

SAT vs. ACT

Colleges typically accept the SAT and ACT scores equally. Help students evaluate the characteristics of each exam to determine which best fits their needs.



Scores



Structure



Time



Questions



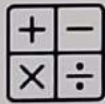
Test Prep



Reading



Science



Math



Calculator



Essay

SAT	ACT
The SAT is scored on a scale of 400–1600	The ACT is scored on a scale of 1–36
3 tests + optional essay	4 tests + optional essay
3 hours + 50-minute optional essay	2 hours 55 minutes + 40-minute optional essay
154	215
Free online test prep for all students through Khan Academy	Free online test prep for all students through ACT Academy
The SAT has 5 reading passages	The ACT has 4 reading passages
Cross-test score for analysis in science	Science section that tests critical thinking skills
Both the SAT and ACT have the same math concepts	
Calculator allowed for some math questions	Calculator allowed for all math questions
The SAT essay focuses more on an analysis of an author's argument	The ACT essay focuses more on evaluation and analysis of complex issues

DEFINITIONS OF ADMISSION OPTIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

STUDENTS: WHICH COLLEGE ADMISSION PROCESS BEST SUITS YOU?

NONRESTRICTIVE APPLICATION PLANS

Regular Decision

DEFINITION:

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

COMMITMENT:
NONBINDING

Rolling Admission

DEFINITION:

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

COMMITMENT:
NONBINDING

Early Action (EA)

DEFINITION:

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

COMMITMENT:
NONBINDING

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

RESTRICTIVE APPLICATION PLANS

Early Decision (ED)

DEFINITION:

Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted, they definitely will enroll. 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, EA, or REA to other institutions. If offered enrollment, they have until May 1 to confirm.

COMMITMENT:
NONBINDING

Students are responsible for determining and following restrictions.