

RRHS Guide to College

Step 3. College admission tests

- ACT/SAT information
- Resources to help students prepare for college admission tests



Please email rcochran@rrhs.rps.k12.nm.us to request any information that you did not find in the “RRHS Guide to College”

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Step 3. College Admission Tests

- When should a student take college admission tests?
- ACT/SAT test date/ registration information
- ACT or SAT test information/comparison
- Are you going to be prepared for college (college exam requirements for placement into college level classes)?
- ACT Pre on line information

When should a student take college admission tests?



Sophomores

Juniors

Juniors

Seniors

PSAT in October – all RRHS take the test at no cost

PSAT in October cost \$15 (qualification to be a National Merit Scholar)

ACT or SAT in the spring

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 2008-2009

ACT			SAT		
Test Date	Early registration* \$31**	Late registration* \$51**	Test Date	Early registration \$45**	Late registration \$68**
			Oct. 4	Sept. 9	Sept. 16
Oct. 25	Sept. 19	Oct. 3	Nov. 1	Sept. 26	Oct. 10
Dec. 13	Nov. 7	Nov. 20	Dec. 6	Nov. 5	Nov. 18
Feb. 7	Jan. 6	Jan. 16	Jan. 24	Dec. 26	Jan. 6
April 4	Feb. 27	March 13	March 14	Feb. 10	Feb. 24
June 13	May 8	May 22	May 2	March 31	April 9
			June 6	May 5	May 15

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 is optional + \$15.00

Writing examination included

** Students that qualify for free/reduced lunch can obtain a test fee waiver from the RRHS Career Center

Writing exam is not required by any college in NM

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?

Applications for both ACT and SAT are available in each academy counselor’s office or you can register on line as follows:

ACT at www.actstudent.org

SAT at www.collegeboard.com

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%

Scores UNM require to be in these college level courses:

English – 19
Math – 22

Be prepared to be successful in college?



Doing the minimum to graduate from high school and be admitted to college **DOES NOT mean** that you will be prepared to be successful at a major college such as UNM or NM State or even at CNM for college level transfer classes.

Minimum scores on ACT/SAT tests to be placed in college level classes at:

	UNM ACT	or	SAT	CNM ACT
English 101	English 19 Reading 18	Verbal	450	English 16 Reading 18
Math 121	Math 22	Math	510	Math 23

At UNM or CNM, if you do not have these tests scores, you will be placed in a remedial class in college. **Colleges charge the same rate for remedial classes as they do college level classes but you do not earn college credit.** But you must take the remedial classes before you can enroll in the college level classes!!!

Taking an easy course load as a senior will increase the odds that you will be in remedial classes in college!!!

Ways to prepare for college admission tests

- Take rigorous courses in high school – including a math class as a senior
- Both the ACT and SAT web sites provide test prep assistance
- ACT provides a free practice test booklets. The booklets are available from any academy counselor.
- Sign up for a SAT question of the day on the collegeboard.com web site
- It is extremely important to review basic algebra and geometry prior to taking either test
- Ask your academy counselor how to access ACT Prep On line - more information on the next page

ACT Online Prep™

Instructions

3/5/09

1. Get a user name and password from the Career Center in Admin 104. You can email rochran@rrhs.rps.k12.nm.us to receive via email.
2. Go to <http://www.actonlineprep.com>
3. Click on “log in” for registered members (RRHS has already registered for the program). **DO NOT CLICK ON PURCHASE.**
4. Log in using the **username** and **password** that you received
Your user name:
Your password: **When prompted, CHANGE to ones that you can remember and write them down for future use.**
5. Once you have logged in you can:
 - Take diagnostics test and create a personalized study path
 - Learn about each of the 4 content tests – English/Writing, Math, Reading & Science
 - Take four different practice tests with real ACT test questions
 - Practice essays for the optional ACT writing test with real time scoring

The screenshot shows the ACT Online Prep website in a Windows Internet Explorer browser. The page features a city skyline at night and several navigation icons: a boat for Math Marina, a graduation cap for the Testing Center at InterActive University, a sun for Actropolis Citylights Magazine, a book for the Public Library, and a person for the Actropolis Visitor Center. A Science Center icon is also visible. Below the icons, there are links for 'About the ACT MATH TEST', 'About the ACT ENGLISH TEST and ACT WRITING TEST', 'About the ACT TAKE A PRACTICE ACT', 'About the ACT SCIENCE TEST', and 'About the WEBSITE FAQ & TECH SUPPORT CONTACT ACT'. The browser's address bar shows the URL 'https://actonlineprep.act.org/ePrep/login.checkUserType.do'. The taskbar at the bottom shows the Start button, Internet Explorer, and several open applications.

Math Tests

- Overview
- Sections
- Sample questions
- Math test taking strategies

English Tests Writing Tests

- Overview
- Sections
- Sample questions
- English test taking strategies

Science Tests

- Overview
- Sections
- Sample questions
- Science test taking strategies

Reading Tests

- Overview
- Sections
- Sample questions
- Reading test taking strategies

- **Diagnostic tests** – untimed – results are used to arrive at your study path
- **Practice tests** - 4
- **General test taking strategies**
- **Score interpretation**