

Guide to College Admissions Tests

Test	What is it?	Why take it?	When to take it?	How to take it?
PSAT	Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test or pre-SAT. A 2-hour multiple choice test of reading, writing, and math skills. 20-80 points per section.	Take it for SAT practice and to qualify for scholarships such as National Merit and National (African-American) Achievement Scholarships, and National Hispanic Scholar Awards. Not used for admissions decisions.	Take it in 10 th grade for practice. Take it in 11 th grade to qualify for scholarships. Offered in October every year. There will be a new version of the PSAT in October 2004.	Sign up in your counselor's office. Online registration is NOT available.
PLAN	Pre-ACT assessment and guidance package.	PLAN includes a practice ACT test and other counseling inventories.	Take it in 10 th grade for ACT practice and guidance on college and career goals.	Sign up in your counselor's office. Online registration is NOT available.
ACT	ACT assessment. A 3-hour multiple-choice test with math, science, English, and reading sections. Composite score of 1-36.	Almost all colleges accept it or will accept the SAT I. Check with your schools to find out which tests they require.	Take it in 11 th grade. Retake it in 12 th grade to improve your score. Send scores to schools to which you apply for admission.	Sign up in your counselor's office or register online at act.org.
SAT	Scholastic Aptitude Test. A 3-hour multiple-choice test of verbal, math and writing skills. 200-800 points per section.	Almost all colleges accept it or will accept the ACT. It can also be used for scholarship decisions.	Take it in 11 th grade. Retake it in 12 th grade to improve your score. Send scores to schools to which you apply for admission.	Sign up in your counselor's office or register online at collegeboard.com.
SAT II	Scholastic Aptitude Subject Tests. One hour multiple-choice tests that measure knowledge/skills in particular subjects. 200-800 points per test.	Selective colleges may require it for admission, course placement, or both.	Take a subject test right after you complete a course in that subject in sophomore, junior, and senior year.	Sign up in your counselor's office or register online at collegeboard.com.
AP	Advanced Placement tests. Tests to measure your achievement in AP courses – high school courses taught at the college level. Format and time depends on subject area.	You can get college credit or advanced placement for qualifying grades on AP tests at most colleges. Not involved in admissions decisions, but colleges consider AP courses as part of a challenging curriculum.	Take a subject test right after you complete a course in that subject, usually in your junior and senior years.	Sign up with your school's AP Coordinator, your AP teachers, or your school counselor.

Sources used to create table: ACT, College Board, Higher Education Information Center/TERI, The Princeton Review

Online Test Registration and Preparation Resources

Test Information and Registration

ACT

www.actstudent.org/index.html

PSAT/NMSQT

www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/about.html

SAT I & II

www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/about.html

AP – Advanced Placement

www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/about.html

Test Preparation

College In Colorado Free ACT Test Prep

www.collegeincolorado.org

Take free practice tests, use the vocabulary builder, and many more tools offered for FREE.

ACT – Test Prep

www.actstudent.org/testprep/index.html

Includes a Free, downloadable booklet, Preparing for the ACT, with a complete practice test and scoring key. Also Free test descriptions, testing tips, and sample questions as well as prep materials for purchase including a software program.

PSAT Prep

www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/prep.html

Includes Free practice questions and test-taking tips.

Peterson's Free PSAT Practice Test

http://www.petersons.com/testprepchannel/psat_free.asp

SAT I Test Preparation Center

www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/prep_one/prep_one.html

Includes Free practice questions and explanations, a full-length practice test, and test-taking tips.

SAT II Subject Tests Learning Center

www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/lc_two.html

Includes Free test-taking tips and practice test questions.

AP – Advanced Placement Prep

www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/prep.html

Includes study skills and test-taking tips and information about study materials available for purchase.

Princeton Review's College Admissions Tests Practice Tools

<http://princetonreview.com/college/testprep/>

Includes Free test lessons and practice tests, information about Free strategy seminars, and a Free word of the day email feature.