

Standardized Testing

HIGH SCHOOL COLLEGE ENTRANCE & AP TESTING

Sophomore Year: Students take the PSAT during the school day in the fall of their sophomore year at SCPA as practice for the SAT Reasoning Test. If a sophomore is enrolled in an AP class, he/she may have the opportunity to take the AP test for that class that year (generally in May). Similarly, if a sophomore plans on applying to highly selective colleges who recommend or require SAT Subject Tests, he/she should take the appropriate Subject Test(s) in June of their sophomore year (if the student has just completed relevant course work in that subject area).

Junior Year: The PSAT/NMSQT will be taken again in the fall of the junior year, where scores are to determine eligibility for the National Merit Scholarship Program. Students should plan on taking the SAT and ACT at least once during their junior year. Students enrolled in an AP class should take the AP test for that class that year (generally in May). Students who wish may also take additional SAT Subject Test(s) as scheduled during their junior year.

Senior Year: Since most students should begin applying to colleges in the fall and of their senior year, the SATs and ACTs should be completed by December 1st of the senior year. Students who wish may also take additional SAT Subject Test(s); which will need to be completed by December for most general college applications. Note that students who are applying Early Decision or Early Action will need to have all testing completed by October of their senior year. In addition, students who wish to compete for merit scholarships at the colleges should have all testing completed and sent to the colleges by Dec. 1. Some colleges have a November 1 deadline; Ohio State, Case Western. Students enrolled in an AP class should take the AP test for that class that year (generally in May).

College Admissions Testing - There are two different standardized tests used for college admission in the United States – the American College Test (ACT) and the SAT (Reasoning Test). These tests are also accepted by a number of international universities. Colleges accept both tests. We recommend that students take both the SAT and the ACT in the spring of junior year. Because some students do better on one test than the other, trying out both allows the student to find his/her strengths and offers the best opportunity for securing the highest possible score. Students can discuss their results with their college counselor to determine a specific strategy for potential retakes.

The SAT test standards of Math and English; the ACT tests Math, English and Science. Both the ACT and SAT include an essay: the SAT essay is mandatory, but the ACT essay is optional (we advise students to take it).

Students must check with prospective colleges to see what their Admissions Office requires. The ACT scores each section on a scale of 1 to 36, and compiles a total composite score using the same scale. Each section of the SAT (English, Math and Writing) is scored on a scale of 200 to 800, with 2400 being the highest possible combined score. A student can selectively send the best ACT or SAT scores to the

colleges to which they apply. Students should discuss score reporting with their college counselor if there is any question about which scores to send.

NOTE: Students must send their own scores to the colleges to which they are applying. SCPA is unable to do this and colleges will not accept scores sent by the high schools.