



Portland Test Prep Providers

Disclaimer: Neither Portland Public Schools nor Lincoln High School recommend or endorse specific tutors or test prep companies. This list is provided as a service to families who are considering test prep for their college-bound students.

To make corrections or additions to this list, please contact us at lhscounselingcenter@gmail.com.

About College Entrance Exams

There are two college entrance exams in the United States. Most four-year colleges expect high school seniors to include standardized test scores from either the [SAT](#) or [ACT](#) exams as part of their application for admission. There is also a [de-emphasis on standardized testing](#) at some schools and you can find a list of more than 1000 test-optional and test-flexible schools at the National Center for Fair and Open Testing's [website](#).

In 2015, 1.9 million students took the ACT and 1.7 million took the SAT. Testing is big business and test prep is a billion dollar industry. How much time and money should your family invest in test prep strategies? The answer is different for every student and their family, depending on their college objectives, financial resources and student's time availability. Sophomore and junior PSAT scores are good indicators of how students will fare on the SAT and can influence decisions about the amount of time needed to prepare. PPS also provides every junior with a free ACT exam in the spring. For students happy with their results and comfortable that those scores will fulfill their college goals, that may be the only college entrance exam they take.

When a student wonders if they should commit to studying for a college entrance exam or ask if they should retake an exam, counselors often advise them to research the colleges that interest them most and study the academic profile of students who attend those schools. All PPS students have access to the [Oregon Career Information System](#) (CIS) which has extensive files on scholarships, majors, occupations and colleges. Students can study the academic profile (GPA + test scores) of students admitted in the previous year to various colleges to help determine if the school is a good match for them. The chart on the right shows the rich detail available in CIS for thousands of schools. CIS login information is available in the Career Center and the Counseling Center.

Test scores of freshmen who enrolled at the school			
SAT Score	Critical reading	Math	Writing
400 - 499	7%	6%	7%
500 - 599	32%	41%	34%
600 - 699	43%	42%	44%
700 - 800	19%	11%	14%
ACT Score			
12 - 17	0%		
18 - 23	10%		
24 - 29	57%		
30 - 36	33%		
High school performance of students who enrolled at this school			
Average GPA (on 4.0 scale)		3.55	

Lincoln counselors advise students to learn about the test they will be taking (content and scoring, how questions are typically worded, the number of sections, the number of questions per section, etc.) Taking a practice test under timed conditions to understand the pacing and practice using strategies (like answering easier questions first) is a good idea. Near-perfect scores do not guarantee admission to selective institutions and colleges consider other factors in their decision making process. Counselors note that balancing good grades in challenging courses and meaningful participation in extracurricular activities is equally important.

The research is mixed about the value of test prep programs. And much of that research is no longer valid since the College Board [redesigned](#) the SAT exam in 2014, eliminating its famously challenging vocabulary in the reading sections and the penalties for wrong answers. Now the SAT is structured more like the ACT, focused on assessing what students learn in school rather than scholastic aptitude.

Comparing the SAT & ACT

Category	ACT	SAT
Test Fee (2017-18)	\$46.00 \$62.50 (with optional writing assessment)	\$46.00 \$60.00 (with optional essay test)
Time	2 hours and 55 minutes (plus 40 minutes for the optional Essay)	3 hours (plus 50 minutes for the optional Essay)
Components	• ACT mathematics test (60 items, 60 minutes) • ACT reading test (40 items, 35 minutes) • ACT science test (40 items, 35 minutes) • ACT English test (75 items, 45 minutes) • ACT writing test (optional; 1 prompt, 40 minutes)	• Math (58 items, 80 minutes) • Evidence-Based Reading and Writing: -Reading Test (52 items, 65 minutes) -Writing and Language Test (44 Items, 35 minutes) • Essay (optional; 1 prompt, 50 minutes)
Score Reporting	• ACT Composite Score: 1–36 (average of four test scores) • ACT English test: 1–36 • ACT reading test: 1–36 • ACT mathematics test: 1–36 • ACT science test: 1–36 • ACT writing test (optional): 2-12	• Scale ranging from 200 to 800 for Evidence-Based Reading and Writing; 200 to 800 for Math; 2 to 8 on each of three traits for Essay • Essay results reported separately

Free Tools & Resources

Self-motivated students can prepare for college entrance exams at their convenience, from the privacy of their own home using any of the free, high quality, web-based tools available. In addition, you can borrow or purchase one of the many [books](#) offering practice exams and advice about preparing for the ACT or SAT. Just knowing *about* the test (how questions are presented, the number of sections, the number of

questions per section, etc.) can reduce stress and increase a tester’s confidence. These options are typically general in nature and are not highly individualized.

ACT • ACT Study Guide • ACT Academy	The ACT test company provides a downloadable study guide and practice tests. If you create a profile, you can receive a “question of the day” every day via email. In the spring of 2018, ACT Academy became available. This new, free resource provides video lessons, interactive practice questions, full-length practice tests, educational games and other materials. Each student will receive their own personalized study plan based on their scores from the ACT test or diagnostics within ACT Academy.
The College Board • SAT Study Guide • PSAT Practice • SAT Subject Test Prep • Colleges that use SAT Subject Tests	Students register at the College Board website to take the SAT and/or the one-hour SAT subject tests. The College Board offers test-taking strategies, practice exams, and video tips for taking the exams. You can view and link previous tests to Khan Academy for personalized, free prep and practice for future exams.
Khan Academy khanacademy.org/test-prep/sat	Free online prep for the SAT. Through a partnership with the College Board, student can link their PSAT results to their Khan Academy account for targeted help with test sections that were especially challenging for them. Students can use the Khan Academy SAT Prep resources even if they did not take the PSAT.
Oregon Career Information System & Learning Express oregoncis.uoregon.edu	All PPS students have a login for Oregon CIS. Look for “<i>Practice Tests / Learning Express.</i>” That link will direct you to “<i>Learning Express.</i>” From the College Admissions Test Preparation section, students can access SAT & ACT practice tests, tutorials, and even AP practice tests.

Private Tutoring

While we cannot endorse or recommend a specific test prep tutor, there are a number of websites that support families in their efforts to find professional, academic tutors and which vet tutors and provide background checks. Tutors typically provide more individualized support to improve test performance.

- frog tutoring.com
- hometutorsportland.com
- varsitytutors.com
- wyzant.com

Local Test Prep Providers

Visit the websites of various providers to study what each provider offers, their terms of service and costs. Consider checking for online customer reviews or talking to other parents about their experiences with test prep providers to evaluate your options. Think about what would help you reach your goals. A workshop, a series of classes, or a program that features multiple practice tests? Individualized coaching?

Provider	Contact Info	Services
Cornerstone Learning cstonelearning.com	Portland, OR (503) 400-6957	In-home individual tutoring in a variety of subjects, as well as ACT / SAT and IB.
Enhanced Prep enhancedprep.com	Portland, OR (503) 966-1335	one-on-one and group test prep, homework help and tutoring
Huntington Learning Center huntingtonhelps.com	15220 NW Laidlaw Road Portland, OR 97229 (503)-533-5700	Test-prep programs that feature test-taking strategies, time-management skills, and academic knowledge through individualized instruction from tutors
Kaplan Test Prep www.kaptest.com	1815 SW 5th Ave Portland, OR (503) 226-8968	ACT, SAT, AP Exams, PSAT prep.. Online or in person group classes, individual tutoring.
North Avenue Education northaveeducation.com	1235 SW 16th Avenue Portland, OR (503) 468-6905	Specializes in comprehensive test preparation and offer, personalized instruction in nearly any subject area. Tutors are trained to prepare students for the SAT, SAT Subject Tests, PSAT/NMSQT, ACT and more.
Portland Community College - Community Ed, Summer Teen Program pcc.edu/community/teen	ceteens@pcc.edu Sylvania Campus 12000 SW 49th Ave. Portland, OR 97219 (971) 722-6606	This public community college offers an array of classes, including test prep in a classroom setting.
Portland Community College - online education ed2go.com/portlandcc/online-courses/sat-act-preparation-1?tab=detail		Online courses offered over 6-week period to prepare for both the SAT and ACT tests. Students can opt to take a course geared towards improving the verbal/reading sections, or math, depending on their needs. This may be an affordable

		option.
Portland Tutoring Collective portlandtutoringcollective.com	6200 SW Virginia Ave., Ste. 104 Portland, OR (503) 592-0589	Group classes are capped at 10 students; individual tutoring available.
PDX Tutor Solution pdx tutorsolutions.com	14523 Westlake Drive, Suite 23 Lake Oswego, OR 97035 (503)956.4571	Group ACT & SAT classes meet on 4 consecutive Saturdays; individual tutoring options.
Princeton Review www.princetonreview.com	(800) 273-8439	Prep for SAT, ACT, PSAT, AP tests, SAT subject tests. Group classes & private tutoring.
Saturday Academy www.saturdayacademy.org	Portland, OR (503) 200-5858	This non-profit organization offers group classes for the PSAT and SAT. Look for availability on Saturday and Sunday mornings, spring break, and summer.
Stumptown Test Prep www.stumptowntestprep.com	6222 SW Virginia Ave Portland, OR 97239 (503) 246-4211	Individual SAT, SAT Subject Tests, ACT and PSAT/NMSQT tutoring. Specializes in one-on-one comprehensive standardized test preparation and individual study coaching.
Sylvan Learning Center www.sylvanlearning.com	Various sites including 12225 SW 2nd St, Ste 100 Beaverton, Oregon 97005 (503) 626-7466 (888) 338-2283	Offers tutoring in PSAT/SAT, and ACT in a variety of metro-area locations.
Tutors on Tires http://tutorsontires.weebly.com	Mobile tutoring around Portland tutorsontires@gmail.com	Private and small group tutoring for SAT & ACT.
Your Steps to College www.yourstepstocollege.com	6115 SW 36th Ave. Portland, OR 97221 (704) 502-7989	Very small group classes of 4-5 students. specialized programs for students with performance or testing anxiety and/or learning differences

Is There An App for That?

There are dozens of free SAT and ACT Prep apps for mobile devices. The College Board and ACT both have free tools and other test prep providers have launched free and low cost tools like ACT Up and SAT Up. Be a savvy consumer and check ratings and comments at your app store before deciding if you want to make a purchase.

This is a partial list of online test prep companies who might use video, email, live chat and other ways to interact with a tutor.

Provider	Cost	Services
Magoosh magoosh.com	\$79-\$99 per month depending on plan duration (1 - 6 months).	Online SAT and ACT prep, with video lessons, practice tests and email assistance from expert tutors.
Prep Scholar prepscholar.com	\$397-\$995 per year depending on package.	Online SAT and ACT prep. Customized prep program based on your skill level. Personalized classes, expert teachers.
Testive testive.com	\$800 4-5 week bootcamp. \$350-\$500/mo for continued one on one coaching and access to other test practice tools.	Emphasis on coaching. Personal test coach , practice tests, reviews and reflection, practice test questions, adaptive learning software and videos.
Ready 4 ready4.com	\$20-\$69 per month depending on plan.	Self-paced online test prep. Flash cards, practice quizzes, practice questions.
Number 2 Pencil number2.com	Free	Online prep for the ACT. Must create an account to use tutorials and practice tests.

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