

Junior Year

Credit History, Courses needed to graduate, Course selection 12th Grade

• Take the SAT and ACT – SLHS Code – 443727

ACT Test Dates – 2020			SAT Test Dates - 2020		
Test Date	Regular Deadline	Late Fee Required	Test Date	Regular Deadline	Late Registration
April 4	February 28	February 29-March 13	May 2	April 3	April 14 (online/phone)
June 13	May 8	May 9-22	June 6	May 8	May 19 (online/phone)
July 18	June 19	June 20-26			
Register online for the ACT at www.act.org			Register online for the SAT at www.collegeboard.com		

- Consider Test prep for SAT/ACT – Test prep information is available in the Counselor’s office and on the SLHS Counselor’s webpage <https://tinyurl.com/y9ar7kae>
- Long Star College has free SAT test prep – <http://www.lonestar.edu/testprep.htm>
- Visit *Family Connections/Naviance*. See access information on the page following.
 - **Summer School Dates:** 1st Semester (June 1 – June 11) 2nd Semester (June 15 – June 30)
- For registration info: <https://tinyurl.com/yc2yojdg>
- Online Courses – Katy Virtual School application for the summer, fall, and spring will begin February 1st. Please go online at <https://tinyurl.com/javr5cf> to apply. Seniors must have all online courses finished by December of senior year.
- STAAR – US History, May 5, 2020
- AP Testing – Registration: January 15, 2020 at 7:00 a.m. – February 16, 2020 at 11:59 p.m.
 - Register and pay for AP Exams online at www.TotalRegistration.net/AP/443727
- AP Test Dates: May 4 – 8 and May 11 – 15, 2020
- Dual Credit – meeting was held on January 29, 2020 at Tompkins High School.
- Visit SLHS Counselors’ website for information on college visits, summer opportunities, scholarships. <https://tinyurl.com/y9ar7kae>
- Applying to Texas Public Schools: www.applytexas.org
Private schools and out-of-state: <https://succeed.naviance.com/auth/signin> or www.commonapp.org
- Prepare for Senior Year:
 - Keep up your portfolio of achievements.
 - Decide which teachers and others you would like to write your senior year recommendation letter.
 - Attend college fairs in your area.
 - Schedule visits to your top five college picks
 - Continue to take advantage of summer academic programs and jobs.
- College Visits – Students can request two (2) excused visits junior year and two (2) senior year. Forms can be found in the attendance office and require a two-week advance notice and are subject to AP approval.



How to Apply to College... The Seven Lakes Way

Step One: Visit your chosen **university website** to view their application process. This can typically be found under their Freshman or Undergraduate Admissions tab. It is important for you to read everything about how to apply. Create a checklist to make sure you send in everything that is required. Every college and university is different so you need to check this for each one you are planning to apply. Many colleges have a minimum SAT/ACT score that must be met depending on your class rank/GPA. You can often find these charts on their admissions page. If you do not meet these criteria, there is less of a chance for you to get into that college.

Step Two: You will need to **apply** in one of the following ways:

<u>Apply Texas</u>	<u>Common Application</u>	<u>College-specific Application</u>
1. Visit ApplyTexas.org and complete the application as instructed. 2. Request an official transcript to be sent through the Registrar's Office.	1. Visit Commonapp.org and complete application as instructed. 2. Be sure to enter your counselor's email address. 3. You MUST submit a recommendation request along with your personal data sheet because your counselor will have to submit a letter of recommendation. Your counselor will also upload your transcript	1. Complete application as instructed by your college. 2. Request a transcript through the Registrar's Office.

There is also a way to apply through a program known as Coalition. If given a choice, we would recommend that you choose something other than Coalition. Coalition is somewhat similar to Common App listed above.

Step Three: For nearly all schools, you will need to **submit SAT or ACT scores**. To send SAT scores, please visit collegeboard.org. To send ACT scores, please visit act.org. Each college is different in whether they want to see all of your scores or not. Some colleges do something called super score where they only consider your top scores from each section of the test. You can find out what your college requires when you visit their admissions site.

Step Four: Submit all **supplemental materials** as requested by your college. These can include: **Letters of Recommendation**, any portfolio materials needed for certain arts and music programs, or additional documents. If your class rank is in the 4th quarter of your class, it is highly recommended to submit all supplementary materials possible even if they are not required.

For Letters of Recommendation: Please submit a **Counselor's Request Form** along with your completed and detailed personal data sheet in the Counseling Office if you need a Recommendation Letter. You must allow **21 BUSINESS days** for a counselor or teacher to complete the request. It is highly recommended to always give Thank You Notes, especially to your teachers.

Letter of Recommendation Request

College Applications, Recommendations, Scholarships

You must give **no less than** 21 SCHOOL days **prior to** the deadline date.
(Applications received less than **21 school** days, cannot be guaranteed to be received by the institution by the deadline).

Student Name: _____

RELEASE

I waive the right to access or see any recommendations submitted and grant permission for information to be sent directly to the College/Scholarship on my behalf.

Student Signature (required): _____

Check All That Apply:

Apply Texas/Private Schools/Scholarships

(You must request a Transcript via the Registrars' Office – <http://tinyurl.com/y4axufwl>)

- I need a Counselor's Rec Letter for the following College/Scholarships:

- I have sent the Electronic Invitation to my Counselor's email (UT Austin, A&M, Texas Tech).

Common Application

(You must have sent an invitation to your Counselor's email via Common App)

- I have confirmed receipt of invitation with my Counselor.
- I need a Counselor Recommendation Letter & Transcript

Complete Paper Documentation Application (ex. Send EDU/Scholarships)

- Please complete the attached School/scholarship application form.

WHAT CAN STUDENTS AND PARENTS DO USING FAMILY CONNECTION/NAVIANCE?

Full Naviance Presentation is located on the Counselors' Webpage.

- ❖ View guidance news bulletins
- ❖ Create a résumé
- ❖ View college visits and sign up
- ❖ Complete a college search
- ❖ Develop a prospective college list
- ❖ Search for scholarships; over a hundred national scholarships are available
- ❖ Maintain journal entries
- ❖ Take the many surveys available for Career Searches, Learning Styles, etc...
- ❖ Compare colleges, visit college websites
- ❖ Links to selected third party resources
(i.e. College Board, Financial Aid, NCAA, Careers, College searches, etc.)
- ❖ Track deadlines

Full Naviance Presentation is located on the Counselors' Webpage.

<http://www.katyisd.org/campus/SLHS/Pages/Counselors.aspx>

HOW IS NAVIANCE ACCESSED

- Family Connection is web-based**
- If you need help accessing Family Connection, please contact Mrs. Janda @ TheresaLJanda@Katyisd.org**
- Students can access via My Katy Cloud. <http://www.katyisd.org/mykaty/Pages/default.aspx>**



- Login using your Katy ISD login and password.**
- Type Naviance into the search area**

YOUR CAREER CONNECTION

EXAMPLES OF CAREERS RELATED TO ACADEMIC SUBJECT AREAS

ENGLISH

Includes Speech

- Actor
- Advertising Copywriter
- College/University Faculty
- Dramatist (Playwright)
- Editor
- Educational Administrator
- Historian
- Lawyer
- Legal Assistant/Paralegal
- Librarian
- Library Technician
- Movie/TV Director
- Public Relations Specialist
- Radio/TV Announcer/Newscaster
- Reporter/Journalist
- Reporter/Journalist
- Speech-Language Pathologist
- Teacher
- Technical Writer
- Writer/Author

MATH

Includes Computer Science/Math

- Account Executive
- Accountant
- Air Traffic Controller
- Architect
- Astronaut
- Bank Branch Manager
- Building/Constr. Inspector
- Buyer
- College/University Faculty
- Computer Network Specialist
- Computer Programmer
- Computer Systems Analyst
- Electrical/Electronics
- Engineer
- Financial Services Sales Rep
- Food Service Manager
- Hotel/Motel Manager
- Human Resources Manager
- Industrial Designer
- Insurance Claim Representative
- Insurance Risk Manager
- Loan Officer/Counselor
- Market Research Analyst
- Mathematician
- Meteorologist
- Oceanographer
- Physicist
- Real Estate Agent
- Retail Store Manager
- Sales/Marketing Manager
- Tax Accountant
- Teacher
- Tool and Die Maker
- Travel Agent
- Web site Developer

SOCIAL STUDIES

Includes Economics and Psychology

- Anthropologist
- College/University Faculty
- Counselor (School/College)
- Criminologist
- Economist
- Educational Administrator
- FBI Agent
- Foreign Service Officer
- Geographer
- Gerontologist
- Historian
- Human resources Manager
- Human Services Worker
- Lawyer
- Legal/Assistant/Paralegal
- Librarian
- Lobbyist
- Market Research Analyst
- Park Ranger
- Parole Officer
- Political Scientist
- Private Detective/Investigator
- Psychologist/Clinical
- Recreation Leader
- Reporter/Journalist
- Social Worker
- Sociologist
- Teacher
- Travel Guide
- Urban Planner

NATURAL SCIENCE

- Aircraft Technician
- Animal Scientist
- Astronomer
- Athletic Trainer
- Biochemist
- Biologist
- Botanist
- Broadcast Technician
- Chemist
- Civil Engineer
- College/University Faculty
- Dental Hygienist
- Dentist
- Dietician/Nutritionist
- Ecologist
- Fish and Game Warden
- Food and Drug Inspector
- Forester
- Funeral Director
- Geologist
- Horticulturist
- Medical Records Admin.
- Medical Technologist
- Meteorologist
- Nuclear Medicine Tech.
- Nurse
- Occupational Therapist
- Oceanographer
- Optometrist
- Pharmacologist
- Physical Therapist
- Physician
- Physicist
- Physiologist
- Psychiatrist
- Radiographer
- Respiratory Therapist
- Speech-Language Pathologist
- Teacher
- Veterinarian
- Zoologist

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

- Archivist/Curator
- College/University Faculty
- Editor
- Flight Attendant
- Foreign Service Officer
- Foreign Trade Clerk
- Interpreter
- Nurse
- Police Officer
- Public Relations Specialist
- Singer
- Social Worker
- Teacher
- Technical Writer
- Travel Agent
- Travel Guide
- Welfare Eligibly worker

FINE ART

Includes Art, Music & Drama/Theater

- Actor
- Advertising Manager
- Architect
- Artist
- Cartoonist
- Cinematographer
- College/University Faculty
- Composer
- Dancer/Choreographer
- Dramatist(Playwright)
- Fashion Designer
- Floral Designer
- Gi
- Illu
- Ini
- Je
- Landscape Architect
- Movie/TV Director
- Musician
- Photographer
- Singer
- Teacher Video/Film Editor
- Web Site Developer



Timeline for Juniors

College Planning

The College application process can be confusing. It is our hope that you will contact us often as we attempt to guide you through the paper work over the next few months. We recommend that students and their parents/guardians meet with the guidance counselor during junior year to formulate a plan of action and keep in close contact during the senior year. The following list provides you with some of the steps students and their parents/guardians will go through over the next few months.

Spring

1. Juniors should register to take the SAT 1 and ACT this semester. Many students will repeat these exams during the fall of their senior year. Registration is online.
2. Juniors should meet with their counselor to discuss researching colleges or any colleges they are currently considering. Parents are encouraged to call the counselor and attend this individual planning session.
3. Students and parents should make college visits during the spring and summer of junior year and the fall of senior year. Students who currently don't have any specific colleges in mind should visit some local colleges. This often helps students to determine which characteristics are important to them and ultimately helps them to develop a final list of colleges.

Summer

4. Students should write or call colleges to request applications and catalogs. They can also be requested through the INTERNET.
5. Students should write a draft of their personal statement and begin essays over the summer.
6. Students may want to take a Test prep class to improve their scores.
7. Students should read their college applications to determine if they need to take SAT 2.
8. Students are able to register for the fall SAT or ACT online.

Fall

9. Students should register for the fall SAT or ACT. Students who meet federal eligibility can receive a fee waiver.
10. Students who are applying for Early Action/Decision must notify their counselor and teachers as soon as they return to school in the fall. Counselor and teachers need three weeks' notice prior to the application deadline.
11. Students, parents/guardians and counselors should meet and develop a final list of colleges and determine if further SAT testing is needed.
12. In the fall of senior year, students must provide the counselors with the final list of colleges, the application deadline dates and any secondary school report and midyear forms found in the college applications.
13. Students must provide teacher who write letters of recommendation with a list of the colleges and the application deadline dates.
14. Students must provide their counselor with personal information to be used as a guide for writing a letter of recommendation. There are forms in the Counselors' office and on the Counselors' webpage.
15. Students must ask two academic teachers to write a letter of recommendation for them. The letter should reflect the students' abilities with the class and contain anecdotes.
16. Students, who have college application deadlines on January 1, 2021, must notify their counselor and teachers by November 8, 2020. Requests for transcripts and recommendations after this date cannot be guaranteed to be mailed prior to the December vacation.
17. Students who are hoping to play sports at a Division I or II College must register with the NCAA clearing house. The athletics office has the necessary forms. Students should register at the end of junior year or the start of senior year.
18. Students are responsible for submitting their applications and having their SAT scores sent to colleges.
19. Guidance Counselors are responsible for submitting the high school transcript, letter of recommendation and secondary school report forms as requested by students.
20. In general, teachers should be provided with stamped envelopes to mail their letter of recommendation. Students should ask their teachers to send a copy of the letter to be placed in the student's college file.

Attention Counselors!

Your Cheat Sheet for the PSAT® Score Report Is Here

Congratulations! Another year's PSAT is successfully behind you. Your next challenge? Analyzing the new PSAT score reports. We can help. Here are the most important parts of the score report.

The Scores that Pack a Punch

The Big Three

When your students take the SAT®, schools will be looking at their:

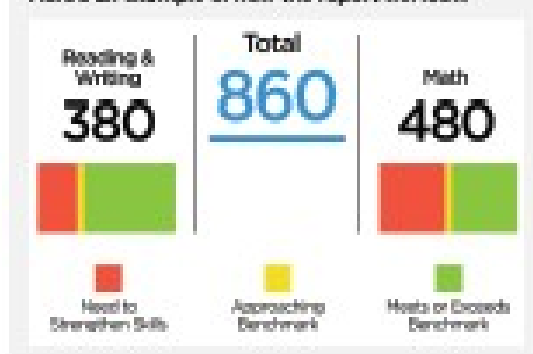
- Total Score
- Reading & Writing Score
- Math Score

The PSAT is scored on the same scoring rubric, but a different scale, as the real SAT. The PSAT is on a scale of 160-760 for each section (320-1520 total); the SAT is on a scale of 200-800 for each section (800-1600 total). Your students' total PSAT score and percentile will give you (and them!) a good idea of where they currently stand in terms of being prepared for the SAT.

National Percentile

The percentile compares your student to everyone else who took the PSAT during that test date. A 90th percentile score means a student scored higher than 90% of the students who took the PSAT on that particular administration.

Here's an example of how the report will look:



Translate your students' PSAT scores for the New SAT®

PSAT	SAT
760	800
750	790
740	780
730	770
720	760
710	750
700	740
690	730
680	720
670	710
660	700
650	690
640	680
630	670
620	660
610	650
600	640
590	630
580	620
570	610
560	600
550	590
540	580
530	570
520	560
510	550
500	540
490	530
480	520
470	510
460	500
450	490
440	480
430	470
420	460
410	450
400	440
390	430
380	420
370	410



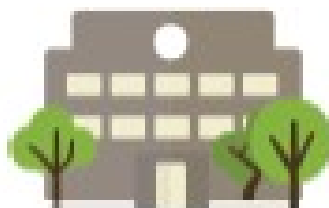
Focus on Colors and Skip the Numbers

The PSAT score report has many different numbers and scales. Your students should ignore the actual numerical scores and focus instead on the College Board's color coding system. *Scan for color—green is good!*

Cross-Test and Subcores can help you deep-dive into what your students need to focus on, but overall the total score and section scores will give you a good sense of where your students stand.

National Merit Scholarship Corporation Selection Index

This is not the same number you may be familiar with from years past. The Selection Index is now calculated by combining the three sub-test scores and multiplying by two. Sophomores who have an Index above 100 may want to consider prepping if they want to be considered for the National Merit scholarship next year.



NEXT STEPS: Take the Real Thing

The PSAT is great practice for the SAT, but it's the real SAT (or the ACT*) that's going to impact your student's chances of getting into their dream college. Higher scores mean a better chance at admission and more scholarship dollars.

Our experts are ready to lend a hand and help you and your students take a detailed look at their scores and build a plan for the rest of high school. **For more information or to arrange a scores analysis workshop for your students, give us a call at 713-360-3160 or email me at Lashawn.Hccoy@princetonreview.com.**

The Princeton Review Can Help You Reach Your Goals

For more than 30 years, students and their families have trusted The Princeton Review to help them get into their dream schools. Our proven methodology gives you test-taking strategies and a guaranteed better score.* With a range of options, including one-on-one private tutoring, semi-private and traditional classes, and online prep, The Princeton Review offers the flexibility to fit your schedule and learning style.



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*Restrictions apply. Visit PrincetonReview.com/Guarantee for details. *This chart represents how a student might score on the SAT based solely on a conversion of his or her current PSAT score to the equivalent SAT score. Results from PSAT to SAT administration will vary and there is no guarantee of a student's performance based on a student's current PSAT score. Test names are the trademarks of their respective owners, who are not affiliated with The Princeton Review. National Merit is a registered trademark of National Merit Scholarship Corporation, which is not affiliated with The Princeton Review. The Princeton Review is not affiliated with Princeton University. PRPTFL1502_23

SAT vs ACT

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

Colleges accept both tests equally, so the choice is up to you! The ACT and SAT generally test the same types of content. The biggest differences are that the ACT has a Science Test and the SAT has one Math section for which you cannot use a calculator.

ACT vs SAT: How Do I Choose?

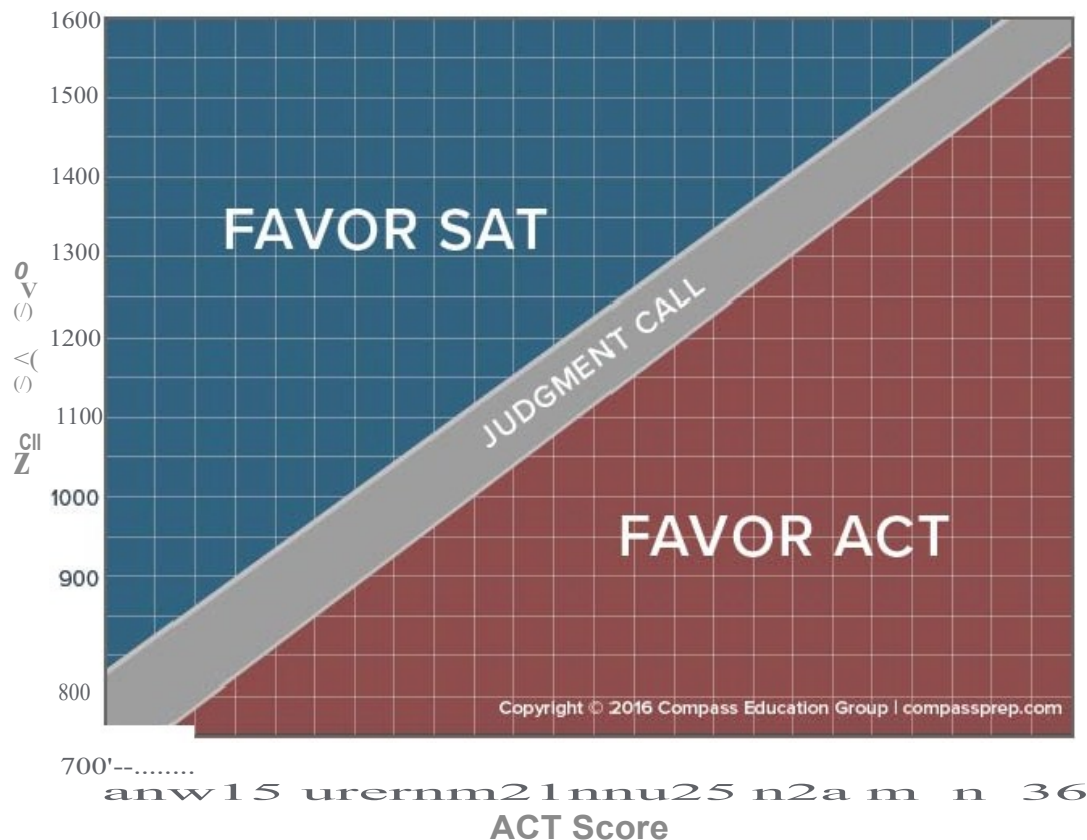
The best way to decide which test is right for you is to take a timed full-length practice test in each. Since the content and style of the SAT and ACT are very similar, factors like how you handle time pressure and what types of questions you find most challenging can help you determine which test is a better fit.

Here's what you need to know to compare the exams.

	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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading• Writing & Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• English• Math• Reading
Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Math<input type="checkbox"/> Essay (Optional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Science Reasoning
Length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> 3 hours (without essay)<input type="checkbox"/> 3 hours, 50 minutes (with essay)	Essay (Optional) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 hours, 55 minutes (without essay)• 3 hours, 40 minutes (with essay)
Reading	5 reading passages	4 reading passages
Science	None	1 science section testing your critical thinking skills (not your specific science knowledge)
Math	Covers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arithmetic• Algebra I & II• Geometry, Trigonometry and Data Analysis	Covers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arithmetic• Algebra I & II• Geometry and Trigonometry
Calculator Policy	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

Comparing SAT and ACT Scores

New concordance tables are out! But what do they mean? And how can scores help students determine whether the SAT or ACT should be favored?



IF YOUR SAT SCORE IS:

36	<1550	1550-1600	
35	<1520	1520-1590	>1590
34	<1490	1490-1560	>1560
33	<1450	1450-1550	>1550
32	<1420	1420-1510	>1510
31	<1390	1390-1480	>1480
30	<1350	1350-1440	>1440
29	<1310	1310-1410	>1410
28	<1280	1280-1380	>1380
27	<1240	1240-1340	>1340
26	<1200	1200-1300	>1300
25	<1160	1160-1270	>1270
24	<1130	1130-1230	>1230
23	<1100	1100-1190	>1190
22	<1060	1060-1150	>1150
21	<1020	1020-1120	>1120
20	<980	980-1090	>1090
19	<940	940-1050	>1050
18	<900	900-1010	>1010
17	<860	860-970	>970
16	<810	810-930	>930
15	<770	770-890	>890
14	<720	720-840	>840
13	<680	680-800	>800
12	<620	620-740	>740

Compass has analyzed available research and concordances to create a comparison tool in both chart (above) and table (right) forms. Although many students will find that their SAT and ACT scores intersect somewhere in the gray "Judgment Call" band, some may discover that one test is actually better suited to their skills.

Instructions

In the table to the right, find the row with your ACT score in the left column and then find the column that contains your SAT score; determine whether you should favor the SAT or ACT or whether your scores are close enough that you should make a Judgment call based on additional circumstances.

Source

College Board and ACT concordances for SAT and ACT; Compass data analysis and research

CONCORDANCE: SAT to ACT

1600	2390	36	1200	1670	25	800	1060	14
1590	2370	35	1190	1650	24	790	1040	14
1580	2350	35	1180	1640	24	780	1030	14
1570	2330	35	1170	1620	24	770	1010	14
1560	2300	35	1160	1610	24	760	990	14
1550	2280	34	1150	1590	23	750	980	13
1540	2260	34	1140	1570	23	740	960	13
1530	2230	34	1130	1560	23	730	950	13
1520	2210	34	1120	1540	22	720	930	13
1510	2190	33	1110	1530	22	710	910	12
1500	2170	33	1100	1510	22	700	900	12
1490	2150	33	1090	1490	21	690	880	12
1480	2130	32	1080	1480	21	680	870	12
1470	2110	32	1070	1460	21	670	860	12
1460	2090	32	1060	1450	21	660	850	12
1450	2080	32	1050	1430	20	650	840	12
1440	2060	31	1040	1420	20	640	830	12
1430	2040	31	1030	1400	20	630	820	12
1420	2020	31	1020	1390	20	620	810	11
1410	2000	30	1010	1370	19	610	800	11
1400	1990	30	1000	1360	19	600	790	11
1390	1970	30	990	1340	19	590	780	11
1380	1950	29	980	1330	19	580	770	11
1370	1930	29	970	1310	18	570	760	11
1360	1920	29	960	1300	18	560	750	11
1350	1900	29	950	1280	18	550	740	
1340	1880	28	940	1270	18	540	730	
1330	1870	28	930	1250	17	530	730	
1320	1850	28	920	1240	17	520	720	
1310	1840	28	910	1220	17	510	710	
1300	1820	27	900	1210	17	500	700	
1290	1810	27	890	1200	16	490	690	
1280	1790	27	880	1180	16	480	680	
1270	1780	26	870	1170	16	470	670	
1260	1760	26	860	1150	16	460	660	
1250	1750	26	850	1140	15	450	650	
1240	1730	26	840	1120	15	440	640	
1230	1710	25	830	1110	15	430	630	



36	1600	2390
35	1570	2330
34	1540	2260
33	1500	2170
32	1470	2110
31	1430	2040
30	1400	1990
29	1360	1920
28	1320	1850
27	1290	1810
26	1260	1760
25	1220	1700
24	1180	1640
23	1140	1570
22	1110	1530
21	1070	1460
20	1030	1400
19	990	1340
18	950	1280
17	910	1220
16	870	1170
15	830	1110
14	780	1030
13	740	960
12	680	870
11	590	780

For lower scores, there is not enough data to produce a valid concordance between new SAT and ACT scores.

Concordances based on College Board's concordance tables, released May 9, 2016, and Compass' an

How to Improve Your SAT Scores and ACT Scores?

Applying to college? Odds are, you'll have to take one of two standardized tests: the ACT or SAT. You might even consider [taking both](#). Along with your grades and rigor of your high school classes, standardized test scores are one of the most important components in your [college application](#).

It might seem unfair that a little less than four hours on a single Saturday morning counts as much as four years of hard work. We understand, and we're here to help. You CAN raise your score, and a little preparation will go a long way.

What do you need to improve your score on the ACT or SAT?

1. the score you have
2. the score you want
3. a plan to close the gap

The Score You Have

Take a [practice test](#) and take it seriously. Mimic the test environment to the best of your ability. Do each section in order and time yourself. Take a short break if you need to, but don't stop for lunch. The ACT and SAT are endurance tests.

Consider that score your baseline. This is the score you would earn if you showed up at the exam site today.

The Score You Want

Hopefully, you have [a list of schools where you want to apply](#), even if you think you might change it later. Compare your practice test score with the average scores of the most recent freshman class.

Unless your score far exceeds the average at all of your prospective schools, you'll want to dedicate some time to prepping before you take an official test. Improving your score by even a hundred points on the SAT or 1 point on the ACT can significantly boost your chances of admission at many schools.

A Plan to Close the Gap

To improve your baseline score, you'll need to determine the problem.

You're careless Did you miss questions because you didn't read carefully? If so, you need to practice and drill.

You're crunched Did you miss questions because you ran out of time? If so, you need to work on pacing.

You're clueless Did you miss questions because you had no idea how to answer? If so, you need to focus on a content review.

School	1 st School	2 nd School	3 rd School	4 th School
Public/Private				
Founded				
Religious Affiliation				
Total Undergraduates				
Location				
City/State				
Setting				
Distance from Home (Miles)				
Academics				
Student to Faculty ratio				
Full-Time Faculty				
Classes with under 20 students				
Classes with 50+ students				
Average six-year graduation rate				
Cost				
Private tuition and fees				
Public in-state tuition and fees				
Public out-of-state tuition and fees				
Room/Board				
Financial Aid				
Students receiving:				
Need-based grants				
Need-based self-help aid				
Percent of need that was met				
Average financial aid package				
Average need-based grant				
Average need-based loan				
Admissions				
Selectivity				
Acceptance rate				
Number of applicants				
Average high school GPA				
SAT/ACT (25/75 percentile)				
Student Satisfaction				
Freshman retention rate				
Alumni giving rate				
Student body				
Diversity				
Fraternity members				
Sorority Members				
Students living off campus				
Off campus housing				
On campus housing				

College Planner Checklist

instructional and academic services:

1. What is the size of the average introductory class?

- 0-25 25-50 50-100 Over 100

2. Who teaches most introductory classes? full-time faculty member

- part-time faculty member graduate assistant

3. Are full-time faculty members available to students outside of class time? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- via e-mail telephone in person at their office
 in person elsewhere on campus other _____

4. Are part-time faculty members available to students outside of class? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- via e-mail telephone in person at their office
 in person elsewhere on campus other _____

5. How much are part-time faculty paid for teaching one course? \$ _____

6. Are part-time faculty paid for work outside the classroom? yes no

7. What technology is available on campus? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY) Wi-Fi computer labs

- IT services online courses other _____

8. Will a student be required to take a course that is partially totally online?

9. What percentage of students graduate on time?

- Less than 25% 25-50% 50-75% 75-100%

10. What percentage of students return for a second year?

- Less than 25% 25-50% 50-75% 75-100%

11. How can a student contact an academic advisor? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- Via e-mail online in person other _____

12. Are students required to meet with an academic adviser during their first year?

- yes no

13. On average, how many students is each academic adviser responsible for?

- 1-25 25-75 75-100 100-200 200 or more

14. Are students assigned a faculty adviser in their first year? yes no

15. How can a student contact career counselors or career services? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- via e-mail telephone online in person other _____

16. Are student required to meet with a career counselor during their first year?

yes no

17. On average, how many students is each career counselor responsible for?

1-25 25-75 75-100 100-200 200 or more

18. What academic services are available to help students succeed in their courses?

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY) tutors mentors writing center math lab

learning disability services other _____

Notes: _____

college life and services:

1. What kinds of groups are most active on campus? (Check all that apply.)

student government cultural activities pre-professional clubs

intramural athletics other _____

2. What types of on-campus housing are available to first-year students? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

dormitories suites apartments other

3. How many roommates can a first-year student expect to have?

1 2 3 4 5 or more

4. Is on-campus housing guaranteed for the entire length of enrollment? yes no

5. Is on-campus housing required for a specified period of time?

no 1 year 2 years entire length of enrollment

6. Are there any on-campus housing options that are grouped by interest? (e.g., major, foreign language, common interest, learning communities) yes no

7. What percentage of the student body identifies as: White ___%

African-American ___% Hispanic ___% Asian American ___%

Native American ___% International Students ___% Other ___%

8. What percentage of the student body identifies as: male ___% female ___%

9. What percentage of the faculty identify as:

- White ___% African-American ___% Hispanic ___%
 Asian American ___% Native American ___% Other ___%

10. What percentage of the faculty identify as: male ___% female ___%

11. Does the campus have services or student organization specifically geared toward

- (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY): LGBTQ students female students
 students with disabilities students of color international students?

12. What transportation is available to students? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- free on-campus transportation affordable and accessible off-campus transportation
 Is parking available? yes (if yes, cost \$_____) no

13. What medical and mental health services are available on campus? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- physicians pharmacy counselors women's health services
 nutrition and wellness

14. Is student health insurance: available required__?

campus safety:

What safety services are available? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- campus law enforcement coordinated with local law enforcement
 emergency call boxes around campus
 self-defense classes
 emergency safety training
 controlled access to dorms
 escorts to dorms at night
 other _____

Notes: _____



Don't forget!

Review your notes as soon as you can after you return home. Use the AFT "Just Ask! College Visit Summary Sheet" (available at www.aftface.org) to consolidate all your information and help you decide which college best suits your needs.



SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH WEBSITES

. . . with lots of other information on financing, applying, and preparing for a college education!

Scholly Scholarship Search Tool

www.myscholly.com

College Board

www.collegeboard.org

College Foundation of North America

www.cfnc.org

College Week Live

www.collegeweeklive.com

FinAid!

www.finaid.org

International Education Financial Aid

www.iefa.org

Micro Scholarship Search

www.raise.me

Cappex

www.cappex.com

College View

www.collegeview.com

Peterson's College Search

www.petersons.com/finaid/

Fast Web!

www.fastweb.com

COLLEGE INTERVIEW

Many colleges encourage you to interview with an admissions representative or alumnus as part of the college application process, either on campus or in your hometown. Admissions officers will consider the interview when evaluating your application (although they'll be much more interested in your grades, test scores, and essays). A few schools require interviews or have a specific process for them.

In most cases, the interview will not make or break you, but if you do arrange an interview, take it seriously. It's a chance to show off the unique personality traits you can bring to campus, and build a personal relationship with the admissions gatekeepers. Our college interview tips will help you get prepped for the big day.

Prepare specific questions.

Your interviewer will expect you to ask some questions about the school and talk about why you want to go there. Put some energy into coming up with creative questions with answers that cannot be easily found on the college's website

Practice like a prizefighter.

Being interviewed is a skill, and it requires practice. Sit down with one of your parents, a teacher or a friend and have him or her ask you their best college interview questions. Answer them honestly and seriously. Then ask your "interviewer" how you came across. You'll also get better after each college interview, so try to arrange your schedule so that your last interviews are with the schools you care about most.

Be yourself...

Remember, the key to getting admitted (and being happy at college) is matchmaking. You want to be yourself so that the person interviewing you can discern if you would be a good fit. Before your interview, think about why the school appeals to you, what you want to study, and what you might do after graduation.

You have many sides, so showcase the side of yourself that is professional, mature and poised. Don't show up looking like you just peeled yourself off the couch—wear what makes you feel comfortable and confident. Smile, and remember your interviewer wants the interview to go well too!

Stop worrying about the clock.

Most interviews run approximately 30 minutes to an hour. Students are sometimes told that the sign of a good interview is a long one. But on-campus interviews are usually scheduled back-to-back, and off-campus interviews are usually performed by alumni who are working professionals—so your interviewer is likely on a tight schedule. If you notice them checking the time, it's not (necessarily) because they think you're boring.

Be thankful.

Send a thank-you note. If there's something about the interview that was helpful to you, let your interviewer know. If you connected with your interviewer over a book, common experience, or band you're both into, then mention it!

Otherwise, simply express your continued interest in the school and thank your interviewer for taking the time to meet with you.

WHAT YOUR HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT SAYS ABOUT YOU

You're probably (painfully) aware that your high school transcript is a record of every grade you earned in high school – and that all of those grades are average to produce a single number, your cumulative GPA.

But admissions officers have their eyes on more than the bottom line. There are other things they examine to get a sense of what kind of college student you'll be.

Freshman Grades

In case you were thinking they weren't important, now you know otherwise. Your freshman grades make up (approximately) one-quarter of your cumulative high school GPA. If you tank freshman year, it will follow you for the next three years. (That includes art class, gym class, music class or anything for which you receive a grade).

Trends

Colleges expect your grades to be consistent or improve. If you received A's in Sophomore year, and C's in senior year, they will conclude that you are a capable student who became lazy.

Coursework

High school graduation requirements vary from school to school. Most students have the opportunity to take more classes (or credits) than are required to graduate. If you take only the minimum, colleges will conclude that you are doing least you must do to get by.

If you take extra classes (or credits) but they are soft-ball classes (like basket-weaving or calisthenics), this looks just as bad.

The best high school transcript will show consistent grades in a challenging course load with challenging classes. AP classes or advanced classes impress colleges and tell them that you are ready for college-level work.

EXTRACURRICULARS

We know you want to impress colleges with your accomplishments in the classroom, but your academics aren't the full picture to who you really are. Yes, colleges want bright students. But even more, they want bright, well-rounded students

Grades and test scores are very important, but so is what you choose to do on your own time. Admissions officers are looking to create a class made up of students with diverse interests and backgrounds. They'll look closely at your extracurriculars to get a sense of the person you are and what you care about.

How much you do isn't as important as being committed to what you do

A college application with scattered interest and involvement over four years looks flakey. A student that runs track and sings in the choir throughout four years of high school shows passion and commitment. Find out early on what sparks your interest and stick with it.

Demonstrate leadership

If you have the opportunity and drive to be the captain the tennis team, president of the French club, or editor of the school lit mag, seize the opportunity. Colleges like responsible leaders who earn the respect of their peers.

An after-school job shows maturity

Don't worry if an after-school job prevents you from participating in extracurriculars. If you have to work so that your family can make ends meet, be sure the colleges you apply to understand that. Helping to support a family is a serious responsibility that demonstrates character. And just as with extracurriculars, it's impressive if you retain a job for an extended period and rise to a position of responsibility.

Extracurriculars can be valuable experience

If you have a career goal or study interest that you can pursue outside the classroom, take advantage. Think you might be interested in medicine? Try volunteering at a local hospital. Are you destined to be a writer? Join your school's newspaper or yearbook. These activities can help give you a strong foundation should you decide to pursue them further, academically or professionally.

DECLARING BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

Senior year of high school is fraught with enough difficult questions. Now your prospective colleges want to know what you intend to study for the next four years.

Many students simply check the “undecided” box and wait to select their major until they get to college. Others declare a major on their application, only to switch in college as their interests change.

Most of the time, it doesn't matter. There are occasions, however, when waiting works against you. Some career-oriented programs such as engineering, education and business limit their enrollment. If you don't declare that major on your application, you'll find it difficult to get a spot later on.

Potential Admission Strategy?

Sometimes students declare a major within a less competitive program, fully intending to change once they are in the door. Beware: This can backfire.

Many universities are made up of different schools – a business school, an engineering school, and a school of arts and sciences, for example. If you want to switch majors from within the same school—say from English to philosophy within the school of arts and sciences—your transition should be fairly smooth. But you'll run into roadblocks when you attempt to transfer between schools—say from arts and sciences to business. These schools usually establish their own set of admissions criteria. A transcript that clinches a nursing school acceptance might not get you very far with the music school committee.

If a program you are considering is selective, talk to the admissions counselors at the school and discuss the feasibility of a transfer, should you change your mind.

Potential Money Strategy.

Some departments set aside money for students planning to study within their field. If you're leaning towards a major, but don't declare, you can lose out on a possible reward. On the other hand, if you declare a major and earn a scholarship but ultimately decide to pursue another discipline, you may see that handsome award package dwindle.

The best course of action: Ask about the rules and regulations of any award you receive for declaring a major.

The “Great” Compromise

How does a high school student know if she will have a passion for engineering? Or a head for business? We agree - - that's a lot to ask. And most schools recognize that even applicants who declare a major may not be one hundred percent sure.

Fortunately, some colleges make a provision for this uncertainty. They permit students to express their interest, but still allow them the opportunity to change their minds. “Undeclared engineering”, for example, is way you can straddle two academic spheres. You can begin focusing on the necessary coursework, but it's understood that you are still on the fence. Be sure to investigate whether your prospective colleges offer an undeclared option within your broader area of interest.

FREE RESOURCES FOR K-12 COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

<http://www.txcte.org/>

<http://gentx.org/>

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org>

www.fsapubs.gov

www.studentaid.gov

<http://www.texasworkprep.com/>

<http://www.texasrealitycheck.com>

www.princetonreview.com