

## ACT vs SAT

Most four-year colleges require students to take the ACT or SAT as part of the admissions process. Others recommend the test but don't require it. To find out what a college prefers, check college admissions websites. Colleges will accept either test. Those who prefer SAT may also require SAT Subject Tests as part of the admissions process. SAT Subject Tests are hour-long tests. Check the colleges' websites to see if they require the written portion or SAT subject tests.

It is recommended that students take the ACT and/or SAT spring of junior year. This allows enough time to retake the test during fall of senior year, if necessary. It also ensures meeting admissions application deadlines and academic scholarship deadlines. High scores on the ACT or SAT can result in scholarship money from colleges.

Students are not penalized for guessing incorrectly on either test (after it's redesign as of 3/2016). Both tests include advanced math concepts from algebra, geometry and trigonometry. There is an optional writing section at the end of both tests.

Still not sure which test is better for you: go to the ACT and SAT websites and download practice tests which are free. Students should take practice tests and review samples to determine which test format is better for them.

Students can register for the ACT or the SAT online. Based on federal guidelines, if the student's family income falls below a certain level, the student may qualify for an ACT or SAT fee waiver. Check with the School Counselor or LEAF Advisor to see if the student qualifies.

***The SAT and ACT have many differences as demonstrated in the box below.***

<b><i>SAT</i></b>	<b><i>ACT</i></b>
<i>3 hrs, 50 min w/ essay</i>	<i>3 hrs, 35 min w/ essay</i>
<i>5 long sections: Writing &amp; Language Reading 2 Mathematics Writing (optional essay, 50 mins.)</i>	<i>5 long sections: English Reading Mathematics Science Writing (optional essay, 40 mins.)</i>
<i>Combined Score: 400-1600</i>	<i>Composite Score: 1-36</i>
<i>No wrong answer penalty</i>	<i>No wrong answer penalty</i>
<i>Non-multiple choice questions</i>	<i>Entirely multiple choice</i>
<i>Math accounts for 1/2 of score</i>	<i>Math accounts for 1/4 of score</i>
<i>Up to Trigonometry</i>	<i>Up to Trigonometry</i>
<i>154 questions</i>	<i>215 questions</i>

***The average Composite Score for the ACT nationally is 21 out of 36  
Ohio ACT average is 22 out of 36***

***The SAT national average score is 1497 out of 2400  
(Critical Reading 497, Mathematics 513, and Writing 487)***