

COLLEGE ENTRANCE AND PLACEMENT TESTING

Most college and universities require the results of standardized college entrance exams as part of the application process. Schools also ask prospective students to take placement tests to determine their level of proficiency in various subjects. Some schools also grant college credit and/or placement to students obtaining high scores on certain exams. Standardized national tests are summarized below:

Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/N.M.S.Q.T.)

This is a practice test for the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT I) and the first step in qualifying for the National Merit Scholarship Program. This exam also identifies outstanding Black and Hispanic students for scholarship programs. Juniors take the PSAT in October. This is not a college admissions test.

Scholastic Assessment Tests I (SAT I)

Required for admission by a number of Eastern colleges and universities as well as highly selective schools elsewhere. Most institutions will accept either the SAT or the ACT for admission. It is recommended that students take the SAT in the spring of their junior year. The SAT is given on seven Saturdays during the school year. Registration materials are available in all Student Services Offices. A variety of preparation courses and seminars exist to help students prepare for the SAT.

Test of English as Foreign Language (TOEFL)

The purpose of the TOEFL test is to evaluate the English proficiency of people whose native language is not English. College admissions personnel may use this in addition to either the standard ACT or SAT I test scores. Students who have been in the United States for a short time should inquire about TOEFL in the Student Services Office.

American College Testing (ACT)

Required for admission by most colleges and universities. While most community colleges, private colleges and universities in the Midwest prefer the ACT, many will accept either the ACT or the SAT I for admission. It is recommended that students take the ACT in April or June of their junior year. The ACT is given on six Saturdays during the school year. Registration materials are available on-line. A variety of preparation courses and seminars exist to help students prepare for the ACT.

Scholastic Assessment Test II Subject Tests (SAT II)

Many selective colleges require Scholastic Assessment Tests in specific subject areas (SAT II) and use them for admissions and/or placement. Of those colleges that require SAT II, most schools ask you to take three of these tests. Each test is a 60-minute multiple choice exam. They are given on most of the same dates as SAT I testing. Registration materials are available on-line.

College Level Examination Program (CLEP)

Given on various college campuses each month, Joliet Junior College is a CLEP testing center. Anyone may register for these tests through the college he/she plans to attend. There is no specific course preparation. College credit and/or placement may be earned from the college or university if the test score is high enough. Nearly 1,000 colleges and universities participate in the program. Call your college or university for further information.