

# STANDARDIZED TESTS

Standardized tests may sound like an alphabet soup, but they are very important in the college admissions process. All U.S. colleges and universities accept either the SAT or ACT but it is always best to check with each of your colleges about their specific requirements.

## ACT TEST

This test is designed to assess high school students' general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work. It is used for college admission decisions. It is sometimes used for scholarship purposes or for placement decisions in the college. The ACT can be used to determine NCAA or NAIA eligibility.

**When do I take the test?** The test is offered 6 times during a school year. Generally, students take the test first during the spring of their junior year which allows time for retesting in the fall of the senior year if needed. Do not wait till your senior year to take your first test.

**When/How do I register?** It is suggested that you register at least six weeks prior to a test date. Be mindful of registration deadlines which are one month in advance of each test. You will register online at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) Fee waivers are available in the CHS Career Center for students who qualify for financial assistance.

Colleges only accept **Official** test scores directly from the testing company. Your CHS transcript will not have ACT scores reported.

## SAT TEST

This test also assesses a high school students' ability in math and evidenced based reading and writing to assess the ability to complete college-level work. It is used for college admission decisions. It can be used to determine eligibility for scholarships or for placement decisions in the college. The SAT can be used to determine NCAA or NAIA eligibility.

**When do I take the test?** The test is offered 7 times during a school year. Generally, students take the test first during the spring of their junior year which allows time for retesting in the fall of the senior year if needed. Do not wait till your senior year to take your first test.

**When/How do I register?** It is suggested that you register at least six weeks prior to a test date. Be mindful of registration deadlines which are one month in advance of each test. You will register online at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) Fee waivers are available in the CHS Career Center for students who qualify for financial assistance.

Colleges only accept **Official** test scores sent directly from the testing company. Your CHS transcript will not have SAT scores reported.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Not all colleges require standardized testing although they often do require additional essays, recommendations, or interviews. For a list of those colleges, go to [www.fairtest.org](http://www.fairtest.org)

## PSAT

This is a Preliminary SAT – similar to the SAT. It offers a good opportunity to practice skills from the SAT test. In the junior year the PSAT results are used to determine qualification for the National Merit Scholarship Competition.

**When do I take the test?** The test is only offered in October each year. ALL CHS students will take the test as a sophomore and again as a junior

**When/How do I register?** All students in Grades 10 and 11 are automatically registered for this test.

## SAT SUBJECT AREA TESTS

These are one hour multiple choice exams given in specific subject areas. Some of the most competitive colleges require one or more of these tests for admission and other colleges and universities use them for placement in courses in college. Students need to ask whether the colleges to which they are applying require the Subject Tests. To learn more go to <http://sat.collegeboard.com/about-test/sat-subject-tests>

## AP EXAM

Advanced Placement exams are three hour exams in specific subject areas and are designed to be taken upon completion of an AP course. They are rigorous exams that include both multiple choice and essay sections. AP exams are scored on a scale of 1-5. Students enrolled in AP courses at CHS will take the exams in May. Many colleges and universities accept AP credits. To learn more about AP exams go to <http://professional.collegeboard.com/testing/ap>

## TOEFL

The Test of English As a Second Language tests your ability to communicate in English and is a test for students for whom English is not a first language. The test measures skills in reading, listening, speaking, and writing in English and requires you to combine two or more of these skills to respond to a question. It is usually an Internet based exam given in designated test centers by appointment. For more information go to [www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org)