

## STANDARDIZED TESTING FACT SHEET

TEST	WHAT IT IS	FAST FACTS	KEEPING SCORE
<b>SAT</b> Length: 3 hours, 45 min. Cost: \$49 Student registers for test @ <a href="http://www.collegeboard.org">www.collegeboard.org</a>	Multiple-choice, reasoning-based test developed 80 years ago as a universal standard for evaluating college applicants from around the country. Administered in 3 main sections (broken into 9 subsections): Critical Reading, Mathematics and Writing.	Offered 7 times a year; generally taken in spring of junior year and often repeated fall of senior year. Points deducted for incorrect answers.	200 to 800 for each section, added together for a combined score. National average: 500 per section.
<b>ACT with Essay</b> Length: 3 hours, 25 min. Cost: \$34, \$49.50 with writing Student registers for test @ <a href="http://www.act.org">www.act.org</a>	Multiple-choice, curriculum-based test created 50 years ago as an alternative to the SAT by educators who called for an exam that measured what a student had actually learned in school, not reasoning capabilities. Subject areas are English, Math, Reading, Science plus an optional writing test.	Offered 6 times a year; generally taken in spring of junior year or summer and fall of senior year. Points awarded on correct answers only.	From 1 to 36. National average: 21.1
<b>PLAN</b> Length: 1 hour, 55 minutes Cost: \$11.00 paid for by SLS School registers for test	Pre-ACT test offered since 1997 to 10th grade high school students. Subject areas are Reading, Math, English and Science.	Taken in sophomore year; whether in winter or spring depends on school.	From 1 to 32. National average: 17.6
<b>PSAT/NMSQT</b> Length: 2 hours, 10 minutes Cost: \$14 paid for by SLS School registers for test.	Pre-SAT that measures reading, writing and math problems-solving skills. Score is often viewed as indicator of how a student will perform on the SAT (so test preparation can be planned accordingly). Top 50,000 PSAT scorers nationwide qualify for a \$2,500 National Merit Scholarship.	Offered in the fall; generally taken in sophomore and junior year. (Only eleventh-graders can qualify for National Merit Scholarships.)	From 20 to 80. National medium: 50. (Add a zero to the score for each section for an idea of how the student would score on SAT. Average: 47/Critical Reading, 49/Math, 46/Writing Skills.
<b>SAT Subject Tests</b> Length: 1 hour Cost: \$22 for one, \$11 per additional same-day test Student registers for test @ <a href="http://www.collegeboard.org">www.collegeboard.org</a>	Exams offered in 16 individual subject areas to test mastery. (Known as Achievement Tests pre-1994, SAT II's from 1994-2005). Sometimes required by the most selective colleges.	Offered 6 times a year, though not all subjects are available on every date; best done as soon as possible after relevant coursework completed. Students can take up to 3 tests per date.	From 200 to 800. Students can wait to see their scores before deciding whether to submit to colleges. Average: varies widely by subject.
<b>AP</b> Length: 3 hours Cost: \$87 School registers for test. Student billed by Business Office	Subject-specific mastery exams administered at the conclusion of an Advanced Placement class taught during the school year.	Offered during the first two weeks of May; students can earn college credit.	From 1 to 5. About 90 % of colleges grant credit for scores of 3 or better on AP exams, although the most selective colleges usually require a 4 or higher.