

Testing Information

Comparing the ACT and SAT

The ACT and SAT are nationally administered standardized tests that are used by colleges and universities to evaluate applicants. Most colleges and universities will accept either or both exams. The chart below provides an understanding of the structure and content for both tests.

	ACT	SAT
Length of Tests	2 hours, 55 minutes (does not include optional 40-minute Writing Test)	3 hours (does not include optional 50-minute essay)
Subjects	English Math Reading Science Writing (optional)	Evidence-Based Reading & Writing Math Essay (optional)
Sections	4 sections: English, Math, Reading, Science (plus optional Writing test)	4 sections: Evidence-Based Reading, Writing and Language, Math w/out calculator, Math w/ calculator (plus optional Essay)
Math	Arithmetic, Algebra I & II, Geometry, Trigonometry	Algebra I & II, Problem Solving & Data Analysis, Geometry, Trigonometry
Reading	Measures reading comprehension based off 4 reading selections: social studies, natural sciences, literary narrative/prose, and humanities	Emphasis on words in context, command of evidence, interpretation of informational graphics, and text complexity
Science	Measures interpretation, analysis, evaluation, reasoning, and problem-solving skills in the natural sciences	N/A; no science section but there are data graphics and interpretation skills throughout Reading, Writing and Language, and Math sections
Essay	Optional; “evaluate and analyze” 3 different perspectives, “state and develop” personal perspective, and “explain the relationship” between own and those given	Optional; comprehension focused, emphasis on analysis of argument, and use of clear written evaluation
Scoring	Composite Score is average of the four test scores from a range of 1 (low) to 36 (high)	Two sections (ERBW & Math) scored on a 200 to 800 scale; total score ranging from 400 to 1600

For more information, visit the [ACT](#) and [SAT](#) websites.

SAT Subject Tests

SAT Subject Tests are one hour, multiple-choice tests in specific subjects, which measure students' knowledge of particular subjects and the ability to apply that knowledge.

In general, only the most competitive colleges require Subject Tests for admissions purposes, and most require two (2) Subject Tests. Students should consult the colleges he/she are interested in to determine if Subject Tests are required for admission, and to determine which tests he/she should take and how many.