

College Entrance Exam Basic Information

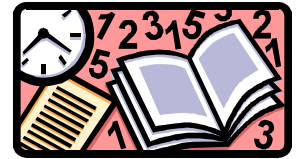
I'm so confused - I don't now which test I should take when the best time to take it is. I think that this information will really help.



When to test:

Soph/ Juniors PSAT in October
Juniors ACT or SAT in the spring
Seniors ACT or SAT in the fall

(Some students may choose to take the tests more often than listed in this sequence)



ACT/SAT Test Information 2009-2010

ACT			SAT		
Test Date	Early registration* \$31	Late registration* \$51	Test Date	Early registration \$45	Late registration \$68
Sept. 12	Aug. 7	Aug. 21	Oct. 10	Sept. 9	Sept. 23
Oct. 24	Sept. 18	Oct. 2	Nov. 7	Oct. 1	Oct. 15
Dec. 12	Nov. 6	Nov. 20	Dec. 5	Oct. 30	Nov. 12
Feb. 6	Jan. 5	Jan. 15	Jan. 23	Dec. 15	Dec. 30
April 10	March 5	March 19	March 13	Feb. 4	Feb. 18
June 12	May 7	May 21	May 1	March 25	April 8
			June 5	April 29	May 13

*Writing examination is optional + \$15.00

Printed registration packets must be postmarked by **midnight** of the above listed deadline dates – On line applications must be submitted by **midnight** of the above listed dates

Register on line www.actstudent.org

www.collegeboard.com

Writing examination included

Writing exam is not required by any college in NM



Ways to prepare for college admission tests

- It is extremely important to review basic algebra and geometry prior to taking either test
- Both the ACT and SAT have a section with practice questions on their web sites.
- ACT provides a free practice test booklet that is available from any academy counselor.

ACT or SAT?

Which one should I take?

Almost all colleges in the nation will accept either the ACT or SAT scores, there are only few schools in the nation that only accept the SAT. Students DO NOT need to take both examinations. Some students take each test once and then repeat the test with the best scores.

When and how often should I take these tests?

It is recommended that at a minimum, students take one of the exams in the spring of their junior year and in Oct. or December of their senior year, some students may choose to take them more often. Students may take the tests as many times as they want to pay for the examination. Colleges will receive all of their test scores. The majority of colleges will use the highest subtest scores when considering admission or placement in English or math courses.

Should I sign up to take the optional ACT writing test?

Currently none of the colleges in New Mexico are requiring the ACT writing test. It is always recommended that students check on the specific college admission test requirements as they vary from school to school.

How are the ACT and SAT different?

The following chart may help you decide which test is best for you. Some colleges that accept SAT scores will also require that the student take additional SAT II subtests.

ACT	SAT
Science reasoning test	No science reasoning test
Math includes trigonometry – 4 questions	No trigonometry questions
Vocabulary is less important	Vocabulary is emphasized
Multiple-choice questions only	Multiple choice and open-ended questions
No guessing penalty	Guessing penalty
English grammar tested	No English grammar

Where do I get a registration packet?

Students are encouraged to register on line: ACT - www.actstudent.org SAT - www.collegeboard.com

Paper applications are also available from counselor offices or the Career Center

Both tests offer a fee waiver for families with limited income or financial need, Sunday testing for religious reasons, and administration modifications for approved disabilities.

SAT/ACT Score Comparison Chart

SAT Score	ACT Score	Percentile
2370 – 2400	36	99%
2300 – 2360	35	99%
2260 – 2290	34	99%
2190 – 2250	33	99%
2120 – 2180	32	99%
2065 – 2100	31	98%
2010 – 2055	30	97%
1955 – 2000	29	95%
1900 – 1945	28	93%
1845 – 1890	27	90%
1805 - 1835	26	86%
1750 – 1795	25	82%
1695 – 1740	24	77%
1640 – 1685	23	71%
1585 – 1630	22	64%
1530 – 1575	21	57%
1475 – 1520	20	50%
1420 – 1465	19	42%
1365 – 1410	18	34%
1310 – 1355	17	27%
1240 – 1300	16	20%
1170 - 1230	15	14%
1100 – 1160	14	9%
1045 – 1090	13	5%
975 – 1035	12	2%
905 – 965	11	1%
835 – 895	10	1%

ACT recommended scores to be prepared for college level courses:

**English – 19
Reading - 18
Math – 22**