

PREPARING FOR THE SAT AND THE ACT

What is the SAT? The SAT is a standardized test used for college admission and placement. It tests your knowledge in reading, writing and math. Your SAT score will be just one piece of information colleges use to determine admission. Your grades are also very important.

What is the ACT? The ACT is a different standardized test used for college admission. In Georgia, the SAT is more popular. But colleges also accept the ACT, which measures reading, math, English and science. The ACT has an optional writing test.

Which test should students take? It's totally their choice. The best way to see which test plays to your strengths is to take a practice test of each one.

When should students take the SAT or the ACT? Generally, students take a standardized college admissions test in the spring of their junior year or the fall of their senior year. Many students take the test more than once. Students in 9th and 10th grade can take the PSAT, a practice test.

How should I prepare for the SAT or ACT? The best way to prepare for a standardized college admissions test is to take challenging courses, study hard and read and write outside of the classroom. It's also helpful to take practice tests. The College Board, which oversees the SAT, offers a free practice test as well as a practice question each day. Go to <http://sat.collegeboard.org/practice>. The ACT has practice tools at <http://www.actstudent.org/testprep>.

If a student does poorly on the SAT or ACT, does that mean they won't get accepted to any colleges? No! Students can offset a lower score on the SAT or ACT with good grades in challenging courses and a track record of hard work and participation in school life. Many two-year colleges accept students regardless of test scores. If students work hard, they can transfer to a four-year college.

How do students sign up? Go to <http://www.collegeboard.org> to register for the SAT. Go to <http://www.actstudent.org> to register for the ACT.