

SAT Testing & Post-Secondary Planning

What you need to know about the college admission process



Students Rise. We All Rise.

*Adapted from the CollegeBoard
www.collegeboard.com

College opportunities exist for everyone!

These four steps can help simplify the planning process:

1. Understand admission factors
2. Learn about the SAT[®] and SAT Subject Tests[™]
3. Explore college options
4. Develop a financial plan



UNDERSTAND ADMISSION FACTORS



What factors do colleges consider when looking at a student's profile?

Primary Factors

- Quality and rigor of academic courses
- Academic performance and grades
- Test Scores (SAT, SAT Subject Tests, AP[®], etc.)

Additional Factors

- Extracurricular activities
- Essay(s)
- Letters of recommendation
- Demonstrated interest

What aspects of my academic record will colleges look at?

- **Course Selection** – Challenge yourself with a rigorous course load and high-level classes, including AP or honors courses
- **Grades** – Every year counts, starting in 9th grade
- **GPA trends** – Keep improving through every grade
- **Class rank** – If offered by your high school

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Positive recommendations from educators and mentors
- Personal statement and essay(s) demonstrating writing ability and self-expression
- A “demonstrated interest” that shows your enthusiasm for the colleges to which you’re applying
- Extracurricular activities, including participation in sports, performing/visual arts, volunteering, etc.
- Community involvement, part-time work or internship
- Interview (if applicable)



LEARN ABOUT THE SAT



What does the SAT measure?

- It measures what you know and how well you apply the knowledge.
- It tests the same things taught every day in high school classrooms — reading, writing and math.
- It's the most widely used college entrance exam.
- Almost all colleges and universities use the SAT to make admission decisions.
- A combination of grades and SAT scores is the best predictor of a student's future success in college.

- **Three required sections** – critical reading, mathematics, writing and language, and essay (optional)
- **Length**
 - 3 hours (3 hours and 15 minutes with breaks)
 - With optional essay – 3 hours and 50 minutes (4 hours and 5 minutes with breaks)
- **Score range** – 200 - 800 per section, 400 - 1600 overall
- **Question types**
 - ✓ **Evidence-based Reading and Writing** – passages or pairs of passages (literature, historical documents, social sciences, and natural sciences), grammar, vocabulary in context, and editing skills
 - ✓ **Mathematics** – Algebra I and II, Geometry, Statistics and Probability
 - ✓ **Essay (optional)** – read a passage and explain how the author builds a persuasive argument

Section	Time	Number of Questions
Reading	65 min	52
Writing and Language	35 min	44
Math	80 min	58
Essay (optional)	50 min	1
Total	180 min (230 min with Essay)	154 + 1 Essay (optional)

- Select challenging high school courses.
- Read widely and write extensively, both in and out of school.
- Take the PSAT/NMSQT® as a sophomore or junior.
- Become familiar with SAT question types, format and directions.
- Take advantage of free College Board resources at sat.collegeboard.com.

A LITTLE PRACTICE GOES A LONG WAY

- Research is clear that cramming and short-term test prep aren't effective substitutes for hard work in school.
- To feel comfortable and confident on test day, it's a good idea to be familiar with the test format and question types.
- Like anything else in life, a little practice never hurts.

What is the value in taking SAT Subject Tests?

SAT Subject Tests allow you to showcase your accomplishments and interest in subjects in which you do well. They provide a more complete story about your academic abilities and distinguish you in the admission process.

For admission

Certain schools require or recommend them as part of the admission process.

For placement and advising

- Placement out of beginner classes allows you to focus on more interesting/in-depth classes and satisfy basic requirements for certain majors prior to attending college.
- College advisers use them to help you pick course subjects and levels.

ABOUT THE SAT SUBJECT TESTS

Subject Tests cover content knowledge in:

Literature	Math Level 1 Math Level 2	U.S. History World History	Biology Chemistry Physics
------------	------------------------------	-------------------------------	---------------------------------

Foreign language Subject Tests measure reading comprehension, language usage and vocabulary. Some of these tests have a listening component:

Spanish	Chinese	French
Japanese	German	Korean
Modern Hebrew	Latin	Italian

GETTING READY FOR SAT SUBJECT TESTS

- It's best to take a Subject Test after completing course work for that subject. However, foreign languages, math and literature tests should be taken after two or more years of study in those areas.
- The best way to prepare for the Subject Tests is to review what you've learned in the classroom.
- Be sure to take advantage of free College Board resources at sat.collegeboard.com.

What is Score Choice™?

Score Choice™ enables you to choose which scores you send to colleges by test date for the SAT and by individual test for the SAT Subject Tests.

- Score Choice can be used on any score report that you send, including the four reports included with registration.
- Score Choice is an optional feature, and you should follow each college's stated score-use practice when using it.
- Colleges and universities will only receive the scores that you send them — your scores will not be released for admission purposes without your specific consent.

Evidence-based Reading and Writing

480

Math

530

What are the requirements for the Detroit Promise program?

Requirements	Two-year Funding	Four-year Funding
Residency	Live in Detroit Junior and Senior year	Live in Detroit all four years of high school
School	Any high school in Detroit at least Junior and Senior year	Any high school in Detroit all four years of high school
Education	High School Diploma or GED	High School Diploma
GPA	No minimum GPA	3.0 minimum GPA
Exam	No minimum exam score	1060 minimum SAT score

MYTH VS REALITY

Myth The SAT is a logic test designed to trick students.

Reality The SAT does not test logic abilities or IQ. SAT questions are based on high school subjects, and students who do well in the classroom are often the same ones who do well on the test.

Myth Short-term commercial test-preparation courses give students an advantage.

Reality Students see very insignificant results from such courses. The best way to get ready for the SAT is to take a challenging course load and study hard.

Myth The SAT is the most important factor in admission.

Reality The SAT is just one of many factors. Although grades and SAT scores are important, colleges look at and value other things, too.



EXPLORE COLLEGE OPTIONS





Now that you know what colleges are looking for, it's time to put them to the test.

Which colleges are right for you?

WHAT TO CONSIDER

Size and diversity of student body

Location

Academic programs

Campus life – athletics, activities, housing

Graduation and retention rates

Financial aid and scholarship opportunities

**Above all, think about
where you will be the
most happy and
successful in your
college life.**

- Take a campus tour
- Speak with an admissions counselor
- Ask about financial aid opportunities
- Sit in on a class that interest you
- Read the student newspaper
- Talk to students and faculty

GET ORGANIZED AND APPLY

- Narrow and categorize your choices:
 - “More than likely” schools (1 or 2)
 - “Good match” schools (2 to 4)
 - “Reach” schools (1 or 2)
- Review scholarship and financial aid requirements.
- Revise application essays and share drafts with a trusted teacher, adviser or family member.
- Ask for recommendations and set firm dates for their completion.
- Request transcripts and schedule interviews, if needed.



DEVELOP A FINANCIAL PLAN



- Determine all **college costs** — not just tuition.
- Calculate your college **savings** so far and see if you're on track.
- Estimate your family's **expected contribution** — an EFC calculator is available at

www.collegeboard.com/payforcollege

- Search for **scholarships** — try the Scholarship Search

www.collegeboard.com/scholarships

Remember to explore every opportunity!

Know your options!

- Grants, loans, work-study, etc.
- Fill out the free FAFSA application as early as possible and meet all deadlines.
- Compare financial aid awards and determine how they fit with other contributions:
 - Family
 - Savings
 - Scholarships

- Try to visit colleges where you've been accepted
- Compare financial aid packages
- Send your deposit
- Get ready to graduate

Congratulations, you are off to college!

College opportunities exist for everyone!

Simplify the planning process:

- Understand admission factors
- Learn about the SAT and SAT Subject Tests
- Explore college options
- Develop a financial plan

For more college tools and guidance visit,
www.collegeboard.com