

College Entrance Exams

Why Should Students Take These Tests?

Most colleges require applicants to take one or more standardized tests prior to admission. Test scores are part of the student's application and are one factor colleges use to predict success.

When Should Students Take These Tests?

Most students take standardized tests late in the spring of their junior year or early in the fall of their senior year in high school.

How Do I Know Which Tests to Take?

ACT (American College Test): The ACT assessment is a general standardized college admissions test. The highest total score on the ACT is 36. The student's score on the ACT is a good predictor of his or her freshman year grade point average. The score does not measure a student's intelligence, nor does it predict whether the student will graduate from college. Students who are not strong in math may want to consider taking this test. Your counselor can help you decide which test is best for you. Students should plan to take this test in the spring of their junior year.

- The multiple-choice tests cover four skill areas: English, mathematics, reading, and science.
- The Writing Test, which is optional, measures skill in planning and writing a short essay

PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test): The PSAT/NMSQT is taken in 9th and 10th grade to help students prepare for the SAT. During the junior year, the PSAT/NMSQT also serves as the qualifying test for scholarships awarded by the National Merit Scholarship Program.

SAT (Standardized Admissions Test) I: Reasoning Test: The SAT will measure mathematical problem-solving, critical reading, and writing skills. Each section is reported on a scale of 200 – 800 points. Students should take this test no sooner than the spring of their junior year. The SAT does not measure intelligence, nor does it measure skills like motivation or creativity.

- Critical Reading Section - measures a student's ability to analyze language at the passage, paragraph, and sentence levels.
- Math Section - measures problem-solving skills in arithmetic, geometry, and Algebra I and II.
- Writing Section – measures a student's ability to apply rules of English Language and organize and support an argument in a short essay.

SAT II: Subject Tests: Subject tests are one-hour, mostly multiple-choice tests, that measure how much students know about a particular subject and how well they can apply that knowledge. There are 22 different tests in five general areas, English, history, science, mathematics, and foreign languages. Students should check with an admissions officer of their chosen college or university to determine if the SAT II is required.

THEA (Texas Higher Education Assessment): The THEA Test is designed to provide information about the reading, mathematics, and writing skills of students entering public colleges, universities, and educator preparation programs in public and private institutions. Students may be exempted from this test based on ACT, SAT, or TAKS scores. Check with your counselor to see if you are exempt. If not, plan to take the test in the spring of your senior year.

TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language): Students whose first language is not English may take this test. Admissions officers look carefully at TOEFL scores for these students, understanding that students whose first language is not English may have difficulty with verbal sections of the SAT or ACT.

School Codes:

CHS 442583

FRHS 443753

KHS 443755

ACT™ Assessment Test Dateswww.act.org

Test Date	Regular Registration Postmark Deadline (regular fee)	Late Registration Postmark Deadline (regular fee plus late fee)
February 9, 2008	January 4	January 18
April 12, 2008	March 7	March 21
June 14, 2008	May 9	May 23

SAT® Assessment Test Dates

Program

www.collegeboard.com

Test Date	Regular Registration Postmark Deadline (regular fee)	Late Registration Postmark Deadline (regular fee plus late fee)
March 1, 2008	January 29	February 7
May 3, 2008	April 1	April 10
June 7, 2008	May 6	May 15

www.thea.nesinc.com

You do not have to take the THEA Test if you:

have an ACT composite score of 23, with a minimum of 19 on both the English and math tests;

or

SAT combined verbal and math score of 1070, with a minimum of 500 on both the verbal and math tests;

or

scored 2200 in math and/or 2200 in English Language Arts with a writing subscore of at least 3.

*** *Standards may differ at individual colleges.*