correct answers; there is no penalty for guessing. Students must mail their ACT registration forms and fee in the pre-addressed envelope available in the College/Career Center or register online at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org). For Sunday testing centers, visit the [ACT website](#).

### CEEB (College Entrance Examination Board)

The CEEB offers the following tests: SAT Reasoning, SAT: Subject Tests, AP (Advanced Placement Tests), TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language), and CLEP (College-Level Examination Program). Contact your counselor for fee waiver information if the registration fees present a financial hardship.

### SAT Reasoning Test

The SAT Reasoning Test, commonly known as the SAT, is a 3 ¾ hour test that measures critical reading, mathematical reasoning and writing skills a student has developed over time to be successful academically. This test is administered seven times a year and is typically taken by

high school juniors for the first time in the spring and again as a senior in the fall or winter. Each section is scored on a 200-800 scale as well as two sub-scores for the writing section.

Students may register for the SAT Reasoning test by mail or online. It is highly recommended that students register online at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com). Students are responsible for the \$47.00 registration fee, which can be paid by credit card or check directly to The College Board. An additional \$24.00 late fee or \$41.00 stand-by fee must be added to the \$47.00 regular registration fee when a deadline is missed. Registration forms and information are available in the College/Career Information Center or online.

Each edition of the SAT includes a Critical Reading, Math and Writing Section, with a specific number of questions related to content.

Time	Content	Item Types
70 minutes. (two 25-min. sections and one 20-min. section)	<b>Math Section:</b> Arithmetic, Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry	Multiple-choice questions and grid-ins (student-produced responses)
70 minutes. (two 25-min. sections and one 20-min. section)	<b>Critical reading:</b> Passage-based reading comprehension and sentence completion	Multiple choice
60 minutes: 25 minute multiple choice section, 10 minute multiple choice section, 25 minute essay.	<b>Writing Section:</b> Grammar usage, word choice, organization and clear expression	Multiple choice, persuasive essay

### SAT Subject Tests

The SAT Subject Tests are designed to measure knowledge and skills in particular subject areas, as well as the ability to apply that knowledge. Subject tests are also used by some colleges for admission and placement purposes. Students may take up to three tests in one session, but may not take the Reasoning and the Subject Tests on the same day. It is recommended that a Subject Test be taken following the completion of the highest level of the course. The registration fee includes a basic fee of \$21.00 plus an additional \$21.00 fee for a Language Test with Listening or an additional \$10.00 for all other Subject Tests. Students are penalized for missing the regular deadlines and must pay an additional \$24.00 late fee or \$41.00 Standby Fee. Please check the SAT Testing Bulletin or your College/Career Center for Test Center locations and schedules. Note: Most colleges do not require the Subject Tests. Check the college website to see if these tests are recommended.

### TOEFL (Test of English As a Foreign Language)

*The TOEFL® test is the most widely accepted English-language test in the world.* It measures the ability of nonnative speakers of English to use and understand English as it is spoken, written, and heard in academic settings. It is an internet-based test (iBT) required by almost all U.S. colleges and universities for students whose principle language is not English. The test has four sections: Reading, Listening, Speaking and Writing and takes up to four hours to complete. The current U.S. \$170 (Maryland) registration fee includes one examinee core record and four score reports sent to your designated institutions. The TOEFL should be taken in addition to the SAT Reasoning Test or ACT. You can take the Internet-based Test (iBT) or the Paper-based Test (PBT), depending on which format is offered at your test center. For the most up-to-date information, visit: [www.ets.org/toefl](http://www.ets.org/toefl)

### AP (Advanced Placement) Tests

The Advanced Placement Program gives students the opportunity to take college-level courses with the possibility of earning college credit or advanced placement. There are thirty-three AP courses across 22 subject areas available to students. The tests are administered in early

May. Visit [www.collegeboard.com/apstudents](http://www.collegeboard.com/apstudents) for test dates. The fee is currently \$86.00 per test. Students currently on free/reduced lunch should qualify for fee waiver; see your counselor. Students should discuss taking AP classes/tests with their parents, teachers and school counselor.

**CLEP (College-Level Examination Program)**

The CLEP provides students of any age with the opportunity to demonstrate college-level achievement through a program of exams in college-level introductory subjects. All exams are scored on a scale of 20-80 with the recommended credit-granting score of 50, which equals a grade of C and are kept on file for 20 years. There are 2,900 colleges that grant credit and/or advanced standing for the 33 CLEP exams. Check the College Board CLEP website to locate a testing center. The cost of each CLEP Exam is \$77.00.

**PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test)**

The PSAT is the only opportunity when high school **juniors** may be considered for the National Merit Scholarship Program, the National Achievement Scholarship Program, and the National Hispanic Scholar Awards Program. The PSAT also serves as an important practice test for the SAT Reasoning Test. It is administered only once during the school year and consists of two 25-minute critical reading sections, one 30-minute math section, and one 30-minute writing skills section. This year, the PSAT/NMSQT will be administered on Wednesday, October 13th, at all Montgomery County High Schools. All tenth grade students will take the test at no cost. A limited number of fee waivers are available for grade 11 students only.

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