



The ACT/SAT: What can I expect?

You have worked hard throughout your entire high school career; now it is time to show what you have learned and to see if you are ready for the next step. You will begin to plan to take either the ACT or the SAT—or even both—in order to apply to whichever college or university that best meets your needs.

So you may be wondering what is the difference between the two tests?

- ◆ The ACT was developed to assess the student's level of educational growth and to see how well they can complete college level work. The areas that are tested are English, math, reading, and science; these sections are multiple choice. There is also a writing test that is optional which measures the skill of executing and writing short essays.
- ◆ The SAT tests over the knowledge that has been acquired. It examines the areas of reading, writing, and mathematics. It also examines critical thinking skills. There are different subject areas that you can choose to be tested on. The SAT is composed of multiple choice questions and essays.

Be sure to look at the different colleges' admission requirements because some accept either the ACT or SAT; and some will only accept the SAT.

Please note that you must register for each test and pay a fee in order to take the tests. Talk with your school counselor or advisor in more detail about test schedules and fees.

Each section of the test is timed and you cannot go over the time allowed.

You should plan to take either of the test either your junior or senior year of high school.

You may retake the test if you wish to improve your score. You should talk with your counselor about the process of retaking the test.

Tips for Taking the ACT/SAT

- ◆ Take the test seriously even though you have the option to retake it.
- ◆ If you can take a practice test to see what subject areas you need to improve in.
- ◆ Get plenty of rest the night before.
- ◆ Eat a breakfast the morning of the test that can last about 4 hours.
- ◆ Bring extra number 2 pencils in case yours breaks.
- ◆ Like any other multiple choice test where you fill in circles to mark your answer, be sure to fill in answers carefully and fully.
- ◆ Read the directions for each section.
- ◆ Bring the permitted calculator.
- ◆ Do not spend a lot of time on any single question. You can always go back to it, during that section of the test.
- ◆ If you have questions, schedule an appointment with your counselor.