

SAT & ACT COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TESTING

presented by  open door
education

The SAT and ACT are an important part of the college admission process for most students applying to colleges in the United States. Open Door Education helps families determine the right test for their student, establish an effective testing plan, and earn scores that they're proud to send to colleges.

YOUR STRATEGIC TEST PREP PLAN



Complete a Diagnostic SAT and ACT

Your student's first step is to complete full-length diagnostic tests for both the SAT and ACT. To complete diagnostic testing, simply submit an intake form on Open Door's website and we will follow up to provide in-person and at-home testing options.



Meet for a Consultation with a Testing Expert

During your free consultation, we will:

- Review your student's diagnostic test results
- Determine which test is the best fit for your student
- Establish a strategic plan for your student's SAT/ACT
- Identify a great-fit tutor to work with your student



Prepare for Test Day Success

Your student's tutor will help them engage in thoughtful and effective preparation. Throughout their tutoring, your student will:

- Learn to implement savvy strategies that increase accuracy and efficiency
- Use best-in-class tools that leverage data to maximize results
- Build their confidence through thoughtful, hard work that will pay off on Test Day

Test Preparation | Academic Tutoring | Writing Support
492 Main Street, Acton, MA 01720 | 978-263-6387
www.opendoor.education

FAQs

What's the first step in the admissions testing process?

The first step is to take a diagnostic SAT and ACT to determine which test is a better fit for a student. Open Door provides in-person and at-home testing.

Is it essential to take the PSAT?

No, but we recommend it. The PSAT/NMSQT is a good proxy for the SAT, and a strong PSAT score can help a student qualify for National Merit awards.

Do students need to take both the ACT and SAT? Do colleges prefer one test over another?

No, students do not need to take both tests. Colleges that require test scores accept either test with no preference. Students should determine which test is the best fit for them and then focus on preparing for that test.

How many times should my student take the SAT or ACT?

Students should expect to take two or three official tests. It is wise to plan for two while allowing time for a third test if necessary.

When should students take their official tests?

Most students test in spring of junior year, summer prior to senior year, and fall of senior year. By planning ahead, families can establish a strategic testing timeline that accommodates a student's busy schedule.

Should my 9th or 10th grader be taking the SAT or ACT?

Most underclassmen have not yet been exposed to the material on the tests. The best preparation during freshman and sophomore years includes taking challenging courses and reading at increasingly higher levels.

WHAT ARE THE KEY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE SAT AND THE ACT?

	SAT	ACT
FORMAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital test format allows students to test on a laptop or tablet 2 Sections, 4 Modules: 2 Reading/Writing Modules, 2 Math Modules Adaptive test adjusts difficulty according to student performance Shorter test overall; the SAT takes 2 hours and 15 minutes with standard time Many short reading passages, including poems and excerpts from plays and novels from the 17th through 20th century Math sections focus primarily on Algebra, Geometry, Data Interpretation, and Basic Trigonometry; many problems are contextualized and multi-step, requiring conceptual thinking Data literacy woven into all sections of the test 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper-and-pencil testing format allows students to write directly on the test 4 Sections (English, Math, Reading, and Science) plus an optional essay Longer test, taking a total of 3 hours and 5 minutes with standard time Fast-paced, content-based, simply-stated questions Reading section is characterized by longer, less complicated passages, focusing on speed and the ability to locate evidence Math covers Algebra I & II, Geometry, Statistics, and some Pre-Calculus, increasing in difficulty as the test progresses. Science section requires very little outside knowledge but instead rapid interpretation of graphs and figures
SCORES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading/Writing sections and Math sections are scored from 200–800; these 2 section scores are combined for a total score of 400–1600 National average is 1050 1340 or above indicates top 10 percent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each multiple choice section receives a score of 1–36. Scores are averaged to determine a "composite" score from 1–36 National average is 19.5 29 or above indicates top 10 percent

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