

What are the differences between the SAT and ACT?

Medical Lake H.S. Code #480690	SAT <i>Scholastic Aptitude Test</i>	ACT <i>American College Testing</i>
Student Strengths tend to be...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong Readers • Strong Vocabularies • Enjoy test-taking strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong Memory • Fast Reader • Process Information Quickly
Based on...	<p>Reasoning <i>(what you know and how well you can apply that knowledge)</i></p>	<p>Curriculum <i>(what have you learned in school thus far)</i></p>
Content Tested...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading <i>(reading passages and sentence completions)</i> • Writing & Language <i>(multiple-choice questions on identifying errors and improving grammar and usage)</i> • Math <i>(arithmetic operations, algebra, geometry, statistics and probability)</i> • Essay (Optional) <i>(Some colleges require essay completion; reading, analysis, and writing skills)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English <i>(usage, mechanics and rhetorical skills)</i> • Math <i>(pre-algebra, intermediate algebra, coordinate geometry, plane geometry and trigonometry)</i> • Reading <i>(reading comprehension)</i> • Science <i>(measures skills in natural sciences required to interpret, analyze, evaluate, reason and problem-solve)</i> • Writing (optional) <i>(asked to respond to a question about your position on an issue)</i>
Number of Questions and Test Format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading (52 question- 65 minutes; Multiple choice) • Math (58 questions - 80 minutes; Two portions: with calculator and without) • Writing & Language (44 questions - 35 minutes; multiple choice) • Essay (1 question – 50 minutes) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English (75 questions - 45 min.) • Math (60 questions - 60 min.) • Reading (40 questions – 35 min.) • Science (40 questions – 35 min.) • Optional Writing (1 prompt –30 minutes)
Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidenced-Based Reading & Writing (200 – 800) • Math (200 – 800) • Essay (2 – 8) *Reported Separately <p>Total = 400-1600</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English (1-36) • Math (1-36) • Reading (1-36) • Science (1-36) <p>Composite Score = average of each section</p>
Perfect Score	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1600 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 36
Average Score	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An average is 500 for each section on average • 1019 for the new SAT in Washington 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22.4 for Washington
Free, full practice tests	<p>http://sat.collegeboard.org/practice/sat-practice-test</p>	<p>http://www.actstudent.org/sampletest/</p>

Other practice suggestions...	PRACTICE TIMING YOURSELF!!! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take the PSAT • Take challenging courses in school • Read and write a lot! • Khan Academy • Free mobile app 	PRACTICE TIMING YOURSELF!!! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take the PreACT • Take challenging courses in school, including science coursework
Scoring and other items to note...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no penalty for wrong answers, so students don't have to worry about losing points for guessing incorrectly. (Just like on the ACT.) • There are only 4 answer choices instead of 5. (Just like on the ACT.) • Students may be more familiar with some of the vocabulary tested, but they will need to know multiple definitions of those words. • Try to take the test the Spring of Junior year, then again in the Fall of Senior year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no penalty for wrong answers. • Admissions officers tend to be concerned most with the composite score (the average of all the sections), so if you are weak in one area but strong in others, you could still end up with a good score. • Try to take the test the Spring of Junior year, then again in the Fall of Senior year.
Cost	\$45 (No Essay) \$57 (With Essay)	\$42.50 (No Writing) \$58.50 (With Writing)
Fee Waivers	Fee waivers are available from the school counselor for those that qualify for Free/Reduced Lunch	Fee waivers are available from the school counselor for those that qualify for Free/Reduced Lunch
How to Register (all online)	Go to http://sat.collegeboard.org and click on "Register Now"	Go to http://www.actstudent.org and click on "Register"

Testing Dates: 2016-2017

SAT

ACT

Test Date:	Register By:	Test Date:	Register By:
November 5, 2016	October 7	October 22, 2016	September 16
December 3, 2016	November 3	December 10, 2016	November 4
January 21, 2017	December 21	February 11, 2017	January 13
March 11, 2017	February 10	April 8, 2017	March 3
May 6, 2017	April 7	June 10, 2017	May 5
June 3, 2017	May 9		