



Taking the ACT or SAT

Taking the ACT or SAT is an important step towards college admissions, which is why it is important to prepare and plan early. It gives more time to study and to retake the test if you wish to improve your score.

Helpful tools to prepare for the test:

- Khan Academy for SAT Prep (khanacademy.org/test-prep/sat)
- Free practice tests at act.com and collegeboard.org
- Apps such as Daily Practice for the New SAT® or ACT Online Prep (available on iOS and Android)

ACT and SAT Test Dates:

SAT Test Date	Registration Deadline	ACT Test Date	Registration Deadline
<i>December 1</i>	<i>November 2</i>	<i>December 8</i>	<i>November 2</i>
<i>March 9</i>	<i>February 8</i>	<i>February 9</i>	<i>January 11</i>
<i>May 4</i>	<i>April 5</i>	<i>April 13</i>	<i>March 8</i>
<i>June 1</i>	<i>May 3</i>	<i>June 8</i>	<i>May 3</i>

Map out your ACT/SAT plans and ideas below:

Score
Needed for college admission/scholarship opportunities:

1st Test Date:

2nd Test Date:

Preparation plan:



What Colleges look for in a Student's Application



What college applications ask for	How do you compare?	What changes can you make?
1. Grade Point Average (GPA)		
2. Standardized Test Scores (SAT and ACT Scores)		
3. Grades of courses in and beyond minimum "a-g" requirements (AP & Honors)	How many? A- B- C-	How many? A- B- C-
4. Outstanding performance in academic subjects (Have you tutored a peer?)		
5. Personal qualities and talents (Leadership skills and artistic talents)		
6. Contributions to the community and school (Community service)		
7. Participation in educational preparation programs (EAOP and Upward Bound)		
8. Achievement in academic enrichment programs, special projects, and more (Achievements in school, employment, organizations, and clubs)		
9. Challenges you have faced (Any hardships or unusual circumstances)		

Sources: <https://www.collegeessayguy.com/uc-prompts-guide/1-2-the-14-points-of-comprehensive-review>
<http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/freshman/comprehensive-review/index.html>

What Colleges look for in a Student's Application

- 1 & 2. Grade Point Average (GPA) and Standardized Test Scores:** Your GPA and SAT/ACT scores are important indicators of academic achievement.
 - a. To qualify for the UCs, you need a GPA of 3.0 or better
 - b. To qualify for the CSUs, you need a GPA of 2.0 or better
 - c. UCs do not superscore test scores; however, CSUs do superscore SAT test scores
- 3. Grades of courses in and beyond minimum "a-g" requirements:** The number and rigor of the courses you take and the grades earned in those courses will be considered.
 - a. Coursework should exceed the minimum 15 "a-g" required courses.
 - b. Are you taking Honors, College Level, Advanced Placement (AP), and International Baccalaureate Higher Level (IBHL) courses?
- 4. Outstanding performance in academic subjects:** Place emphasis on the subject you excel in.
 - a. Did you tutor other students in that subject?
 - b. Did you take the Advanced Placement (AP) course or college courses in that subject?
- 5. Personal qualities and talents:** College admissions want to know more about you! Traditional measures of academic achievement may not reflect your personal qualities and talents, so make sure you describe what kind of a person you are and your talents.
 - a. Some examples of personal qualities are leadership ability, originality, creativity, and responsibility.
 - b. Common talents are musical, artistic, physical (sports) talents.
- 6. Contributions to the community and school:** Colleges want students that not only perform well in class, but also contribute to their school and community!
 - a. Were you a member of a club?
 - b. Did you volunteer for community service?
- 7. Participation in education preparation programs:** College admissions will consider whether applicants took full advantage of the programs and opportunities offered at their school. So, make sure to include all of the programs you took part in.
 - a. Some examples of education preparation programs are EAOP, Upward Bound, and AVID
- 8. Achievement in academic enrichment programs, special projects, and more:** Colleges would like to know what you have been recognized for and what are your achievements.
 - a. Did you receive an award in a Science Fair or for Honor Roll?
- 9. Challenges you have faced:** College admissions will consider the maturity, determination, and insight with which you overcame these challenges.
 - a. Did you suffer through a rough time in school or at home?

College and University Admissions also look for:

- Eligibility in the local context (ELC) - CA residents only
- Quality of senior-year program of study
- Academic opportunities in California high schools
- Improvement in academic performance
- Geographic location



Remember that no single factor will determine your admission because most schools, such as UCs, evaluate applications holistically. The goal of the campus admissions review process is to single out from a large and growing pool of academically strong applicants, those unique individuals who have demonstrated both personal and academic excellence.