COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TESTS

Many colleges and universities require candidates to submit scores from either the SAT or the ACT. In general, community colleges do not require these college entrance exams. Instead, they may administer English and math placement tests to determine the appropriate level of courses for you to begin taking that are a good match for your current level of proficiency in these subjects.

The best time to take the ACT or SAT is late in your junior year or early in your senior year so you can look at your scores and determine if you would like to take the test(s) again to try to improve your score(s).

These tests are rather expensive. Fee waivers are available for these tests for those students who qualify. See your school counselor for details.

TYPES OF TESTS:

ACT (American College Test)

These are four 35-60 minute tests in academic areas of English, mathematics, social studies, reading, and science reasoning. Students receive four separate scores plus a composite score. Each score is reported as the accurate portion from a total of 36. There is an optional writing assessment which is required by certain colleges. Check the ACT website (www.actstudent.org) or the college website to determine if you will need this section.

SAT (Scholastic Assessment Test) Reasoning Test

This three hour and 35 minute test, which is administered by the College Board, measures critical reading and mathematical reasoning, language usage and writing. Each of the three areas has a total possible point score of 800 and is reported as part of the top score of 2400. All scores are reported to the colleges that you request them to be sent to. Colleges then have the option of taking your best scores from all the tests you have taken or they may choose to select the best combination of scores taken at any one time. It is their choice, not yours. More information is available at the College Board website (http://sat.collegeboard.org/home)

TOEFL iBT® (Test of English as a Foreign Language)

The TOEFL iBT® test, administered via the Internet, is an important part of your journey to study in an English-speaking country. In addition to the test, the ETS (Educational Testing Service) TOEFL Program provides tools and guides to help you prepare for the test and improve your English-language skills. For more information about the TOEFL iBT®, visit their website (http://www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/about)
The TOEFL iBT test measures your ability to use and understand English at the university level. And it evaluates how well you combine your listening, reading, speaking and writing skills to perform academic tasks.

There are two formats for the TOEFL® test. The format you take depends on the location of your test center. Most test takers take the TOEFL iBT test. Test centers that do not have Internet access offer the Paper-based Test (PBT).

More than 27 million people from all over the world have taken the TOEFL test to demonstrate their English-language proficiency.

• Students planning to study at a higher education institution
• English-language learning program admissions and exit
• Scholarship and certification candidates
• Students and workers applying for visas

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT REGISTRATION DEADLINES:

Registration deadlines (postmark or online) range from three to five weeks before the test date. Check registration materials in print or online for specific dates. Late registration is available at an additional cost.

Did you forget to register? A very limited number of walk-in tests may be available for the SAT and ACT examinations at each site. Obtain further information and help from your school counselor if you need to go stand-by for an exam.

Many colleges have yet to decide how to incorporate the writing/essay scores for these tests; hence the comparison of only critical reading and math sections is shown above.

The best preparation for scoring well on college entrance examinations is to take a strong high school program, to do your homework diligently and to read regularly for information and enjoyment.

Remember, standardized testing is only part of all the information that represents you and your accomplishments. Colleges and universities also consider your grades, work experience, school or community volunteer experience, admission essays and motivation to obtain a college degree or certificate.