

College Planning Guide

What standardized tests are required?

The Scholastic Achievement Test 1 – Reasoning Test, more commonly known as the SAT, has traditionally been more common with colleges on East and West coasts, while universities in the Mid West and South prefer the American College Test or ACT. However, policies are changing and you may have your choice between tests when applying to college. Both tests are predictors of college success and assess general education development and ability to do college level work. Test scores are **PART** of your application package and will neither guarantee nor disqualify you from being accepted when considered as a single factor.

Comparing the SAT and ACT

SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) \$49 Basic SAT	VS	ACT (American College Test) \$34 Basic ACT \$49 Both Basic ACT and Writing
Ten sections: Three critical reading, three math, three writing and one experimental	Test Format	Four sections: English, Math and Science Reasoning, and one experimental
3 hours, 45 minutes	Length of Test	3 hours, 25 minutes (including the 30 minute optional writing test)
Basic Geometry and Algebra 2	Math	Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry
Required – 25 minutes	Writing Section	Optional
Each section is scored between 200-800. Each section is added together for a highest possible score of 2400.	Scoring	Each section is scored on a scale from 1-36. Sections are averaged to reach a total score that is between 1-36.
Yes	Penalty for Wrong Answers	No
Critical Reading, Math, Writing	Content	English, Math, Science, Writing
East and West Coast Colleges	Preference	Midwest and Southern Colleges

Find out more about the tests and register for the SAT and ACT on www.collegeboard.com and www.actstudent.org.