College Entrance Exams 101

UCPS College Readiness Series

Welcome!

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Tonight's Agenda

- Welcome and overview

- Resources 101

  - Albert

- Understanding the ACT and the SAT

  - Huntington Learning Center Weddington, Jewel Wiesinger

**A UCPS Graduate is a
RESILIENT PROBLEM-SOLVER**

Capitalizes on productive struggle, inquiry, discourse and social learning to think critically and solve relevant and meaningful problems. Lifelong learning is driven by the desire for continuous improvement.

SAVE THE DATE

COLLEGE APPLICATION WEEK IS OCT. 21-27

College
Foundation
of North Carolina

Approximately 100 colleges and universities will be in attendance.

Sunday, October 13
2 - 4 PM
CATA, 600 Brewer Dr., Monroe

Registration is encouraged.

GET READY FOR THE UNION COUNTY COLLEGE FAIR

Sunday, October 13th from 2 PM-4 PM
CATA, 600 Brewer Dr., Monroe, NC 28112

STRIVE > SCAN

Strive Scan helps you share your information with colleges with just a barcode.
Visit **https://strivefair.com** to register!

REGISTER FOR YOUR BARCODE

1. ON YOUR PHONE, GO TO:

WWW.STRIVEFAIR.COM

or

SNAPCHAT
Press and hold down

CAMERA
Scan with your camera app

2. FILL OUT A SHORT REGISTRATION FORM TO GET YOUR BARCODE

3. SCAN YOUR BARCODE WITH COLLEGES TO RECEIVE MORE INFORMATION

Why should I get a StriveScan account?
- Allows you to share information with colleges at the fair without filling out cards
- Takes 90 seconds to sign up
- Use your phone to share your information with colleges!
- Get information from all the colleges you want directly to your inbox after the event

Registration with and use of StriveScan is optional.

What other support is available?

FAFSA Support from SPCC

Contact the Financial Aid office for assistance completing the FAFSA

https://spcc.edu/pay-for-college/financial-aid/

College Readiness Canvas Support

Check your child's Canvas account for their counseling site

Senior application timeline, Scoir support, and more!

Union County Public Schools
Dr. Andrew Houlihan, Superintendent

ACT / SAT Resources

College Readiness

College Readiness

International Baccalaureate

Parent & Student College
Readiness Sessions

College Preparation

ACT / SAT Resources

Earning College Credit in
High School

Scoir College Search and
Application Management
System

Scholarship & Financial Aid
Information

ACT and SAT Resources

Edit Page

Expand All

In-Person SAT and ACT Practice Tests   >

ACT and SAT Practice through Albert   >

Huntington Learning Center - Weddington Partnership   >

ACT School Day Information   >

Quick Links

ACT National Test Dates and Deadlines

SAT National Test Dates and Deadlines

Digital SAT Information

High School Student Startup Page

NCEdCloud IAM
Clever

Canvas

Schoolnet

Discovery
Education

Albert

Google
Drive

Office 365

**Microsoft
Teams**

**Student Apps
Locker**

**SMART
Learning Suite**

UCPS Albert Team

Representatives:

- Help coordinate and manage test prep initiatives with UCPS
- Here to support teachers, admin, students, and parents

Backgrounds:

- Former teachers
- Passion for student empowerment

krista@albert.io
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What is Albert?

An online practice and assessment platform built to empower students and boost academic performance

College Entrance Prep on Albert

What is included in my student's access?

- **Free** SAT®, ACT®, PSAT® practice exams and practice questions
- Thorough answer explanations for every question
- Performance tracking

When will my student have access?

- Classes open now
- Practice exams available now
- One practice exam for ACT & SAT open now; a second opens in January

How can my student get started?

- Go to student startup page
- Log into Albert with Google
- Complete practice exams
- Practice independently
- Track data & repeat!

Jewel Wiesinger, owner

COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS 101

This presentation was created for the purpose of the Parent Readiness Series and is solely owned by JLAB Resources, Inc. dba Huntington Learning Center – Weddington

THE MILLION-DOLLAR QUESTION(S)

Should my child take these tests? And when?

Which test is right for my child?

WHAT DO COLLEGES EXPECT?

- **www.collegeboard.org**

- **Sample of NC and other out-of-state colleges and universities**

- **These scores adjust every fall based on the scores of the freshmen class**

- *Arranged by ACT score due to limited standardization of new SAT.*

College	ACT	SAT
Duke University	34-35	1520-1570
UNC Chapel Hill	30-34	1360-1520
Clemson University	28-32	1240-1400
University of South Carolina	26-31	1150-1340
Elon University	26-31	1200-1360
University of Tennessee	25-31	1190-1340
NC State University	25-31	1280-1430
UNC Wilmington	24-28	1230-1340
University of Alabama	22-30	1120-1370
UNC Charlotte	21-27	1070-1290
Western Carolina	19-26	1050-1230
East Carolina University	19-24	1040-1200

FIRST, WHEN ARE THE TESTS?
2024/2025 TEST DATES

SAT www.collegeboard.org	ACT www.act.org	
October 5, 2024	October 26, 2024	
November 2, 2024	December 14, 2024	
December 7, 2024	February 8, 2025	
March 8, 2025	April 5, 2025	
May 3, 2025	June 14, 2025	
June 7, 2025	July 12, 2025	

TEST OPTIONAL? IS IT REALLY OPTIONAL?

Test optional is divided into two categories:

- Optional for some: Score submission is not required if other admissions requirements are met.

Sample 'other requirements:

- Academic: Applicant must meet minimum GPA and/or class rank requirements
- Residency: Applicant must live in-state
- Major or program: Applicant must select a qualifying course of study
- Prerequisites: Applicant must have completed select Advance Placement or college-level courses during high school
- Optional for all: Any applicant can choose to omit test scores from their application.
- *The landscape for test optional is rapidly changing, with many school reverting back to "Test Required"*

COMMON APPLICATION DATA – CLASS OF 2024

WWW.COMMONAPP.ORG

- **Applications submitted:**
  - **National total: 8,206,451**
  - **North Carolina Total: 288,103**
  - **15% Increase**
- **Test Submission:**
  - **National: 45%**
  - **North Carolina: 44%**

Top 15 receiving members nationally from North Carolina applicants

Listed in descending rank order by application count

1	North Carolina State University (NC)
2	Appalachian State University (NC)
3	University of North Carolina at Charlotte (NC)
4	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (NC)
5	East Carolina University (NC)
6	University of North Carolina Wilmington (NC)
7	University of North Carolina Greensboro (NC)
8	Western Carolina University (NC)
9	North Carolina A&T State University (NC)
10	University of South Carolina Columbia (SC)
11	Duke University (NC)
12	Clemson University (SC)
13	University of North Carolina Asheville (NC)
14	Campbell University (NC)
15	Wingate University (NC)

common app

SAT VS. ACT

SAT

- Composite Scale: 400-1600

- Digital & Adaptive – questions presented to students will adapt based on previous performance.

- Shorter in length – from 3 hours to 2 hours and 14 minutes.

- 2 sections: Reading & Writing + Math

- More Reading passages, but shorter. Students will answer one question per passage.

- Math problems will be less wordy – woohoo!!

- All calculator

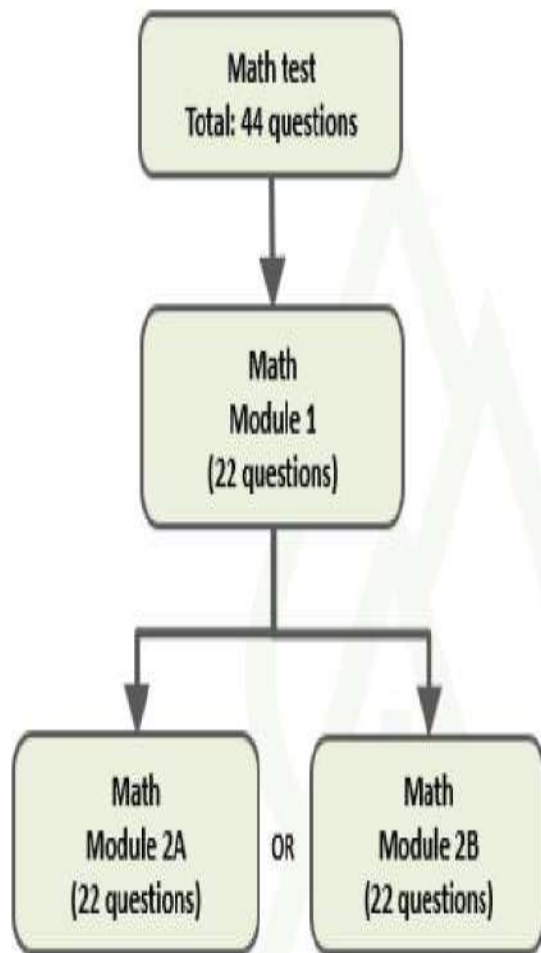- *Please note – this is still a brand new test! There are many unknowns!*

ACT

- Composite Scale: 1-36

- National Average: 20

- Online Option

- Changes coming...

- 4 Domains
  - English
  - Math
  - Reading
  - Science

SAT MULTISTAGE ADAPTIVE EXAMPLE

UPCOMING ACT CHANGES

FLEXIBILITY

- Students can choose whether to take the Science Section – offered as an optional section
- Composite score will be the average of English, Reading, and Math – will continue to be reported on the same 1-36 scale
- Students can opt to take the test online or with paper and pencil.

SHORTER

- The length of the test has been reduced by up to 1/3
- The new core test will be 2 hours
  - Shorter passages on English and Reading
  - 44 fewer question total
  - More time to answer each question
    - Currently unknown how significantly this will impact time per question.

MORE SPECIFIC CHANGES

TEST SECTION	CURRENT TEST	NEW TEST	WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?
ENGLISH	- 45 minutes - 75 questions	- 35 minutes - 50 questions	- 10 minutes shorter - 25 fewer questions
MATH	- 60 minutes - 60 questions - 5 multiple choice answers	- 45 minutes - 45 questions - 4 multiple choice answers	- 15 minutes shorter - 15 fewer questions - 1 less answer choice
READING	- 35 minutes - 40 questions	- 40 minutes - 36 questions	- 5 minutes longer - 4 fewer questions
SCIENCE	- 35 minutes - 40 questions	- 40 minutes - 40 questions - Optional	- 5 minutes longer - Optional section
WRITING (ESSAY)	- 1 prompt - 40 minutes - Optional	- 1 prompt - 40 minutes - Optional	- No change

2025 NATIONAL TEST DATES		
Test Date	**Digital ACT**	**Paper ACT**
Feb	Current	Current
Apr	**NEW format**	Current
Jun		Current
Jul		Current
Sept		**NEW format**
Oct		
Dec		

WHEN WILL THESE ACT CHANGES TAKE PLACE?

Online Testing only

State & District Testing

Sep. 2025

Apr. 2025

Spring 2026

ACT National Paper & International; Updated Composite Score for All ACT Tests

2 BASIC DIFFERENCES, IN ADDITION TO DIGITAL FORMAT

Content

Timing

TIME MANAGEMENT

SAT

- Reading & Writing: 2 Modules → 27 questions each and 32 minutes (54 total questions and 64 total minutes)
  - Approximately 1 minute and 11 seconds/question
- Math: 2 Modules, ALL CALC → 22 questions each and 35 minutes (44 total questions and 70 total minutes)
  - Approximately 1 minute and 35 seconds per question

CURRENT ACT

- English Test: 75 questions in 45 minutes (36 seconds/question)
- Math Test: 60 questions in 60 minutes (1 minute/question)
- Reading & Science Test: 40 questions in 35 minutes (52.5 seconds/question)

SAT VS. ACT – IT ALL COMES DOWN TO…

SAT: CATEGORIES & QUESTION TYPES

- Reading
  - Information & Ideas
  - Craft & Structure
- Writing
  - Standard English Conventions
  - Expression of Ideas

ACT: REPORTING CATEGORIES & QUESTION TYPES

- English
  - Production of Writing
  - Knowledge of Language
  - Conventions of Standard English
- Reading
  - Key Ideas & Details***
  - Craft & Structure
  - Integration of Knowledge & Ideas

SAT VS. ACT – IT ALL COMES DOWN TO...

SAT: CATEGORIES & QUESTION TYPES

- Math
  - Prob. Solving & Data Analysis
    - Arithmetic
  - Algebra
  - Geometry & Trigonometry
  - Advanced Math
    - Quadratics, Graphing Functions, Conic Sections, Polynomial Division

*** Please still expect Student Produced Responses

ACT: REPORTING CATEGORIES & QUESTION TYPES

- Math
  - Integration Essential Skills
    - Arithmetic
  - Preparing for Higher Math
    - Algebra, Geometry, Stats/Prob, Numbers/Quantity. Functions
  - Modeling***
- Science
  - Interpretation of Data
  - Scientific Investigation
  - Evaluation of Models Inferences, & Experimental Results

SO HOW DO I GET TO EVERY QUESTION?

TRUE or FALSE → You should guess?

DASH

- Determine
- Always
- Sometimes
- Haven't Ever

BACK TO DASH – DON'T BE AFRAID TO

"LET IT GO"

OR "JUST KEEP SWIMMING!!!

KEY STRATEGY

- Read/Work/Apply – Break it down!
  - Read: Look at the question - saves time when you know what to do!
  - Work: Solve the question – what to you need to do to get points!
  - Apply: Answer the question – connection between the work you do and the points you can earn!
    - Each section of both tests has a further 3-step Strategy.

SAT WRITING/ACT ENGLISH

Ability to REVISE & EDIT text – act as if you are an Editor

Measures understanding the rules of Standard English grammar, usage, and punctuation

SAT Writing

- Integrated with Reading portion
- Sequenced within the 2nd half of each module

Current ACT English Test

- 5 passages
- Each passage is about 300 words
- 15 multiple choice questions per passage

SAT WRITING CHANGES:

- **Standard English Conventions questions are comparable between SAT and ACT**
- **New questions within Expression of Ideas – how the author wrote the passage**
  - **Development & Organization**
    - **Central Idea & Theme, Sequence, & Transitions**
  - **Rhetorical Synthesis**
    - **Distinguishable by format**
    - **Synthesize information**

SAT Writing SEC changes:	
Boundary Questions examples:	**Form, Structure, & Tense examples:**
Punctuation	**Agreement**
Colons & Semi-colons	**Verb Tense**
Commas	**Plurals**
Parentheses	**Possessives**
Dashes	

SAT/ACT READING QUESTION TYPES

- SAT – integrated with Writing; however, distinctive pattern of Reading questions 1st in both modules
- NEW for SAT – POETRY!!!!
- ACT 4 passages
- Remember timing

SAT	ACT
Main Concept	Main Concept
Fact	Fact
Inference	Vocabulary In Context
Evidence (2 types)	Inference
Words in Context	(Sequence)
Text Structure Text Purpose	(Relationships)
Cross-Text Connections	

SAT & ACT READING PASSAGE TYPES:

SAT

- Literature – Human Interest
- Science
- History
- Poetry

ACT

- Literary Narrative
- Social Science
- Humanities
- Natural Science
- (Paired Passages)

SAT & ACT MATH QUESTION TYPES (REMINDER):

SAT

- **Problem-Solving & Data Analysis**
- **Algebra**
- **Geometry & Trigonometry**
- **Advanced Math**

ACT

- **Arithmetic**
- **Numbers & Quantity**
- **Algebra**
- **Functions**
- **Geometry**
- **Statistics and Probability**

MATH: WHAT TO EXPECT ON THE MATH SECTIONS?

SAT

2 Modules – 22 questions/35 minutes each

All Calculator Active

Less "wordy" problems

Desmos calculator provided

ACT: Math has 1 section

Calculator – 60 questions, 60 minutes

Directions are Important - The directions on the ACT *AND* the SAT will explain some very vital information to you that should be kept in mind when taking the test:

It's a bad idea to take too long to solve a problem.

Some problems are best solved without a calculator.

Diagrams are not drawn to scale.

ACT Science

There are 7 passages with 40 questions total.

You do not need advanced knowledge of Biology, Chemistry, Physics, or Earth Science to do well.

General scientific knowledge and a little bit of math is all you need.

This test is designed to test your ability to interpret, evaluate, and analyze scientific data across Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Earth Science.

The "harder" the Science topic in the passage the easier the questions will be – use the information given!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Huntington Learning Center – Weddington☺

UCPS - Albert

ACT Academy

Collegeboard.org

Khan Academy

Need more assistance?

Visit https://bit.ly/UCPScollegereadiness to find additional information and our contact information.

Have a question for Jewel? Visit https://huntingtonhelps.com/center/weddington for additional information.

Thank You

Thank you for joining us tonight.
The recording will be posted at http://bit.ly/collegereadywebinars.