

A guide to College Readiness Testing

SAT[®], ACT[®], TOEFL[®]

What is the SAT[®]?



The SAT[®] is an entrance exam used by most colleges and universities to make admissions decisions. The SAT[®] is a multiple-choice, pencil-and-paper test created and administered by the College Board. The full form of SAT[®] is the Scholastic Assessment Test.

The purpose of the SAT[®] is to measure a high school student's readiness for college, and provide colleges with one common data point that can be used to compare all applicants. College admissions officers will review standardized test scores alongside your high school GPA, the classes you took in high school, letters of recommendation from teachers or mentors, extracurricular activities, admissions interviews, and personal essays. How important SAT[®] scores are in the college application process varies from school to school. *(Source: The Princeton Review)*

Click on this [link](#) to register for the SAT[®].

What is the ACT[®]?



The ACT[®] is a standardized test that assesses your college readiness and considers your scores during the admissions process. This is one of the aspects of measuring your eligibility to get admission into a college or university. The ACT[®] test has five sections: English, Math, Reading,

Science, and the optional Writing (essay) section.

The ACT[®] is managed by ACT[®], Incorporated. American College Testing is the full form of the ACT[®]. It is a standardised test that students seeking admission to undergraduate programs in the USA and Canada can take. The ACT[®] exam was created to assess candidates' written, mathematical, verbal, and scientific abilities.

Just as the SAT[®], the purpose of the ACT[®] test is to measure a high school student's readiness for college, and provide colleges with one common data point that can be used to compare all applicants. College admissions officers will review standardized test scores alongside your high school GPA, the classes you took in high school, letters of recommendation from teachers or mentors, extracurricular activities, admissions interviews, and personal essays. How important ACT[®] scores are in the college application process varies from school to school. *(Source: The Princeton Review)*

Click on this [link](#) to register for the ACT[®].

What is the difference between the SAT® and ACT®?

- SAT® and ACT® are the most popular tests taken by UG applicants to study abroad primarily in the United States of America. Universities and colleges use either SAT® or ACT® scores for admissions and scholarships, and therefore, students normally question the preferences of one test over the other, and also, which test is easier or will increase their admission prospects.
- Most colleges and universities will accept scores from either the SAT® or ACT®, and do not favor one test over the other. Since the content and style of the SAT® and ACT® are very similar, factors like how you handle time pressure and what types of questions you find most challenging can help you determine which test is a better fit.

Main Differences Between SAT® and ACT®

Criteria	SAT®	ACT®
Syllabus	Reading Writing and Language Mathematics Essay (Optional)	English Reading Mathematics Science Essay (Optional)
Test Duration	3 hrs (without essay) 3 hrs, 50 mins (with essay)	2 hrs, 55 mins (without essay) 3 hrs, 35 mins (with essay)
Score	Scored on a scale of 400-1600	Scored on a scale of 1-36
Calculator use	Calculator can be used only on some math questions	Calculator can be used on all math questions
Mathematics Syllabus	Algebra I and II Geometry and Trigonometry Arithmetic/Probability/Data Analysis	Algebra I and II Geometry and Trigonometry Arithmetic/Probability
Reading Syllabus	5 reading Passages	4 reading Passages
Science Syllabus	There is none	The Science section on ACT® does not test knowledge on any particular science subject. It will test your science-based reasoning and critical thinking abilities.
English or Writing/Language Syllabus	Grammar/Punctuation Vocabulary Editing skills	Rhetorical skills Grammar/Punctuation Sentence Structure
Essays	The optional essay section of SAT® will test your comprehension abilities of a given text.	The optional essay section of ACT® will test your analytical and evaluation skills.

Criteria	SAT®	ACT®
Frequency of Test	Held 7 times a year in US Held 5 times a year internationally	Held 6 times a year
Examination Fee	\$101 (without essay) international testing fee \$117 (with essay) + international testing fee Check SAT® official website for fee updates	\$150 (without essay) + international testing fee \$166.50 (with essay) + international testing fee Check ACT® official website for fee updates

(Sources: Shikasa-Study Abroad and The Princeton Review)

What does “Test Optional” mean?

In the past year, guidance on submitting standardized test scores to universities has changed dramatically. Many schools have become “test-optional” or “test blind” for Class of 2022 admissions. Test-optional policies mean that you are not required to submit a test score, but, if you do, admissions officers will look at them and may use the score to help determine admission. On the other hand, a “test blind” school will not look at any standardized test scores at all.

Should you still take the ACT®/SAT®?

Even though schools are starting to adopt “test blind” admissions policies, you should still plan to take the ACT®/SAT® if you can. Some schools are still requiring it, and if it benefits your application, you should certainly send your scores to college admissions as it will help your chances. You just have to determine whether your score is strong enough to submit to colleges.

Even if you take the ACT®/SAT® and don’t do well, you may choose not to submit your scores. There’s no harm in taking it as it can only benefit you if you get a high score.

Is your score strong enough?

Deciding whether to submit your score can be tricky because it should be done if it helps your application. How can you determine this? There are several factors you should consider when deciding, and below are some questions you should think about:

What is your score percentile?

You should definitely submit your score if it is above the 50th percentile for accepted students. You should consider submitting if it is above the 25th percentile. However, scores aren't everything and are only one singular data point in your admissions decision. You may have to consider other elements in your application to determine whether you should submit your scores.

(Source: College Vine)

[Here](#) you can find a list of Institutions that will remain test optional for the 2021-2022 school year.

TOEFL®

What is the TOEFL®?

TOEFL®

TOEFL® is an acronym of the Test of English as a Foreign Language, which is the official name for the test. It assesses your ability to both speak and understand English by analysing your English ability in terms of reading, speaking, listening and writing. These are all skills which will be needed to carry out your academic studies and the test is used by institutions to

ensure students are able to proceed and succeed on their chosen course in a country where the curriculum is taught in English. The TOEFL test is usually conducted in the form of an online test

TOEFL® is accepted by more than 11,000 universities and other institutions in over 150 countries, including Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United States, the U.K., and across Europe and Asia.

Who needs to take a TOEFL® test?

The test is often taken by students who are planning to study at a university abroad and scholarship candidates, along with students and workers who are applying for visas and English-language learners tracking their English progress. Keep an eye out on the requirements for university courses, as it will be stated there whether you are required to take the TOEFL® and the minimum grade required to apply for the course.

Why take a TOEFL® test?

Educational institutions and governmental agencies in over 130 countries accept TOEFL® scores when considering applications for certain positions or courses. As an admission requirement, you may find that some courses require a minimum TOEFL® score which will allow you to proceed onto the course alongside the regular course requirements. Minimum score requirements can range between 61 and 100 depending on the institution and course.

The result you receive in your TOEFL® test will only be valid for two years, after those two years they are no longer recorded, so if you're looking to apply to study abroad after this time, you will have to sit the test again. It is important to ensure you take the test in time for your application if the result is part of the requirements.

What is the cost?

The cost of doing the TOEFL® test varies between different countries, ranging from US\$160 to US\$250.

Click on this [link](#) to create an account and register for the TOEFL®.