

Junior SAT & ACT Testing Calendar (2020-2021)

SAT or ACT: Which is Your Better Test?

Because colleges treat the SAT and ACT exactly the same, you'll want to determine which test to primarily or exclusively focus on. Here are five ways to help you determine that, and then establish your effective testing calendar:

- 1) Read our SAT vs ACT flyer to best understand the primary differences between the tests.
- 2) [Contact us](#) to schedule an *SAT vs ACT assessment*.
- 3) Register for our [complimentary Saturday morning virtual simulations](#) to take an SAT and/or ACT under actual testing conditions.
- 4) Take an actual SAT and ACT – after appropriate preparation.
- 5) Use your experience with this year's PSAT to gauge how you might fare on the SAT; the PSAT has always been a good predictor of SAT success.

Which Scores Do Your Colleges See?

In planning your testing calendar, keep in mind that colleges will see only the scores you officially send to them (as well as any scores that may appear on your high school transcript) – but you must follow each college's score reporting rules. Yes, many colleges are temporarily test-optional, but not only is that likely to change when the pandemic ends, but colleges will *still* consider your scores as part of the admissions process – and competitive scores improve your potential for admission.

- **SAT:** Some colleges ask you to send **all** your SAT scores while others allow you to select the score sets you'd like them to see. Virtually all colleges superscore the SAT, combining your best math and reading/writing scores from the tests you've taken in high school. Keep in mind that colleges will see any lower scores you submit, which can have a negative impact on an admission decision – so you'll want to be prepared for the SAT. More on that below.
- **ACT:** Most colleges request your single best ACT score set. However, there are a growing number that ask for **all** your ACT scores and superscore the ACT. So, while the ACT is a more "risk-free" test (because you can cancel your scores *after* you get them), you still want to be prepared for it since some of your colleges may ask for **all** your ACT scores.

ACT Essay

Very few colleges require or recommend the optional ACT essay! In fact, *none* of Florida's twelve state universities do. At the end of this document you'll find this year's list of colleges that require or recommend the optional essay, subject to change next year. It's always best to check directly with the colleges to determine if you need to register for the ACT with or without essay. If you're not sure yet where you'll be applying, then take the ACT **without the essay**, since so few colleges require it. (Note: The optional SAT essay was discontinued in Spring, 2021.)

Junior SAT & ACT Testing Calendar (2020-2021)

Testing Calendar Recommendations

The SAT and ACT each offer three testing dates from which you can get back a copy of the test you took along with your answers and the correct answers – a great opportunity to learn from your mistakes. Thus, I’ve generated a testing calendar based upon those three “feedback” dates for each test. To take advantage of this, you must request and pay for these services during online registration. Here’s what the services are called:

- ACT*: “Test Information Release” (TIR)
- SAT*: “Question & Answer Service” (Q&A)

*Dates marked with an asterisk below offer the TIR or Q&A.

Take the ACT unless you know that the SAT is your better test.	
Dec 12, 2020*	Best date for juniors to take their first ACT of the year!
Feb 6, 2021	Take only if you missed the December test date
Apr 17, 2021*	Take Apr and/or June if you need a higher score
Jun 12, 2021*	
July 17, 2021	Take if you need a higher score and have time to prep in summer
Sept 11, 2021	Early enough in senior year for EA/ED deadlines if you need a higher score
Oct 23, 2021	
Dec 11, 2021*	Some colleges will even wait for December scores!

Take the SAT to compare your SAT & ACT experiences. If you know ACT is your better test, skip the SAT!	
Mar 13, 2021*	Take Mar or May as your first SAT of the school year, depending on how much time you have to prep (Note: May SAT is during AP exams)
May 8, 2021*	
Aug 28, 2021	Take if you need a higher score and have time to prep in summer
Oct 2, 2021*	Early enough for EA/ED deadlines if you need a higher score
Nov 6, 2021	Some colleges will wait for Nov scores for EA/ED
Dec 4, 2021	Some colleges will even wait for December scores!

Even after you submit your college applications and scores, you can send additional scores if you improve.

Junior SAT & ACT Testing Calendar (2020-2021)

SAT & ACT Test-Prep Considerations

- **SAT:** If you decide to take the SAT, bear in mind that the College Board currently makes available only eight full-length tests to use in preparation for the test. And while Khan Academy has myriad practice questions on its website, that's not the same as practicing with full-length tests. You can create a Khan Academy account by clicking [here](#). In addition, Score At The Top has quite a few tests that College Board previously released as well as a partnership with a test publisher who created several full-length tests to help our test-prep students prepare.
- **ACT:** Colleges treat SAT and ACT *exactly* the same, and we have MANY actual ACT tests to help you prepare! ***Also, ACT lets you delete a score from your permanent record – something the College Board does not permit for the SAT.***

Registration:

- **SAT:** www.collegeboard.org
- **ACT:** www.myACT.org

When you register, do NOT specify any colleges to receive your scores, even though you get several free score reports. Wait until you're ready to apply to college to send official score reports.

We hope you'll consider doing your test-prep with Score At The Top – we've got 35+ years' experience helping students *score at the top* of their potential:

Small Group Workshops • Private Test Prep • Prep with a Friend

In Person or Virtual

We'll even come to your home if you can't get to us!

Junior SAT & ACT Testing Calendar (2020-2021)

Permanently Removing an Unwanted ACT Score from Your ACT Record

You have the right to permanently remove a test score from your ACT record. From the ACT’s perspective, students own their scores, and may send the scores or delete them as they please (as long as those tests were not used to document participation in State and District Testing). Weeks or months or years after receiving an ACT score that falls below your expectations, you have the right to delete that testing record from your portfolio of ACT tests.

The process is straightforward, outlined in [the ACT’s help section](#). In response to the question, “How do I delete a test date record?” the instructions are clear: To delete your scores for a particular test date, you must submit a written request. Provide ACT with your name and home address, and they will mail you a form to complete and return. ACT will then permanently remove your record for that test date from their files. All scores from that test date will be deleted.

Write to: ACT Institutional Services
 P.O. Box 168
 Iowa City, IA 52243-0168

The tricky part comes if you have taken advantage of the four free college reports, and then wish to cancel the scores for that particular test. If you decided on test day to report your scores to various colleges, and then immediately after the testing wanted to cancel them without sending, you must submit a request **by the Thursday after the Saturday test**; so, you won’t see the scores before deciding whether or not to send them to colleges. In other words, the option to delete your test scores *after* receiving them needs to happen *before* you put in the order to send colleges your scores.

Permanently Removing an Unwanted SAT Score from Your College Board Record

The College Board is not nearly as generous as ACT with cancellation requests. If you want to cancel an SAT score, the clock is ticking from the moment you finish your test. Unlike the ACT, you must cancel your SAT before you can see the scores and **by 11:59 pm Eastern Time on the Thursday after your test date**. Students with disabilities are likely to have a slightly later deadline. The College Board policy is spelled out in detail on its [Canceling Scores web page](#). While you can request cancellation while still at the test center, we advise waiting a day or two to seriously consider it. Still want to cancel the scores? Then, submit by the deadline an [SAT Request to Cancel Scores Form](#) or a letter to the testing agency by fax (610-290-8978) or mail:

U.S. Postal Service Express Mail (U.S. only)
SAT Score Cancellation
P.O. Box 6228
Princeton, NJ 08541-6228

Other overnight mail service/courier (U.S. or international)
SAT Score Cancellation
1425 Lower Ferry Road
Ewing, NJ 08618

Removing SAT & ACT Scores from Your Palm Beach County Public High School Transcript

When you’re ready to apply to college next fall, you may want to remove some or all your SAT and/or ACT scores from your Palm Beach County transcript so colleges won’t see the ones you’re legitimately not sending to them. Scores on your high school transcript are not considered “official” scores — only scores that you have the testing agency itself send *directly* to colleges are considered official. To have scores removed, a parent (unless the student is 18) must put the request in writing, addressed to the school counselor, about which specific tests and dates are to be removed. The counselor then sends the request to the School District office. If your counselor can’t do this, then your parent can email the request directly to the District office – Attention: Galina Chira – Galina.chira@palmbeachschools.org.

Broward County public high school transcripts DO NOT include SAT & ACT scores.

Junior SAT & ACT Testing Calendar (2020-2021)

SAT or ACT Essay Required or Recommended (2020-2021)

These lists were compiled on Aug 5, 2020.

Because colleges can change their admission testing requirements during the school year, it's important that you double-check these requirements with each college to which you are applying.

NOTE: The optional SAT essay was discontinued effective Spring 2021.

~~SAT~~/ACT Essay RECOMMENDED

- ⊙ Abilene Christian University (TX)
- ⊙ Augsburg College (MN) ¹
- ⊙ College of Charleston (SC) ²
- ⊙ Michigan State University ²
- ⊙ Montana State University ^{2,5}
- ⊙ Saint Anselm College (NH) ¹
- ⊙ Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania ⁵
- ⊙ University of Montana ²

~~SAT~~/ACT Essay REQUIRED

- ⊙ Berry College (GA) ³
- ⊙ Martin Luther College (MN) ³
- ⊙ Rhode Island College ³
- ⊙ Soka University of America (CA)
- ⊙ United States Military Academy (NY)
- ⊙ University of British Columbia ³
- ⊙ University of Evansville (IN) ¹
- ⊙ University of Mary Hardin Baylor (TX) ⁵
- ⊙ University of Montana Western ⁴
- ⊙ University of Toronto (ON)

With special thanks to our friend/colleague, Cigus Vanni, *The College Fairy*, who researched and compiled these lists

1 test-optional

2 test-optional for 2020-21

3 require for ACT, neither require nor recommend for SAT

4 require for ACT, recommend for SAT

5 used for placement, not for admission