



College Entrance Exam Help



Most colleges require some form of college entrance testing as part of the application process. Check the admissions requirements for the college(s) of your choice. The acceptable test score can vary. Also, please note application deadlines for schools and scholarships and plan your testing around them, remembering it takes about a month to get test results. A good score for the ACT is around a 28 and a combined score of 1400-2100 as a rule of thumb. Talk to your counselor for resources that may be available at HHS.

Preparing for the Test



Test prep materials can be purchased or you can search the internet for prep websites and apps. See the helpful links below, but use search engines to find the many others that are available as well.

21 Strategies To Improve ACT Scores

7 Sources for Free ACT Practice Tests

8 Apps to Download

Top 5 ACT Apps

The Princeton Review: Test Prep & Tutoring

Free Online SAT or ACT Practice Tests

Test Prep Preview: Free Online Practice Tests

Register to take the SAT

Taking the ACT



To register on line, click [here](#). You will need to make a profile and take an interest inventory the first registration. Test dates and test centers will be listed. Cost is about \$40, which you can pay on line with a credit card or fill out application in paper form and pay with alternative payment method. A fee waiver can be requested for those that meet the waiver requirements.

Taking the SAT



Most students take the SAT during their junior or senior year of high school. At least half of all students take the SAT twice — in the spring as a junior and in the fall as a senior. Most students improve their score the second time they take the SAT. To register online for approximately \$55, click [here](#). Online payment is encouraged and need-based waivers are available. Practice test and study tips are also available at the above mentioned website.

Taking the PSAT



This test helps you prepare for the SAT while determining your eligibility for a National Merit Scholarship. Most students take the PSAT at their high school in the fall of their sophomore or junior year. Inquire with a teacher or guidance counselor as to when the test will be offered and how to sign up. Select [here](#) for some basic PSAT information.

The National Merit Scholarship Program



Winning a [National Merit Scholarship](#) is no easy task. Each year, approximately 50,000 students (out of 1.4 million juniors) qualify for recognition based on their high PSAT scores. Around 34,000 of these students receive Letters of Commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. While these letters don't include a scholarship check, they look good to admissions offices and can be listed on your college application.

The remaining 16,000 students or so—those whose scores put them in the top 99th percentile in their state—become National Merit Semifinalists. Of these, around half win scholarships after submitting their high school records, as well as recommendations from teachers and a personal essay. Some students win a \$2500 scholarship from the National Merit Corporation, while others may win larger awards from colleges hoping to attract top scorers.