



Understanding College Admissions Tests

(adapted from www.getreadyforcollege.com)

Four year colleges require an admissions test. While two-year colleges generally do not require new students to take a college entrance exam, most new students are required to take a placement test to determine which level of courses are appropriate for them.

PSAT	SAT	ACT	TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language)
What does it test?			
Critical reading and math reasoning abilities as well as writing skills	Critical reading and math reasoning abilities and writing skills	English, reading, math, and science reasoning skills; optional writing test	The ability of nonnative speakers of English to read, write, speak and understand North American English
Why should I take this test?			
Prepares you for college admissions tests and may qualify you for National Merit Scholarship (if taken as a junior)	Most common college admissions test for four-year colleges on the East and West coasts	Most common college admissions test for four-year colleges in the Midwest and central United States	Required by some four year colleges if English is not your native language
When should I take the test?			
Junior year	Junior or senior year	Junior or senior year	Junior year or later
When are the tests offered?			
The 3 rd Saturday in October or the preceding Wednesday.	There are seven test dates scheduled during the academic year	There are five test dates scheduled during the academic year	Test dates vary by location; check website
Where are the tests held?			
Usually at your high school BUT not every high school on island offers the test	At a high school or a local college or university (Samoana HS)	At a high school or a local college or university (Samoana HS)	Sites vary by location; check website
How long does it take to complete the test?			
2 hrs. 45 min.	3 hrs. 45 min.	3 hrs. 25 min. (with writing test)	4 hrs. 30 min. (internet version)
How much does it cost?			
\$13 (may be waived for student for whom the fee is a hardship)	\$45 (may be waived for students for whom the fee is a hardship)	\$32 + \$15 for writing test (may be waived for students for whom the fee is a hardship)	\$150 (a fee reduction may be available for high school seniors who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents planning to take the test in the United States)
How do I sign up for the test?			
Check with your high school counselor	Visit the Web site listed below	Visit the Web site listed below	Visit the Web site listed below
For more information?			
www.collegeboard.com	www.collegeboard.com	www.actstudent.org	www.toefl.org



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