

## SAT or ACT? Do you know which test is right for you?

	SAT	ACT
Why Take It	Colleges use SAT scores for admissions and merit-based scholarships.	Colleges use ACT scores for admissions and merit-based scholarships.
Test Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Math</li> <li>• Reading</li> <li>• Writing and Language</li> <li>•</li> </ul> <p>Essay (Optional)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Math</li> <li>• Reading</li> <li>• English</li> <li>• Science</li> </ul> <p>Essay (Optional)</p>
Length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 hours (without essay)</li> <li>• 3 hours, 50 minutes (with essay)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 hours, 55 minutes (without essay)</li> <li>• 3 hours, 40 minutes (with essay)</li> </ul>
Reading	5 reading passages	4 reading passages
Science	None	1 science section testing your critical thinking skills (not your specific science knowledge)
Math	<p>Covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arithmetic</li> <li>• Algebra I &amp; II</li> <li>• Geometry, Trigonometry and Data Analysis</li> </ul>	<p>Covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arithmetic</li> <li>• Algebra I &amp; II</li> <li>• Geometry and Trigonometry</li> </ul>
Tools	Some math questions don't allow you to use a calculator.	You can use a calculator on all math questions.
Essays	Optional. The essay will test your comprehension of a source text.	Optional. The essay will test how well you evaluate and analyze complex issues.
How It's Scored	Scored on a scale of 400–1600	Scored on a scale of 1–36

**Colleges accept both tests equally, so the choice is up to you! Here's what you need to know to compare the exams.**