

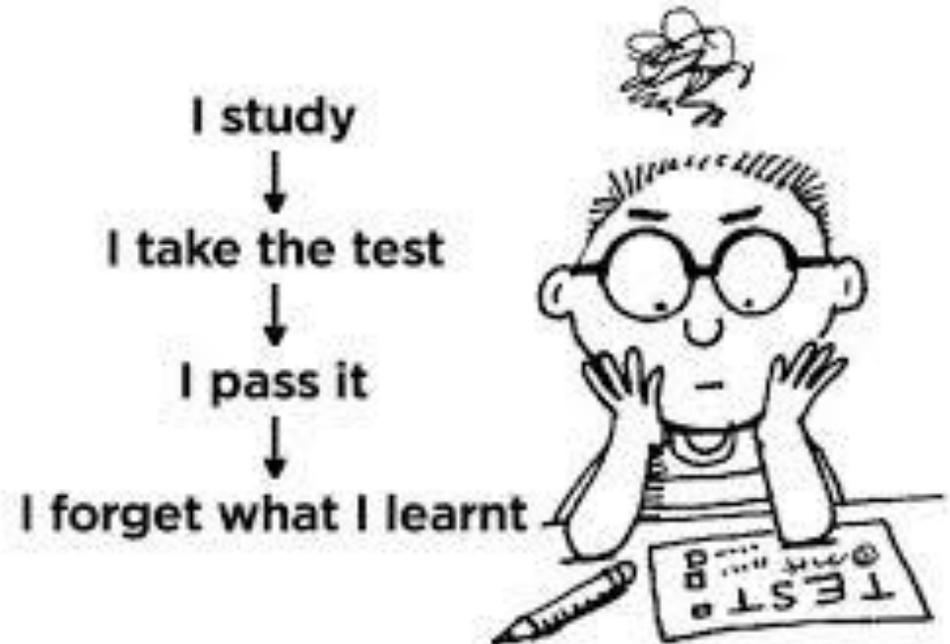
ACT, SAT or Both

Colleges report the single most important factor to be weighed in admissions is the student's transcript, demonstrating grade point average and the rigor of courses taken. However, the ACT and SAT remain extremely important to the admissions process.



The Differences Between the New SAT and ACT

The New SAT, which launched on March 5th of 2016, is basically a carbon copy of the ACT – it was designed to be just that. The two tests have far more commonalities than differences, so let's list the few things that set them apart:



SAT vs ACT

SAT

- Scored on a scale of 400-1600
- Questions require more time to understand and answer.
- 5 reading passages
- Same advanced math concepts: arithmetic, algebra 1 & 2, geometry and trigonometry
- There is a with and without calculator section
- There is no science section
- Essays are more comprehension based. It is optional
- No penalty for guessing.

ACT

- Scored on a scale of 1-36
- Questions seem to be more straightforward
- 4 reading passages
- Same advanced math concepts: arithmetic, algebra 1 & 2, geometry and trigonometry
- You can use a calculator on all math problems
- There is a science section that tests your critical thinking skills
- Essays evaluate and analyze complex issues. It is optional.
- No penalty for guessing.

Aside from those differences, the tests are practically identical. The material tested is the same. The formatting is basically the same. They both test your knowledge of math, English grammar, and reading comprehension. They both take 3-4 hours to complete. They both accomplish the exact same goal: giving more complete information for your college acceptance.

Because the New SAT lacks a science section and is less time intensive, it might seem like an obvious choice. Taking the time to check out both exams is certainly worth the time and will assist you with your decisions.

Test Format

Structure and Timing	New SAT	ACT
Testing time	3 hours + 50-minute essay (optional)	2 hours 55 minutes + 40-minute essay (optional)
Structure	3 tests + optional essay	4 tests + optional writing test
Number of questions	154	215
Time per question	1 minute, 10 seconds	49 seconds
Score range	Composite 400–1600 (SAT Essay: reported in 3 dimensions, each 2–8)	Composite 1–36 (writing domain scores: 2–12)
Test length and timing	<p>Reading Test 65 minutes 52 questions</p> <p>Writing and Language Test 35 minutes 44 questions</p> <p>Math Test 80 minutes 58 questions</p>	<p>Reading Test 35 minutes 40 questions</p> <p>English Test 45 minutes 75 questions</p> <p>Math Test 60 minutes 60 questions</p> <p>Science Test 35 minutes 40 questions</p>

study

(verb)

The act of texting, eating
and watching TV with an
open textbook nearby.

You should focus your efforts on taking *one* test. You don't get extra points for submitting two tests. You can *certainly* harm yourself by taking both tests and not preparing properly.

The average ACT score is 21 and the SAT is 1083.



"We were originally thinking SAT, but then Noah's admissions advisor told us left-handed students born on Tuesdays do better on the ACT."

Colleges use something called “the concordance table” to compare SAT and ACT scores. They don’t prefer one test to the other. They just like you to have the highest COMPARATIVE score possible.

A 1600 on the New SAT is a 36 on the ACT. Getting either score will give you the exact same quality application, and once you get one great score, you’re finished. There’s no point in getting two good scores!



It’s like one weightlifter saying he can lift 200 pounds and another saying he can lift 90.7185 kilos – they might be different ways to measure, but they are lifting the exact same weight.

Presidential Scholarships

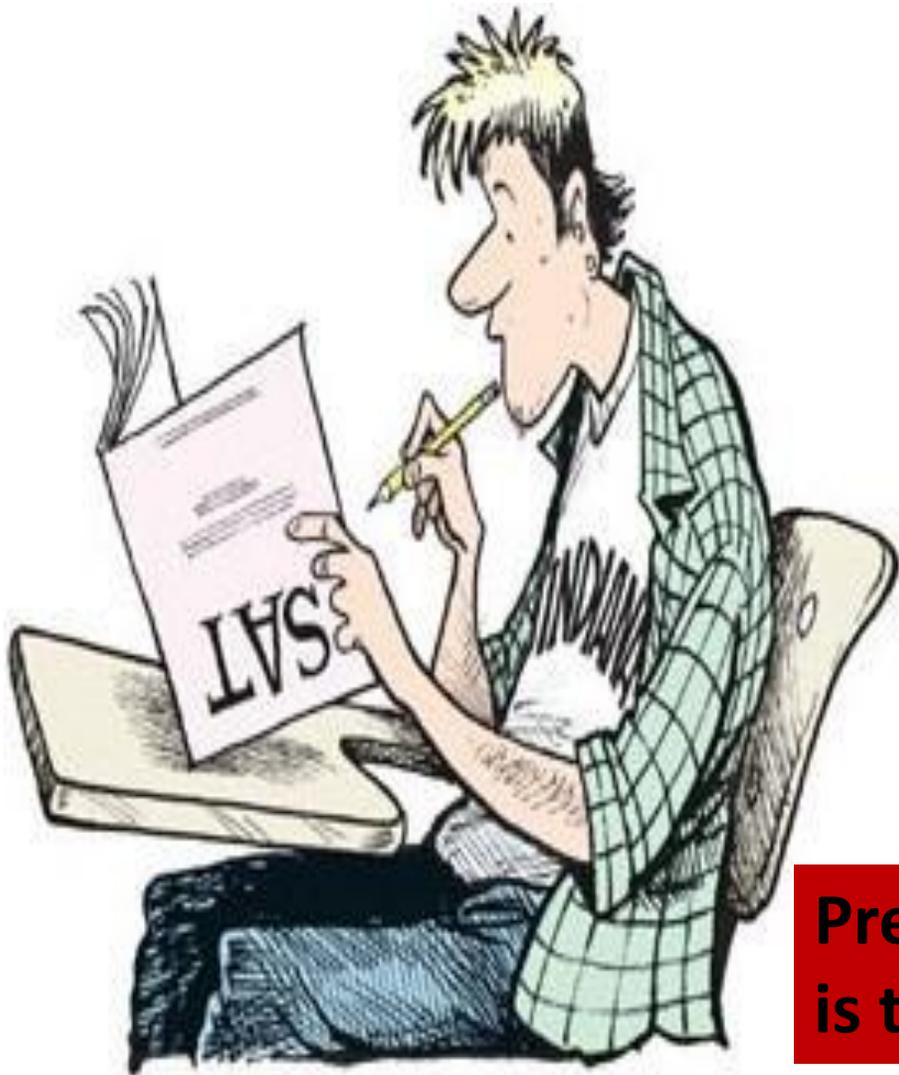
The Presidential Scholarship is the most prestigious scholarship at Montana State University, in recognition of academic excellence and demonstrated potential for leadership and service. The Presidential Scholarship includes a full tuition waiver and a generous stipend renewable for up to four years. A cumulative GPA of 3.75 and a composite score of **30 on the ACT** or new **SAT scores of 1410** (2 scores) are the expected norms for applicants.

MUS Honor Scholarship (Montana University System)

The MUS Honor Scholarship is a 4-year renewable scholarship, which waives the recipient's tuition when used at an eligible campus. Once the GPA score has been determined, this score will be added to the student's ACT or SAT* score (taken by December 31st of their senior year), whichever is higher, to create a composite score. The students with the highest composite scores in the state will be offered the MUS Honor Scholarship.

Sample Admission Scores

	SAT	ACT
• Baylor University	1200-1390	24-30
• Carroll College	1070-1310	22-28
• MIT	1480-1580	33-35
• Gonzaga	1040-1320	21-28
• Air Force Academy	1240-1440	27-32
• Whitman College	1280-1470	27-32
• Arizona State University	1110-1340	23-28



**Preparation
is the key !!!**

Concordance between ACT Composite Score and
Sum of SAT Critical Reading and Mathematics Scores

SAT CR+M (Score Range)	ACT Composite Score	SAT CR+M (Single Score)
1600	36	1600
1540-1590	35	1560
1490-1530	34	1510
1440-1480	33	1460
1400-1430	32	1420
1360-1390	31	1380
1330-1350	30	1340
1290-1320	29	1300
1250-1280	28	1260
1210-1240	27	1220
1170-1200	26	1190
1130-1160	25	1150
1090-1120	24	1110
1050-1080	23	1070
1020-1040	22	1030
980-1010	21	990
940-970	20	950
900-930	19	910
860-890	18	870
820-850	17	830
770-810	16	790
720-760	15	740
670-710	14	690
620-660	13	640
560-610	12	590
510-550	11	530

- **2,090,342 students took the ACT in 2015**
- **1,681,134 students in the class of 2016 took the SAT—either the new or old—at least once through June 2016.**
- **.108% students received a perfect 36 on the ACT**
- **If you have a score in the teens, you should work to get your score to at least a 21. This will put you in the top half of test-takers, and really give a boost to your applications.**
- **Higher scores may translate not only into better college acceptance, but better scholarship opportunities.**
- **Preparation and studying will provide a better score.**
- **Montana Colleges/Universities- Earn an ACT composite score of 22 or higher, or SAT total score of 1120 or higher (exception: MSU-Northern: ACT score of 20, SAT score of 1050).**

Don't Make These Mistakes During SAT, ACT Prep

- 1. Neglecting to use available resources**
- 2. Failing to examine test-taking challenges**
- 3. Not taking the test seriously enough**

Kahn Academy

www.kahnacademy.org

Number2.com

www.number2.com

FreeTestPrep.com

www.freetestprep.com

SparkNotes

www.sparknotes.com

PrepFactory

www.prepfactory.com

ACT

www.actstudent.org

SAT

satcollegeboard.org

Power Score

www.powerscore.com