

College Corner

March 2018

Important Dates 2017-18

March 9	Deadline for registering for the April ACT
March 10	SAT Test Date
March 20	Explore (7th and 8th)
March 21	Plan (9th and 10th)
April 6	Deadline for registering for the April SAT
April 14	ACT Test Date
May 3	Deadline for registering for the June SAT
May 4	Deadline for registering for the June ACT
May 5	SAT Test Date
May 7-18	AP Exams
June 2	SAT Test Date
June 9	ACT Test Date
June 15	Deadline for registering for the July ACT
July 14	ACT Test Date



Standardized Testing Strategies

Which test should I take?

Overall, the tests really are not very different. Both are nationally recognized and accepted by all US colleges and universities. The content of the two tests is also very similar; however, there are a few differences between the two tests. Main differences include the scoring ranges, time per question, types of math problems asked, and subjects tested (the ACT has a science section that the SAT doesn't have). Here is a great article highlighting the specific differences of each test: <https://blog.prepscholar.com/act-vs-sat>.

How many times should I take it?

Most students should take the ACT/SAT at least twice. The first attempt can be made with minimal preparation to give you a feel for where your strengths and weaknesses are. It is also a good way to give you an idea of the pacing of the exam and how to manage your time. After the first test, you should spend considerable time preparing either on your own with a test prep book, with an online program, or with a service/tutor. About 40 hours of prep time is recommended.

When should I take it?

First, and most important, DO NOT WAIT UNTIL YOUR SENIOR YEAR to take these tests for the first time. Timing of the test, however, is affected by a few factors including: college/scholarship deadlines, content readiness, personal schedule, and prep time. Ideally, the first attempt should be made as a student is completing Algebra 2 or is at the very beginning of Advanced Math... sometime in the junior year depending on a student's math curriculum. Here's an example of a potential timeline:

PSAT - October of junior year

ACT/SAT first attempt:

*students in Adv. Math junior year – October of junior year

*students in Algebra II junior year – April of junior year

Test prep: Allow for about 40 hours of preparation before next test date

ACT/SAT second attempt:

*students in Adv. Math junior year – February of junior year

*students in Algebra II junior year – June or July of junior year

Test prep: Summer program... Possibly a structured class or private tutoring to fine tune test strategies.

ACT/SAT final attempt – August/September/October of senior year

How do I sign up?

Students sign up individually for each test and choose a date/location that works for their schedule. Here are the registration links for each test.

ACT - <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration.html>

SAT - <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat>

Current Opportunities

Pratt

Pratt Pre-College Program

Each summer Pratt Institute's PreCollege program welcomes over 400 high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors to our Brooklyn campus for nearly a month, where they encounter life as an art and design college student. Students choose a concentration of study modeled after Pratt's undergraduate offerings. To complement this concentration course, students are automatically enrolled in foundation, art history, and portfolio development classes. Upon completion of the program, students earn four elective college credits. Reflecting Pratt's academic culture, PreCollege students are immersed in their studio practice and actively participating in a rigorous full schedule of classes Monday to Friday. Classes are led by Pratt's renowned faculty of working artists and professional designers who are committed to sharing their expertise in the field.

<https://www.pratt.edu/academics/continuing-education-and-professional/precollege/summer-programs/>



University of Chicago Summer Session

Discover the awesome course opportunities for high school students this summer at the University of Chicago. Within a supportive campus community, students from all over the globe are exposed to diverse ideas in classrooms taught by world-class faculty and instructors. In the classroom, students are given the chance to take intellectual risks, dive more deeply into subject matter, and discuss questions that go beyond the realm of their high school curriculum.

<https://summer.uchicago.edu/>



University of South Alabama - Discover USA Day

Spring Preview Day on Saturday, March 3rd for students and parents to meet with academic deans, learn about admissions, tour the campus, and visit with representatives. Register at:

<http://www.southalabama.edu/departments/admissions/usaday.html>



Mississippi State University – Spring Preview

Spring Preview Days on March 19th and 26th are for students and their families to visit MSU for a fun and informative day on the Mississippi State campus. Students will receive a t-shirt for participation and lunch will be provided.

<https://www.admissions.msstate.edu/events/spring-preview-day/>



NYU Summer Programs and PreCollege Programs

NYU's varied array of high school programs offer flexibility and options that can be tailored to your individual needs and schedule. Application processes, requirements and deadlines are varied; as are housing and financial aid offerings. Each program draws on the strengths of NYU's various schools and colleges. Whether it's by earning college credit or strengthening artistic or professional skills in an intensive non-credit offering, students will experience college and city life, first hand. Many of our programs allow students to increase their academic portfolio, while others enhance performance and studio art experiences. Be sure to visit each specific website to see which program is right for you.

<https://www.nyu.edu/admissions/high-school-programs.html#summer>