

THE ROLE OF SAT/ACT IN THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS PROCESS

Presented by



Huntington
LEARNING CENTER

High School College Admission Focus by Year

- Freshman

- GPA
- Extracurriculars: Clubs/Activities/Athletics
- Volunteering/Civic Engagement/Employment
- READ!

- Sophomore

- GPA - Start considering challenging courses
- Extracurriculars: Clubs/Activities/Athletics – Consider Leadership
- Volunteering/Civic Engagement/Employment
- READ!
- Take PSAT, Try ACT – Make a plan for prep

High School College Admission Focus by Year

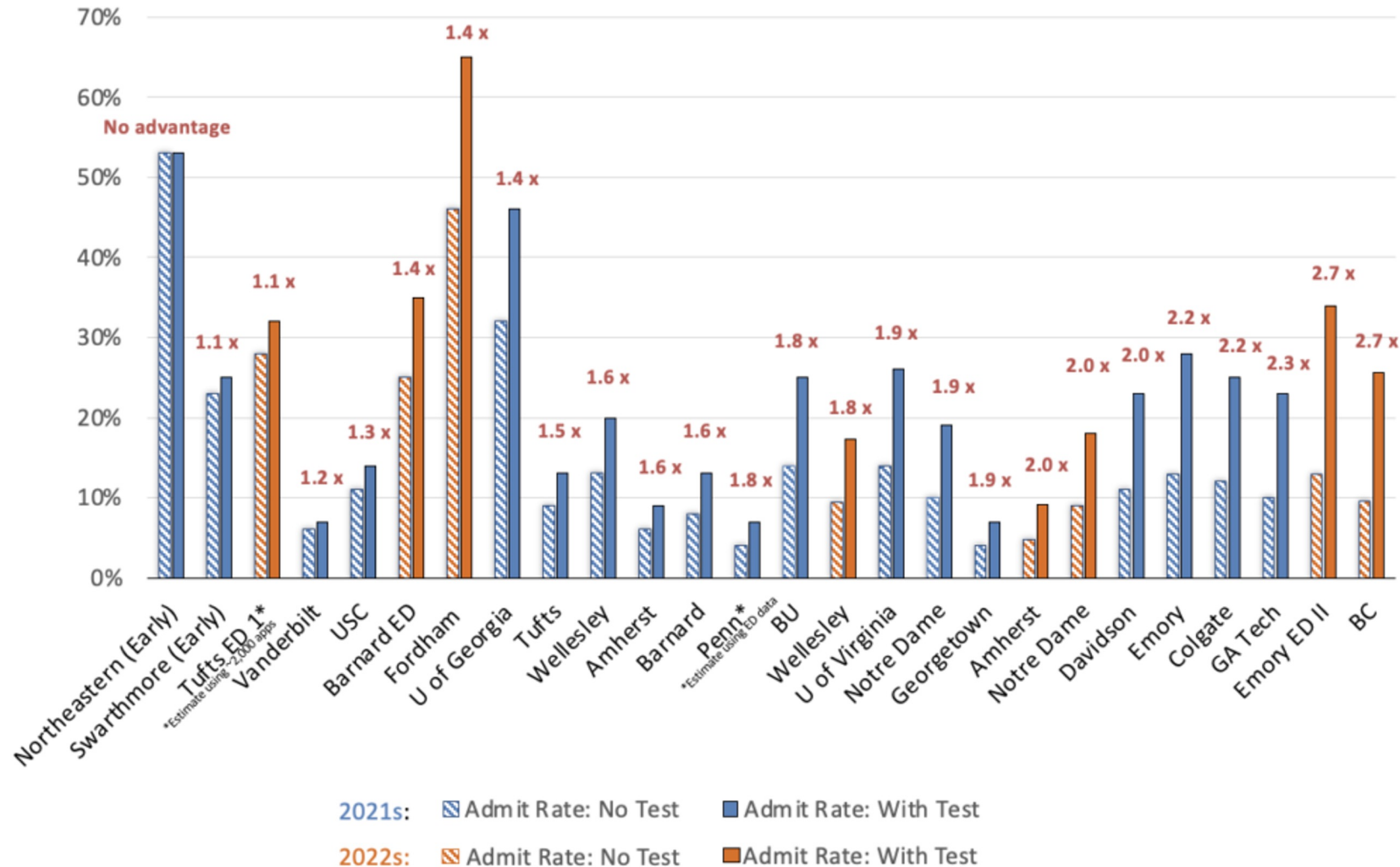
- Junior

- GPA – Take challenging courses
- Take SAT or ACT
- Pursue Leadership opportunities
- Stay engaged in your community activities

- Senior

- Continue taking challenging courses
- Work on essays and applications over the summer
- Final attempt at SAT/ACT no later than October
- Stay engaged in community activities

Admissions Rates by Test Score Submission



1. Collegeboard 2022: <https://research.collegeboard.org/media/pdf/ARC-Research-Brief.pdf>

DEFINITIONS OF ADMISSION OPTIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

STUDENTS: WHICH COLLEGE ADMISSION PROCESS BEST *SUITS YOU*?

Regular Decision

DEFINITION:

Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Rolling Admission

DEFINITION:

Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Early Action (EA)

DEFINITION:

Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Early Decision (ED)

DEFINITION:

Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted they definitely will enroll and withdraw all other applications. The application deadline and decision deadline occur early.

COMMITMENT:

BINDING

Restrictive Early Action (REA)

DEFINITION:

Students apply to an institution of preference and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying ED or EA or REA to other institutions. If offered enrollment, they have until May 1 to confirm.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Students are not restricted from applying to other institutions and have until May 1 to consider their options and confirm enrollment.

Students are responsible for determining and following restrictions.

How Do They Choose?

Factors influencing college admissions:

- Grade point average
- SAT/ACT scores
- High School ranking
- Strength of course schedule
- Extra-curricular activities/community service
- Essay/personal statement
- Recommendations
- Interview



How are Test Scores Used?

- Compare students with a common yardstick
- Predict how well a student will handle college-level work
- Select the best candidates from thousands of applicants
- Qualify for financial aid and scholarships
- Admissions decisions
- Determine acceptance to college programs (Honors program, specific majors)

Where do I find which schools are Test Optional?

- Fairtest.org: <https://www.fairtest.org/university/optional>
- After you have made a list of potential schools, be sure to search each school's website for their individual policy
- If you still have questions, call them!
- 1900 of 4300 US Colleges are test optional

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE SAT AND ACT



ACT at a Glance

- 4 Mandatory Sections
 - English – 75 questions, 45 minutes
 - Math – 60 questions, 60 minutes
 - Reading – 40 questions, 35 minutes
 - Science – 40 questions, 35 minutes
 - Optional Writing Section (40 minutes)
- Total time without Writing: 2 hours and 55 minutes with one 15 minute break between the Math and Reading sections.

SAT at a Glance

- 4 Mandatory Sections
 - Evidence Based Reading – 52 questions, 65 minutes
 - Writing and Language – 44 questions, 35 minutes
 - No Calculator Math – 20 questions, 25 minutes
 - Math with Calculator – 38 questions, 55 minutes
- Total time: 3 hours with one 10 minute break between the Reading and Writing Sections and one 5 minute break between the 2 math sections.
- SAT will see a major overhaul in the Spring of 2024 when it moves online.

Comparing the SAT and ACT

	SAT	ACT
Type	Reasoning— tests your ability to combine information and analyze real-world problems	Content—tests skills you learn in school
Pacing	More time per question, but questions can be trickier	Less time per question, but questions can be more straightforward
Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evidence-based reading• Writing• Math with no calculator• Math with calculator	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• English• Math (with calculator)• Reading• Science
Math	Covers Arithmetic, Algebra I & II, Geometry, Trigonometry, and Data Analysis	Covers Arithmetic, Algebra I, Geometry, and Trigonometry (4 questions)
Vocabulary	Relevant words in context	Relevant words in context
Science Reasoning	Tested throughout all sections	Tested only in the science section
Wrong Answers	Not penalized	Not penalized
Question Types	Mostly multiple choice + 13 math grid-in questions	All multiple choice
Scoring	Math 200-800, Reading and Writing 200-800. Added for a total of 400-1600	Scores are averaged together for a composite score from 1-36

Which Test Should I Take?

- Students should take whichever test they score more highly on.
- Schools do not prefer one test over the other.
- Students often display a clear preference for one test over the other.

ACT	SAT	SAT Range
36	1590	1570-1600
35	1540	1530-1560
34	1500	1490-1520
33	1460	1450-1480
32	1430	1420-1440
31	1400	1390-1410
30	1370	1360-1380
29	1340	1330-1350
28	1310	1300-1320
27	1280	1260-1290
26	1240	1230-1250
25	1210	1200-1220
24	1180	1160-1190
23	1140	1130-1150

ACT	SAT	SAT Range
22	1110	1100-1120
21	1080	1060-1090
20	1040	1030-1050
19	1010	990-1020
18	970	960-980
17	930	920-950
16	890	880-910
15	850	830-870
14	800	780-820
13	760	730-770
12	710	690-720
11	670	650-680
10	630	620-640
9	590	590-610

PSAT/NMSQT

- Test in October 11th
- Scores traditionally available in December
- National Merit Qualify Test
- 2022 qualifying score for WA: 220 (3rd year running!)
- Colleges do not receive scores
- Total Score: 320-1520
 - Evidence Based Reading and Writing: 160-760
 - Math: 160-760
- Sub Scores: 8-38
- PSAT will move permanently online in the Fall of 2023

SAT/PSAT Go Digital!

- The PSAT will become digital beginning in October 2023
- The SAT will become digital beginning in March 2024
- Scores will remain the same (1520 for PSAT and 1600 for SAT)
- Tests will still be administered in a proctored school or test center environment - not at home
- Tests will have two sections: Reading and Math
 - Reading will include Writing and Language

SAT Goes Digital!

- The digital SAT will be a Multistage Adaptive Test
- Each section will contain 2 modules
 - Module 1: A mix of easy, medium, and hard questions
 - Module 2: Targeted mix of question difficulties determined by performance in Module 1
- Reading Test will contain 27 questions/module, 54 questions total
- Math Test will contain 22 questions/module, 44 questions total
- Testing will be 2 hours and 14 minutes
 - 64 minutes for Reading
 - 70 minutes for Math

SAT Goes Digital!

- Reading questions will be 1 passage per question
 - Passages will be paragraph length
 - Passages will be selected from a broader range of college preparatory material
- Math section will allow calculators and scratch paper on all questions
 - Answers will either be multiple-choice or student-produced response
- Scores will be released 2-3 business days after testing

How to Register for the ACT

- Offered every year in:

- September
- October
- December
- February
- April
- June
- July

- Fees:

- \$60 without writing
- \$85 with writing

- Register at

www.ACTstudent.org

How to Register for the SAT

- Offered every year in:

- October
- November
- December
- March
- May
- June
- August

- Fees:

- \$60

- Register at

www.collegeboard.org

Things to consider in choosing a test date:

- Extracurricular schedule
- Math class completion
- Summer plans after
Sophomore and Junior years
- Spring break schedule
- Finals schedules
- AP schedules
- Paper vs Digital testing
preferences

How Do You Prepare?

The road to success

- Work hard in school
- Develop the learning skills needed to succeed
- Read regularly
- Prepare with a test prep program

When test day arrives

- Eat a good breakfast
- Wear comfortable clothing
- Bring the correct kind of calculator
- Bring several sharpened pencils
- Stay calm

ACT/SAT Mock Test Event – September 16th and 23rd

- Saturday, September 16th, 9am – Mock ACT
- Saturday, September 23rd, 9am – Mock SAT
- Thursday, September 28th, 7pm - ACT/SAT in College Admissions Presentation

REGISTER HERE:



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