College Info Night: ACT and SAT

Eric Hennes
School Counselor
March 29, 2022
Agenda

- ACT
- SAT
- Accommodations
- FAQs
ACT
ACT

Length: 3’ 25”
Content: E, M, R, S, optional essay
Scoring: 1-36 composite/subtests
0-12 optional essay
Fees: $60 & $85 w/essay
Site: www.actstudent.org
ACT since 2016

- **Reading**: integrates knowledge across different texts
- **Math**: has basic Prob/Stats
- **Other scores**: STEM, ELA, text complexity, and career readiness

- **4-Domain essay scores**:
  1. ideas & analysis
  2. development & support
  3. organization
  4. language use
SAT
The SAT is a very important test
Here, take it at 8 AM on Saturday

SAT

Length: 3’
Content: EBRW & Math
Fees: $55
Site: www.collegeboard.org
SAT

- 400-1600 (1 score)
- 200-800 (2 section scores)
- 10-40 (3 tests & 2 cross tests)
- 1-15 (7 subscores)
SAT Features

- **Focus** –
  - knowledge/skills relevant to college/career readiness
  - curriculum-based questions
- **Math** – w/ and w/out calculator
- **Guessing** – no penalty
"The perfect way for me to demonstrate what I've learned in school is a standardized test." - said no child ever
Accommodations
Accommodations

• Offered by both College Board (PSAT/SAT/AP) and ACT (PreACT/ACT)
• Vary per student dependent upon diagnosis, need, and use at school
• For questions or applications, empower student to see Mrs. Tompkins or his/her school counselor
Accommodations

- Ideally – 10th (for College Board)
  When testing (ACT)
- Different request processes
- 6-8 weeks before desired test date
- Need psycho-ed document w/ diagnosis and recommendations

- Age of doc – no older than 3yrs; adult versions for re-eval for college
- Show evidence of accomm. use at BMHS
- Students need self-awareness and empowerment to self-advocate
- Accommodation in college may vary in college; visit their offices when on tour
Frequently asked questions
FAQs

Testing schedule?

• Freshmen
  • PSAT/NMSQT fall; PreACT spring

• Sophomores
  • PSAT/NMSQT fall; PreACT spring

• Juniors
  • PSAT/NMSQT fall; ACT spring
    ACT/SAT (Aug-June, self-register & self-pay);

• Seniors
  • ACT/SAT as needed for apps/scholarships
FAQs

Take which and how often?
• Whichever is required
• Take as needed but diminishing return after 3x

Athletes and NCAA?
• Register with NCAA Eligibility Center
• Send them scores like any college
FAQs

Is ACT or SAT harder?
• No evidence either way
• Both are achievement tests
• Students should do both

Main difference?
• ACT – measures skills across a large domain
• SAT – will measure fewer skills but with more depth
Ever feel like this?

Last five minutes
Of exam
FAQs

What is Score Choice?
• College Board option
• Colleges want history
• Avoid self-negation

Mix/match & super score?
• Check Web site per college
• BF – yes, both exams
FAQs

Bright Futures requirements?
• FAS: 1330 or 29 w/ 3.5
• FMS: 1210 or 25 w/ 3.0
• June test OK after grad
• ACT rounds up .5 Composite

College preference?
• Each college or university decides for itself
FAQs

Test prep options?
• Varying- books to classes; free to $1,000
• Based on personal need
• ACT Academy / Khan Academy
FINALLY!
THE END OF THE PRESENTATION