**Should You Take the ACT or SAT?**

Both the ACT and the SAT are nationally administered standardized tests that help colleges evaluate candidates. All schools accept either test interchangably. So as you begin to think about college and creating the best application package possible, your admissions plan should begin with the question, "Which test should I take?"

**What's the Difference Between the ACT and SAT?**

**Test Structure and Format**

|  | **ACT** | **SAT** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Length | 3 hours, 25 min (with Writing Test) | 3 hours, 45 minutes |
| Structure | 4 Sections (English, Math, Reading, Science) plus an optional Writing Test | 10 Sections (3 Critical Reading, 3 Math, 3 Writing, and 1 Experimental, which is unscored) |

**Scoring**

|  | **ACT** | **SAT** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Score | Composite of 1-36 based on average scores from the 4 test sections  4 scores of 1-36 for each test  Optional Writing Test score of 0-12 (not included in the overall score) | Total score range of 600-2400 based on adding scores from 3 subjects  3 scores of 200-800 for each subject  Score of 0-12 for the Essay |
| Wrong Answer Penalty | No penalty for wrong answers | ¼ point subtracted from your raw score for each wrong answer (except for Math Grid-Ins) |
| Sending Score History | You decide which score is sent | You decide which score is sent  \*Some colleges require you to send all scores, check with the college to be sure |

**Content**

|  | **ACT** | **SAT** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Reading | Reading Comprehension | Reading Comprehension Sentence Completions |
| Math | Arithmetic Algebra Geometry Algebra II Trigonometry | Arithmetic Algebra Geometry Algebra II |
| Science | Analysis Interpretation Evaluation Basic Content Problem Solving | Not applicable |
| Essay | Optional Final Section  30 Minutes  Not Included in Composite Score  Topic of importance to high school students | First Section  25 Minutes  Factored into overall score  More abstract topic |