

# SAT vs ACT

Which test is right for me?

How do I prepare?



SAT and ACT exam scores are used for college admissions and merit-based scholarships. Be sure to read each college's policies so you understand what you need to qualify for admissions and scholarships.

For more information on test-optional schools, visit <https://blog.collegeboard.org/what-is-a-test-optional-college>.

## Comparing the Two Tests

SAT	ACT
<b>READING</b>	
5 reading passages for the reading section	4 reading passages for the reading section
<b>MATH</b>	
Arithmetic Algebra 1 & 2 Geometry Trigonometry and Data Analysis	Arithmetic Algebra 1 & 2 Geometry Trigonometry & Probability and Statistics
*some questions don't allow the use of calculators	*some questions don't allow the use of calculators
<b>SCIENCE</b>	
No Science Section	Science Section tests critical thinking skills

THE AVERAGE FRESHMAN AT THESE SCHOOLS HAD A GPA AND SAT TEST SCORE OF...				
Verbal + Math SAT Score of...	<2.50	2.50-3.00	3.01-3.49	3.50 OR +
<750	CCBC BCCC AACC HCC Garrett College			
750-999		Bowie St. Coppin St. UMD- Eastern Shore Morgan State	Morgan State	
1000-1199		University of Baltimore	Frostburg State McDaniel College Mount St. Mary's Stevenson University	Hood College Towson University Washington College
1200 OR +			Goucher College Loyola University	Salisbury University St. Mary's College UMBC MICA UMD- College Park Johns Hopkins Notre Dame of MD University St John's College

## So, how do you prepare?

- First, start early. This is not a test you can cram for the night before.
- Utilize online practice tools such as Khan Academy and College Board to learn test strategies.
- Complete practice questions/exams to become familiar with the test's layout and format and get instant feedback.
- In the days leading up to your exam, get a good night's rest, eat healthy if it is possible, and do something that gets you physically active the morning of your exam.
- Remember, the SAT & ACT exams are not the only way to show you will be ready for college. Strong academic performance, such as doing your homework and taking rigorous courses in high school will help prepare you and lead you to take charge of your education.