

Which College Admission Test Should I Take? ACT or SAT I

Should I take One test Or both? Most college-bound students know that a necessary component of an admission application is a college admission test score. Most colleges and universities will not process an application without one. The two national tests are the ACT (American College Test) and the SAT I (Scholastic Assessment Test) - and almost all four-year colleges and universities in the nation accept either ACT or SAT I scores equally. Because research indicates that many students perform quite differently on the ACT and SAT I, it may benefit you to take both tests. The option is yours! Take one or both, since colleges typically use the higher of the two scores for admission, scholarship, and athletic eligibility.

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When Should I test? Many students test in the spring of their junior year to ensure having a test score when they're ready to apply to college. There are other benefits to spring testing, as well. You'll have your scores and other information early enough to impact your senior year. It may help you decide if you should take an additional class in an area in which you scored low. You may also decide you want to retest. Another big advantage of spring testing is that many colleges will have an early indication of your interest in attending college and will send you information about admission, advanced placement, scholarships and special programs.



So.. .don't panic! It's important to remember that an admission test score is only one piece of information a college looks at when considering your application. Your grade point average, number and content of college preparatory courses completed, school and community activities, job (if applicable), and other factors may also be considered. There is never a penalty for taking a test early or taking one over, so testing in your junior year may best prepare you to take hold of your future. Your counselor or teachers are a good resource to help you register for either test.