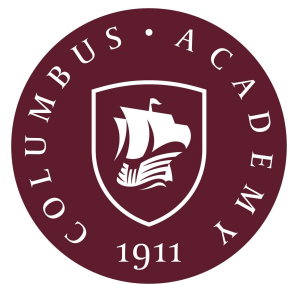
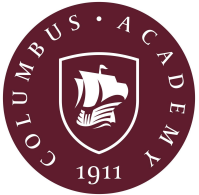


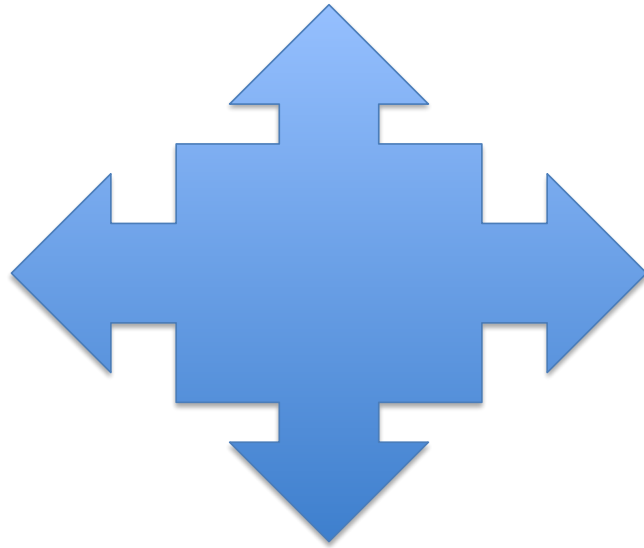
# **College Counseling Parent Coffee:**

Standardized Testing  
January 2020





What are some things that  
standardized test **CANNOT** measure?





What are some things that  
standardized test **CANNOT** measure?





## SAT/ACT – How important are these tests?

Importance of Various Factors in the Admission Decision: First-Time Freshmen

	Percentage of Colleges Rating As:			
	Considerably Important	Moderately Important	Limited Importance	Not Important
Grades in All Courses	74.5	15.0	5.5	5.0
Grades in College Prep Courses	73.2	16.8	5.9	4.1
Strength of Curriculum	62.1	21.9	8.7	7.3
Admission Test Scores (SAT, ACT)	45.7	37.1	12.2	5.0
Essay or Writing Sample	23.2	33.2	24.1	19.5
Student's Demonstrated Interest	16.1	23.9	28.0	32.1
Counselor Recommendation	15.1	40.4	26.6	17.9
Teacher Recommendation	14.2	40.2	26.5	19.2
Class Rank	9.1	29.1	34.1	27.7
Extracurricular Activities	6.4	42.9	32.0	18.7
Portfolio	6.4	11.9	26.9	54.8
Subject Test Scores (AP, IB)	5.5	18.3	35.2	41.1
Interview	5.5	16.4	28.3	49.8
Work	4.1	28.6	36.9	30.4
State Graduation Exam Scores	2.3	8.7	18.8	70.2
SAT II Scores	1.9	5.6	14.8	77.8

Source: NACAC Admission Trends Survey, 2018-19.

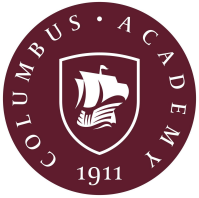


## How important is test prep?



From the CA College Counseling survey to seniors, students voted for *these* factors as “highly important” in their college process:

- ◆ Individual Meetings with your College Counselor.....99%
- ◆ Common Application Workshops for Seniors in August.....95%
- ◆ Test Prep: SAT/ACT Class or Tutor.....88%
- ◆ College Counseling Class.....85%



# When to prep? When to test?

Grade 10 students will receive **individualized advice** about this during their Academic Planning Conference in April



### 2019-2020 Test Dates

When registering for ACT/SAT, Columbus Academy's CEEB Code is 361525  
Note: registration will take 30-45 minutes

SAT Register at <a href="https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register">https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register</a>	
SAT Date	Registration Deadline
August 24, 2019	July 26, 2109
October 5, 2019	Sept 6, 2109
November 2, 2019	Oct 3, 2109
December 7, 2019	Nov 8, 2109
March 14, 2020	Feb 14, 2020
May 2, 2020	Apr 3, 2020
June 6, 2020	May 8, 2020

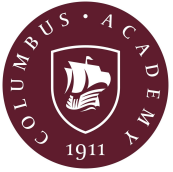
ACT Register at <a href="http://www.actstudent.org">http://www.actstudent.org</a>	
ACT Date	Registration Deadline
Sept 14, 2019	Aug 16, 2019
Oct 26, 2019	Sept 20, 2019
Dec 14, 2019	Nov 8, 2019
Feb 8, 2020	Jan 10, 2020
April 4, 2020	Feb 28, 2020
June 13, 2020	May 8, 2020
July 18, 2020	June 19, 2020

**In-school Test Dates**

• PSAT/NMSQT (Gr 10-11)	Wed, Oct 16, 2019	CA Registers students
• SAT School Day (Gr 11)	Tues, Apr 14, 2020	CA Registers students
• AP Exams 2020 (Gr 9-12)	May 4 - May 15	Students register in class by Nov 1st

Handout on tables

In general, no prep before the summer that precedes Grade 11 and **no SAT/ACT necessary before fall of junior year**



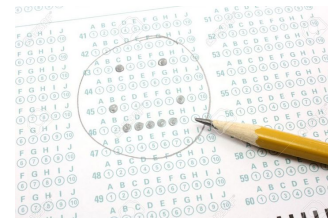
# Terminology

- PSAT
- SAT
- ACT
- SAT Subject Tests
- AP Exams
- Test Optional
- Score Choice

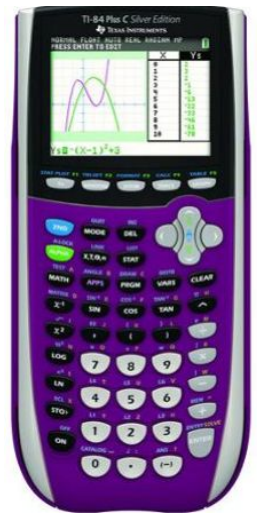




# PSAT



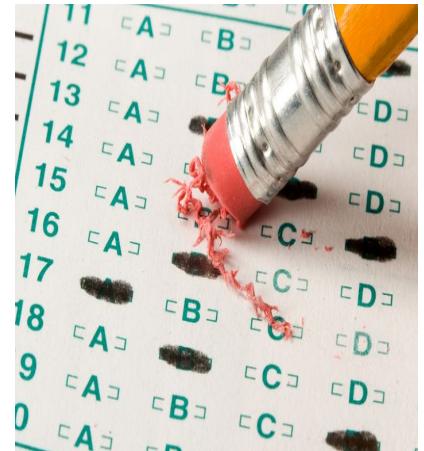
- College Board “Understanding your PSAT scores” (video)
- Given to grades 10 & 11 at Columbus Academy in October as practice for the SAT
- Avg. PSAT for juniors at CA (Fall ‘19) = 1226
- Highest Possible Selection Index score = 228
- National Merit Recognition (announced in Sept.)
  - *Last year* for OH, 219+ = NM Semifinalist
  - Different states have different cutoffs
- Grade 11 score can qualify a student for NM





# SAT v. ACT

- Colleges will take *either* the SAT or ACT for admission. **No preference.**
- Very few colleges/universities require the writing section
  - Note: Those who currently require it have talked about dropping it
- On average, CA students take an exam 2-3 times, beginning in 11th grade
- Register on-line
  - [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)
  - [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)
- College Counseling office can provide fee waivers
- **Average ACT Composite at CA = 29**
- **Average SAT Total at CA = 1325**
- Test Prep – consider your options
  - BWS class at CA (see handout)
  - RevolutionPrep.com (see handout)
  - Private Tutoring (Princeton Review Premier Tutors, Kaplan, etc.)
  - **FREE** On-line SAT prep via **Khan Academy** - link to student's PSAT





# College Board + Khan Academy

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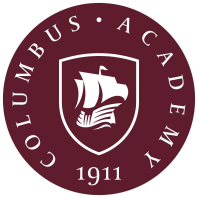
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Get constant feedback and progress so you know where you stand



## Recent News and Changes

- SAT and ACT -- Do NOT take the writing section
  - unless applying to UC schools, and U.S. Military Academy (West Point)
- Option coming (Fall 2020) to retake ACT by sections- stay tuned as we monitor this development
- Test Optional admission gaining traction but we still recommend all CA students take ACT/SAT tests



## How do I know which score is better?

### CONCORDANCE: ACT to SAT

#### SAT/ACT Concordance Chart

ACT COMP	SAT TOTAL	SAT RANGE	ACT COMP	SAT TOTAL	SAT RANGE
36	1590	1570–1600	22	1110	1100–1120
35	1540	1530–1560	21	1080	1060–1090
34	1500	1490–1520	20	1040	1030–1050
33	1460	1450–1480	19	1010	990–1020
32	1430	1420–1440	18	970	960–980
31	1400	1390–1410	17	930	920–950
30	1370	1360–1380	16	890	880–910
29	1340	1330–1350	15	850	830–870
28	1310	1300–1320	14	800	780–820
27	1280	1260–1290	13	760	730–770
26	1240	1230–1250	12	710	690–720
25	1210	1200–1220	11	670	650–680
24	1180	1160–1190	10	630	620–640
23	1140	1130–1150	9	590	590–610



# SAT Subject Tests



- Each exam is one hour
- Student **may** take up to 3 on a test day
- Available in Math, Science, English, History, Languages
- Required by very few colleges
  - Declining market share
  - Less than 20% of Academy students take these
  - Check [www.compassprep.com/compass-guide](http://www.compassprep.com/compass-guide)
  - Ask during campus visit or check college's website
  - However, this is a way for students to demonstrate their mastery on a national level of a subject



## How many schools **REQUIRE** Subject Tests?

Cal Tech

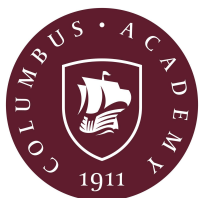
Harvey Mudd

MIT

} 3



Yes, if you are confident that you can score high (at least 700+) and demonstrate your mastery.



# Preparing for SAT Subject Tests

[SAT Subject Tests](#) [About](#) [Subjects](#) [Register](#) [Taking the Tests](#) [Scores](#) [For Educators](#) [Important Dates](#)

Example

## Mathematics Level 2 Subject Test

### Subjects

#### Mathematics

- Math Level 1
- Math Level 2

#### Science

English

#### History

#### Languages

### Introduction

The Mathematics Level 2 Subject Test covers the same material as the Mathematics Level 1 test – with the addition of trigonometry and elementary functions (precalculus). If you performed well in these courses, taking this test gives you the opportunity to highlight your abilities and showcase your interest in higher-level mathematics.

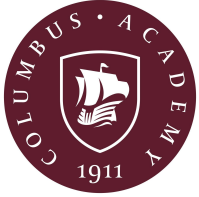
[➔ Start practicing](#)

### Important Notes

- Offered in Oct., Nov., Dec., Jan., May and June
- Calculator use permitted. See [calculator policy](#), including what calculators are acceptable.

### Test Basics

[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)



# Score Choice

- Not all colleges and universities participate in Score Choice
- Some schools (esp. those with low admit rates) will require a student to send **all** SATs

SAT	Grade	Evidence Based Reading & Writing	Reading Test	Writing Test	Mathematics	Math Test	Total
	11	690	32	37	710	35.5	1400
	11	730	36	37	650	32.5	1380

ACT	Math	Reading	Science	Writing	ELA <i>i</i>	STEM <i>i</i>	Composite	Date	Grade
English									
24	23	26	20	24	25	22	23	Dec 2015	11
30	25	22	24	23	25	25	25	Apr 2016	11
29	25	32	24	24	28	25	28	Apr 2016	11



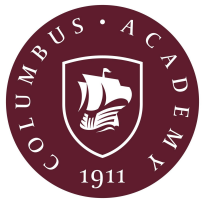
# What is Super Scoring?

SAT	Grade	Evidence Based Reading & Writing	Reading Test	Writing Test	Mathematics	Math Test	Total
	11	690	32	37	710	35.5	1400
	11	730	36	37	650	32.5	1380

ACT	Math	Reading	Science	Writing	ELA <i>i</i>	STEM <i>i</i>	Composite	Date	Grade
English									
24	23	26	20	24	25	22	23	Dec 2015	11
30	25	22	24	23	25	25	25	Apr 2016	11
29	25	32	24	24	28	25	28	Apr 2016	11

To “superscore” SAT, simply add two highest sections

To “superscore” ACT, add four subsections (not Writing) and divide by 4

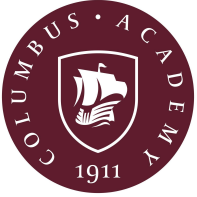


## High Scores in Context

Score	# of Students
36	3,741
35	14,928
34	21,836
33	26,930

} 40,505 scored 34+

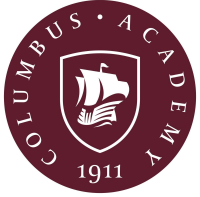
**In Columbus Academy's Class of 2020,  
16 students scored at 34+ on the ACT.  
5 of the 16 students scored a perfect 36.**



## Test Optional Colleges

- Over 1000 schools do not require an SAT or ACT score from applicants
- **Examples:** Bowdoin, Wake Forest, Hamilton, Holy Cross, Denison, Bates, Mount Holyoke, University of Chicago
- More emphasis on academic performance
- Complete list at **[www.fairtest.org](http://www.fairtest.org)**

**FairTest**  
The National Center for Fair and Open Testing

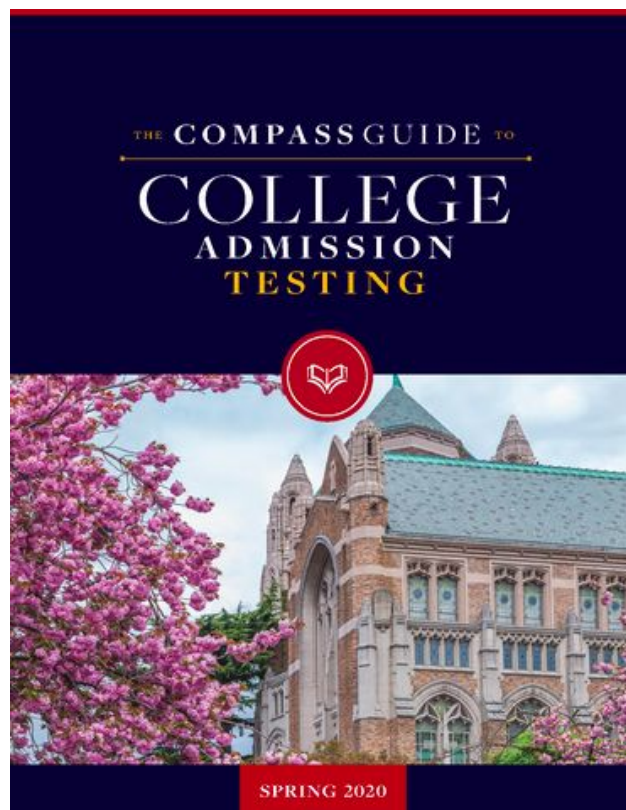


# AP Exams

- Registration is now in the fall
  - allows access to online study tools such as the AP Question Bank for students/teachers
- Student may choose to self-report scores from these exams to colleges (there is a place for this on the Common Application)
- These tests are not required, but they are another way to demonstrate mastery on a national level



# RESOURCES



<https://www.compassprep.com/compass-guide/>



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With a Single Action, Eagles Quarterback Nick Foles Just Showed Us What True Leadership Looks Like on.inc.com/RRabP9k

**Academy CollCounsel** @Vikings2College · 7h  
Join us for our first Parent Coffee tomorrow, Jan 16, at 8:00 a.m. in the Dining Hall.  
Topic: Standardized Testing

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