

## **Do I need to take the SAT or ACT?**

Public school students in grade 11 are required to take the SAT with Essay each Spring. This is offered for free, and LHS students are automatically registered for it.

In the past, 4-year colleges have required the ACT or SAT as part of their admission process for incoming freshmen. Most (but not all) colleges have become test-optional - focusing instead on a more holistic approach in looking at which students to accept. Junior colleges continue to not require test scores for admittance purposes.

So what are some of the reasons that a student would want to take the SAT or ACT? Test scores may exempt a student from taking a placement test to place into certain college classes. SAT or ACT scores may also automatically qualify students for college admission or scholarship consideration.

## **SAT versus ACT - Which test should I take?**

Most colleges in the United States accept both the ACT and the SAT. So...you can stick with one format or try both to see which you prefer. Most colleges accept either.

Some colleges (mostly private and highly elite schools) also require the SAT Subject Area Tests. Please visit <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat-subject-tests> to learn more about these tests and how to register for them.

To take the ACT or SAT on a National Test Date (not the School Day test for juniors), students need to register with those testing agencies. Use the websites below to register for the exams.

**To register for the ACT**, visit [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org).

**To register for the SAT**, visit [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

\*\*\*You are able to list 3 or 4 colleges where you can send your test scores for free. You will also want to make sure that you list the school code for LeRoy High School (142-600). Most colleges also accept test scores sent from the high school. Please see Mrs. Levingston if you have questions.

## **How is the SAT similar/different from the ACT?**

The administration of both takes approximately 3 hours, and students are not penalized for guessing incorrect answers. Both also offer the option of taking an additional writing test after the initial portion of the test is completed.

As for differences - the SAT consists of 3 separate tests and the ACT consists of 4. SAT consists of 154 questions whereas the ACT has 215 questions. For more information, go to the following website to see a chart comparing the two tests:  
<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/inside-the-test/compare-new-sat-act>

### **When should I test? Can/should I take the SAT/ACT more than once?**

The optimal time to test is Spring semester of a student's junior year. Both the SAT and the ACT are geared towards the knowledge that a student has learned by that point in his/her educational career. However, there is no correct answer as to when a student should test. Some students choose to assess as early as the end of their sophomore year. When they receive results, they decide if they want to take a test prep class to try to improve their scores on future tests. Some students assess only once.

Colleges do not look down on a student if he/she assesses multiple times. Just know that test scores tend not to vary much from one test to the next UNLESS a student has done something to prepare between the tests.

### **Test Prep Classes in the area:**

1. SAT or ACT Prep at Parkland College  
[parkland.edu/btceRegister](http://parkland.edu/btceRegister)
2. Heartland Community College ACT Prep Classes  
<http://www.heartland.edu/communityEd/youth/collegePrep.html>
3. Better Test Scores Program - Jason Franklin  
[www.betterprepsuccess.com](http://www.betterprepsuccess.com)
4. March 2 Success - Online Prep provided by the Army  
Free online ACT/SAT practice tests at <https://www.march2success.com/>

\*\*\*\*FREE SAT test prep through Khan Academy at the College Board website.\*\*\*\*\*