

ACT/SAT/PSAT Frequently Asked Questions

Questions	Answers
When are the tests?	<p>ACT - 9/11/21, 10/23/21, 12/11/21, 2/12/22, 4/2/22, 6/11/22, 7/16/22</p> <p>SAT - 10/2/21, 11/11/21, 12/4/21, 3/12/22, 5/5/22, 6/4/22</p> <p>PSAT/Practice ACT - 10/3/21 - All students take either PSAT or ACT</p>
Which is more difficult?	Neither test is considered "harder." The formatting of the tests is a little different. The SAT has no science section and has been described as "wordier," so someone who struggles more with reading might find it more difficult.
What is the average ACT score?	The U.S. class of 2020 had an average composite score of 20.6 for the ACT.
What is the average SAT score?	The most recent national average is 1058: Evidence-based Reading/Writing - 531 Math - 528
How long does it take to get your ACT scores back?	Most scores arrive within 10-15 days. The ACT gives itself up to 8 weeks to report scores.
How long does it take to get your SAT scores back?	2-4 weeks
Do colleges look seriously at your high school grades?	Yes
What is scoring like for the PSAT/SAT	<p>PSAT/SAT Scoring comparison</p> <p>https://mindfish.com/how-to-compare-psat-and-sat-scores/</p>
What can I do to best prepare for the tests?	<p>Act.org - Offers free study guide and practice test</p> <p>Tutoring - Options can be found through: act.org http://www.ianiusprep.com/ https://fitzgeraldprep.com/</p>
How early should we sign up?	You need to register for the ACT about 5 weeks before the exam date. For example, the registration for the Sept. 11 test closed on August 6. For the SAT, registration closes about a month before the test date. For the Oct. 2 test, registration closed on Sept. 3.

If I am taking the PSAT would it make more sense for me to take the SAT?	This is a personal choice, taking the PSAT will help prepare you for either test because it is a standardized test.
How much should I study?	Once you have taken the PSAT/practice ACT, this can help determine how much and what areas you need to study
Do some schools accept ONLY the ACT or SAT score?	No *It is always a good idea to check with your specific school
Do schools that require test scores accept scores from both?	Yes *It is always a good idea to check with your specific school
What is the difference between the ACT and SAT	See the following website for a breakdown of the exams: ACT/SAT https://www.princetonreview.com/college/sat-act
Should I take the first test with preparation?	This is a personal choice, it is never a bad idea to prepare for a test
What ACT score is necessary to be successful?	Certain schools may appreciate specific scores for admission, no schools will openly require a certain score for admission.
What is considered a "good score" on the ACT?	A list of ACT scores and their percentiles can be found here https://blog.prepscholar.com/what-is-a-good-act-score-a-bad-act-score-an-excellent-act-score
Is one better for engineering? Medical field?	No
Do colleges take the highest or most recent ACT score?	Colleges will take the highest of the scores that you send to them
When would/should I take the ACT or SAT?	The tests are designed to be taken in the spring of your junior year. When you decide to take the test(s) is a personal decision
Do you have to take the ACT at Marist?	No. On Act.org you are able to see a list of testing sites. You may opt to take the test at any location that is convenient for you.
Is the practice ACT through Marist and is it free?	Yes and yes
Which schools require testing?	It is best to check with the individual schools, as what is test optional MAY NOT be test optional when you are applying to college next year.

	<p>Fairtest.org - This website will show you current lists of schools and their testing policies</p>
<p>How do I sign up?</p>	<p>ACT - https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration.html SAT - https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register</p>
<p>Do I have to take the ACT/SAT if my college of choice doesn't require it?</p>	<p>You do not need to take it, however, you need to make sure that NONE of the schools that you will be applying to require.</p>
<p>If I am already registered to take a test, can I switch my test date to another date? If so, how?</p>	<p>Yes. Log in to your MyACT account and select "Make Changes to Your Registration" or call ACT Registration at 319.337. 1270 by the regular deadline for the new test date. You will be charged the full fee for the new test date in addition to the test date change fee.</p>
<p>Are the early ACT tests just for preparation and not for a real score?</p>	<p>All of the ACT tests are for a real score with ONLY 1 exception: The practice ACT that you will take at Marist on 10/13/21 is just a practice exam and cannot be counted as a real ACT score.</p>
<p>If you do bad on the first ACT, is there still time to register for another ACT test? Should I sign up for multiple ACT tests at the same time?</p>	<p>From test date to test date, you will have time to sign up for another test. You likely will not have time to sign up for the following test from when you receive your score. For example, if you test on Oct. 23rd, you will not have your score back in time to register for the Dec. test. HOWEVER, you likely will have your score back in time to register for the Feb or April test.</p>
<p>What exactly is on the ACT?</p>	<p>This website includes a breakdown of the ACT test https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act-educator/the-act-test.html</p>
<p>Does Marist allow students to take a certain amount of ACT tests for free?</p>	<p>Marist is able to provide fee waivers for those that qualify. If you believe you may qualify for a fee waiver or have more questions about this, please see Ms. Reif or Mr. Dinolfo</p>

<p>Does the ACT have accommodations?</p>	<p>Yes, you will need to see Mrs. Kelly (In the ARC) and she can help you fill out the paperwork for the ACT with accommodations. You will want to apply early for accommodations. kelly.erin@marist.net</p>
<p>How do I handle the pressure of taking a major standardized test?</p>	<p>This is something you can certainly speak individually with your counselor about if you are feeling particularly stressed out and/or anxious. Keep in mind that it is normal to feel a degree of anxiety when taking the ACT or SAT.</p>
<p>How much does the ACT change from one test date to the next?</p>	<p>Sometimes the order of the test can change between sittings. The content will change but should be similar in level of difficulty.</p>
<p>How do I get a book to study for the ACT?</p>	<p>Act.org offers a free test prep booklet. You can also order a book from Amazon or your local bookstore. Here is a list of some potential ACT prep books. https://blog.prepscholar.com/the-10-best-act-books-recommended-for-act-prep</p>
<p>Will there be small breaks in between sections of the test?</p>	<p>There is one, 10-minute break between the Math and Reading portions of the test. If you opt for the writing section, there is also a 5 minute break after the science portion before you begin the writing section.</p>
<p>Which is more important, the ACT score, or the high school transcript?</p>	<p>The high school transcript will always carry more weight when colleges review your application.</p>
<p>Is a college able to see how many times you took the ACT/SAT test? Are they only able to see the highest score?</p>	<p>A college will only be able to see any scores that you send them. If you only send your highest score, that is the only score they will see.</p>
<p>If you score poorly on the ACT/SAT, does it limit your college options?</p>	<p>Only if the college requires a test score for admission or scholarships. If the college is test optional or test blind, it will not negatively impact your college options because you would not have to use your test score.</p>
<p>Where in Marist is the ACT taken?</p>	<p>Usually classrooms in the Math and English hallway. Mrs. Mossuto can answer this if it has changed.</p>

	<p>Students with testing accommodations usually test in the Arc. Students will check-in at Champagnat Square.</p> <p>**Double check your testing ticket from ACT within 24hours of your scheduled test. Sometimes a student’s test location can be relocated**</p>
<p>If you retake the test, do you have to pay for it each time?</p>	<p>Yes, you must register and pay separately for every ACT or SAT test that you take.</p>
<p>Who is my college counselor?</p>	<p>Mrs. Nicki Peterson - Last names A-L</p> <p>Mrs. Allison Culver - Last names M-Z</p>
<p>Which colleges lean toward GPA rather than test scores?</p>	<p>Many colleges are test-optional. Every college is different so it is important to research the specific school(s) to which you are applying.</p>
<p>Do you have to take the practice ACT?</p>	<p>Yes, if you are in attendance on 10/13/21, you will take the practice ACT or PSAT</p>
<p>Do we have to take the ACT/SAT prior to graduation?</p>	<p>This depends entirely on your personal plans. If you are planning to attend a college right out of high school and that college requires an ACT/SAT score for admission, then YES, you would need to take the test by the fall of your senior year.</p> <p>If you do not plan on attending college right out of high school, or you don’t plan to attend college, you do not need to take the ACT/SAT prior to graduation.</p> <p>*If you think there is a chance you will attend college, it may be a good idea to take either test while you are still in high school because the information will be fresh in your mind as opposed to waiting and taking it later.</p>