



College Admissions Testing Overview and Recommended Test Schedule

SAT Test or ACT Test

- Grade 11 - All juniors should take the SAT or ACT for the first time in the JUNIOR year.
- Grade 12 - Seniors will have several more opportunities to take the SAT or ACT in the fall.
- Students do not need to take the Writing section of the SAT or ACT unless they are planning to apply to West Point, the United States Military Academy.

Students are responsible for registering for the SAT, ACT and Subject Tests.

Test dates and registration deadlines may be found at www.collegeboard.org and www.act.org

SAT Subject Tests

Whether or not a student should take Subject Tests is highly situational. Factors to consider include the student's intended program of study, list of intended colleges, and preparedness for the Subject Tests.

Currently, in 2020-21, most colleges are test optional or test blind. Even before this year, most colleges had eliminated Subject Test requirements.

Beyond this year, some colleges may retain these policies, no longer accepting Subject Tests. However, some colleges may return to former policies of recommending Subject Tests for students interested in:

- Engineering
- Computer Science
- Combined Medical programs

Students intending these programs of study should consider taking the following Subject Tests, if prepared for them.

- Engineering or Computer Science: Math 2 and either Physics or Chemistry
- Combined Medical Programs: Math 2 and either Biology or Chemistry

Testing requirements are changing, and it is difficult to forecast what the situation will be in two to three years. Our advice is that it is better to have the tests and not need them, than need them and not have them.

Recommended Test Schedule

Grade 9

- Very few students will take the SAT Subject Test in Physics in June. The physics department recommends that freshmen not take the physics exam; students should take it after taking AP Physics 2.

Grade 10

- All sophomores take the PSAT at Harker.
- Some students will take the SAT Subject Tests in Chemistry and Math 2 in May and/or June. Students are most prepared to take Math 2 after taking Precalculus.
- Very few students will take the SAT Subject Test in a foreign language at this time. *Students should be finishing their study of the language and be recommended by their teacher.*

Grade 11

- All juniors take the PSAT at Harker.
- Students should have at least one SAT or ACT score by end of their junior year.
- May and/or June – SAT Subject Test opportunities for students planning on applying to programs mentioned above.

Grade 12

- Several more opportunities to take either the SAT, ACT or SAT Subject Tests. Seniors should plan on completing testing by November, using December test dates only in rare circumstances.