

WHICH TEST SHOULD YOU TAKE?

Most college-bound students know that a necessary component of an admission application is a college entrance examination score; a university cannot process an application without one. Most students also know that there are two exams - the ACT and the SAT - and that almost all U.S. colleges accept both. The average student may not, however, know a great deal about the two tests and how they differ, and therefore may be unsure about which test would be best for them to take, based upon their abilities, experience, and needs. The option is yours, as colleges use the results from either in the same ways, for admission, talent identification and academic advising.

The ACT consists of curriculum-based “achievement” tests in the areas of English, mathematics, reading and science reasoning. In addition to the collection of demographic information, students are offered assistance with educational and career planning based upon the results of the ACT Interest Inventory, which helps you match the work activities and environment you prefer with careers and college majors.

The SAT is a test of standard written English, verbal skills and mathematics. It also collects demographic information about you to share with colleges. A writing component was added in the spring of 2005 and colleges will let you know if they require that additional test.

Your counselor or teachers can be a good resource in helping you choose the test that will better demonstrate your achievement; talk it over with your parents as well. Either way, remember that an entrance exam score is only one piece of information a college considers. Your class rank, grade point average, school/community activities and job (if applicable) will also be factored in.

Remember as test time approaches, RELAX...it won't be as difficult as you think!

ACT/SAT SCORES ARE IMPORTANT

ACT

The Enhanced American College Testing Program (ACT) is given annually to approximately one million collegebound students. Designed to assess each student's general educational development and ability to complete college level work, the main use of the ACT is for college admission and scholarship purposes. All Oklahoma colleges accept the ACT. Registration forms are available in the CCRL. The ACT test is given at Union High School. Students must register at least one month in advance by completing the registration form. They must then mail it by specific dates. There is a charge for taking this test.

Tulsa Community College and Oklahoma University offer preparation courses to help students with test-taking strategies, to review some concepts and to help students deal with test-taking anxieties.

SAT

The Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) is a college entrance exam required by many colleges outside of Oklahoma and a growing number of scholarship programs. It measures verbal and math abilities which the student has developed over many years. SAT registration forms are available in the CCRL. The SAT tests are administered in several locations in Tulsa. Students must mail registration forms in advance by specific dates. There is a charge for taking this test.

Achievement Tests are one-hour, multiple-choice tests in specific subject areas. Unlike the SAT, which measures more general abilities, Achievement Tests measure your knowledge in a particular subject area and your ability to apply that knowledge. Some colleges require one or more Achievement Tests for admission or placement purposes. There is a charge for taking these tests.

STUDENTS WITH HANDICAPS OR DISABILITIES

Eligibility requirements and special accommodations for taking these tests are explained in "Information for Students with Special Needs" and in other registration materials available in the CCRL.

Thoughts About ACT Preparation

- The best preparation – a solid high school curriculum
- Tests measure general educational development
- Become familiar with the test content and format
- Know appropriate test-taking strategies
- See your counselor for test preparation materials



Remember, test scores are only ONE factor used for college admissions and scholarship decisions





GET into the



Information Sheet for Students Planning to Take the -----ACT Assessment-----

ACT English Test

75 Items. 45 minutes

Tips for Taking the ACT English Test

- Pace yourself
- Be aware of the writing style used in the passages
- Examine the underlined portions of the passage
- Be aware of questions with no underlined portions
- Note the differences in the answer choices
- Determine the best answer
- Reread the sentence, using your selected answer

Content Covered by the ACT English Test

Punctuation (13%)
Grammar and Usage (16%)
Sentence Structure (24%)
Strategy (16%)
Organization (15%)
Style (16%)

ACT Reading Test

40 Items. 35 minutes

Tips for Taking the ACT Reading Test

- Pace yourself
- Read the passage carefully
- Refer to the passage when answering the questions

Types of Reading Selections in the ACT Reading Test

Social Studies (25%)
Natural Sciences (25%)
Prose Fiction (25%)
Humanities (25%)

ACT Mathematics Test

60 Items. 60 minutes

Tips for Taking the ACT Mathematics Test

- Pace yourself
- Solve the problem
- Locate your solution among the answer choices
- Make sure you answer the question
- Make sure your answer is reasonable
- Check your work

Content Covered by the ACT Mathematics Test

Pre-Algebra & Elementary Algebra (40%)
Intermediate Algebra & Coordinate Geometry (30%)
Plane Geometry (23%)
Trigonometry (7%)

ACT Science Reasoning Test

40 Items. 35 minutes

Tips for Taking the ACT Science Reasoning Test

- Pace yourself
- Read the passage carefully
- Note different viewpoints in passages

Content of the ACT Science Reasoning Test

Drawn from: Biology - Chemistry
Physics - Physical Sciences

Scientific Information Presented in Three Formats

Data Representation (38%)
Research Summaries (45%)
Conflicting Viewpoints (17%)

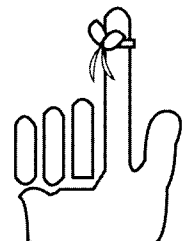
General Test-Taking Strategies

- Pace yourself
- Read the directions for each test carefully
- Read each question carefully
- Answer the easy questions first
- Use logic in more difficult questions
- Review your work
- Answer every question...no penalty for guessing
- Be precise in marking your answer sheet
- Erase completely

Preparing for the Test Day

- Be confident in your ability to do well
- Be prepared to work hard
- Know what to expect on the test day
- Prepare well in advance
- Get plenty of rest the night before the test

- Arrive promptly at 8:00 a.m.
- Dress for temperature variations at test site
- Take these items to the test center:
 - Photo identification
 - Your test center admission ticket or mailgram
 - Three sharpened soft-lead (No. 2) pencils with erasers



Act now!

Be prepared for the ACT test . . . Read "**Preparing for the ACT Assessment**," a free booklet available from your counselor.

TEST-TAKING TIPS FOR THE SAT

Here are some specific test-taking tips that will help when you actually take the test.

Within each group of questions of the same type, the easier questions are usually at the beginning of the group and the more difficult ones are at the end. (The reading comprehension questions are an exception. The reading passages are usually ordered easiest to hardest, but the questions that follow each passage are ordered according to the logic and organization of the passage.)

If you're working on a group of questions and find that the questions are getting too difficult, quickly read through the rest of the questions in that group and answer only those you think you know. Then go on to the next group of questions in that section. (Again, this advice does not necessarily apply to the questions immediately following a reading passage, in which case a difficult reading comprehension question might be followed by an easier one.)

You get just as much credit for correctly answering easy questions as you do for correctly answering hard ones. So answer all the questions that seem easy before you spend time on those that seem difficult.

You don't have to answer every question correctly to score well. In fact, many students who answer only 40-60 percent of the questions correctly receive average or slightly above average scores.

You can guess. If you know that one or more answer choices for a question are definitely wrong, then it's generally to your advantage to guess from the remaining choices. But because of the way the test is scored, random guessing is unlikely to increase your score.

You get one point for each question you answer correctly. You lose a fraction of a point for each question you answer incorrectly. You neither gain nor lose credit for questions you omit.

If you do not respond to any SAT-verbal, SAT-math, or TSWE questions, you will receive the minimum score for that part.

Use the test book for scratchwork and to mark questions you omitted, so you can go back to them if you have time. You will not receive credit for any responses written in the test book. You must mark all your responses to test questions on the separate answer sheet before time is up on each section.

Do not make extra marks on the answer sheet. They may be misread as answers by the scoring machine. If the scoring machine reads what looks like two answers for one question, that will be considered an omitted question. So it's in your best interest to keep your answer sheet free of any stray marks.

Any four-choice mathematics question for which you mark the fifth answer oval, E, will be treated as an omitted question. You will not receive credit for that response.

Mark only one answer for each question. To be certain that your answer will be read by the scoring machine, make sure your mark is dark and completely fills the oval.