

Standardized Testing



Note: Many schools are waiving standardized tests for the 2021 year due to COVID-19.

College entrance exams — also known as standardized testing — help schools evaluate how ready students are to take on studies at the college level. The most common exams, the SAT (administered by College Board) and ACT, are two different tests: The ACT has four required sections (English, Math, Reading, Science) while the SAT has two main sections (Reading and Writing, and Math). Here are tips to help navigate standardized testing:

TRY OUT BOTH TESTS. Take a practice test for each and compare your scores and comfort level. Find free practice tests on the ACT and SAT websites (act.org and collegeboard.org) or ask your high school counselor. If you're still not sure, there's no harm in officially taking both tests. Some students may also be eligible for fee waivers.

EXPLORE TEST PREP SERVICES. Need extra help? In addition to paid test prep services and tutors, explore Khan Academy, a free online resource that offers test preparation.

CONSIDER TAKING THE TEST MORE THAN ONE TIME. You can take the ACT and the SAT exams several times during the spring of your junior year and fall of your senior year, so you'll have many opportunities to improve your score if need be. (Remember there is a fee to take the tests.)

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF FREE SCORE REPORTS. The SAT and ACT have options for sending a limited number of free score reports to colleges. Be sure to check policies and deadlines.

DETERMINE WHETHER A COLLEGE REQUIRES SAT SUBJECT TESTS. Some colleges and universities require one or more of the 20 tests offered in many different subject areas like history, math, science and English. The tests are just an hour long.

EXPLORE WHETHER A COLLEGE IS TEST-OPTIONAL OR TEST-FLEXIBLE. Some schools that are test optional or test flexible, but be sure to carefully read each school's policy and requirements.



For more tips on the college admission process, visit us at:

bentley.edu/admission-tips