

THE ACT'S AND THE SAT'S

The college entrance exam process can be a confusing one. Listed below are the two types of exams required by colleges. All colleges and universities will accept either test. There are some slight differences between the tests that may make it more advantageous to take one over the other. Typically in the Midwest most students take the ACT exam, so it is often easier to find test prep options for this test. The nationally scheduled test dates fall on Saturdays. Registration is done directly through each test company. Contact information is listed at the bottom of the chart.

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|---|--|---|-----|------|
| Test Length | 3 hours, 25 minutes (including the 30-minute optional Writing Test) | 3 hours, 45 minutes | ACT | SAT |
| Test Structure | 4 Test Sections (5 with the optional Writing Test): English, Math, Reading, Science, Writing (optional), Experimental Test (sometimes added and clearly labeled) | 3 Sections: Critical Reading, Math, Writing (including the Essay) | 36 | 2400 |
| Reading | Reading Comprehension-4 passages with 10 questions per passage | Reading Comprehension-short and long passages with questions Sentence Completion | 35 | 2340 |
| Math | Arithmetic, algebra, geometry, algebra II, and trigonometry | Arithmetic, algebra, geometry, and algebra II | 34 | 2260 |
| Science | Analysis, interpretation, evaluation, basic content, and problem solving | Science not included | 33 | 2190 |
| Essay | Last thing you do (optional): 30 minutes Not included in composite score | First thing you do: 25 minutes Factored into overall score | 32 | 2130 |
| Scoring | Composite score of 1-36, based on average of scores from 4 tests -4 scores of 1-36 for each test -Plus optional Writing Test Score of 0-12 | Total score out of 600-2400, based on adding scores from 3 subjects 3 scores of 200-800 for each subject Score of 0-12 for the Essay | 31 | 2040 |
| Wrong Answer Penalty | No penalty for wrong answers. | 1/4 point subtracted for each wrong answer (except for Math Grid in questions) | 30 | 1980 |
| Test Contact Information | ACT, Inc. OUR CEEB CODE: 140-176 Actstudent.org | The College Board 1-866-756-7346 Collegeboard.com | 29 | 1920 |
| When to take it? | Where to take it? | How to Prepare? | 28 | 1860 |
| Spring of Junior Year allows time to retake before applications are due | The website will show the closest place to test, usually JJC | Practice! Private tutoring companies such as Kaplan and Huntington, online practice exams, paper and Pencil practice tests, various practice test books | 27 | 1820 |
| | | | 26 | 1760 |
| | | | 25 | 1700 |
| | | | 24 | 1650 |
| | | | 23 | 1590 |
| | | | 22 | 1530 |
| | | | 21 | 1500 |
| | | | 20 | 1410 |
| | | | 19 | 1350 |
| | | | 18 | 1290 |
| | | | 17 | 1210 |
| | | | 16 | 1140 |
| | | | 15 | 1060 |
| | | | 14 | 1000 |
| | | | 13 | 900 |
| | | | | |