



**College Application Calendar
CLASS OF 2022 - Juniors**

Testing Information and Updates

COVID has led to a legitimately test-optional application process for the majority of institutions. Most colleges are now **TEST-OPTIONAL**

Check ACT and SAT sites frequently as test dates and availability change frequently by region:

- ACT - <http://www.act.org>
- SAT - <https://www.collegeboard.org/>

- If SAFE and STILL TESTING: Students must have registered online with a credit card and photo ID by the registration deadlines below to take either the ACT or SAT standardized tests

SAT TEST DATES	Registration Deadline	Late fee required
March 13	Feb 12	tbd
May 8	April 8	tbd
June 5	May 6	tbd

ACT TEST DATES	Registration Deadline	Late fee required
April 17	March 12	tbd
June 12	May 7	tbd
July 17	June 18	tbd

- Please read below for more detailed information on standardized testing*
- Alternate PSAT/NMSQT test date is January 26, 2021:
<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10/k12-educators/psat-nmsqt-dates> **TO**

DO

- Register for **SCOIR** - <https://www.scoir.com/> We use SCOIR to manage applications documents (e.g. official transcripts, school report, counselor and teacher recommendations)
- Register for **NCAA Eligibility Center**: [NCAA Eligibility Center](#), (if relevant for recruiting)
- Research college options: via SCOIR, web, print, and video resources - request catalogues and utilize <https://www.youvisit.com/collegesearch/> to see virtual college / campus tour options
 - Excel in school. Stay engaged, organized and active with courses, teachers, and LCs.
 - Get to know teachers, create community service opportunities, and find community and work engagement. Start to think about which teachers can write recommendations for you!

JANUARY - MARCH 2021

- Schedule a meeting with Julie Glusker (and your Learning Coach) between January and April to discuss the college process and your profile and create an individualized college plan
- Consider what will matter to you for your college selection and develop a profile of your “ideal” college: What are *your most important* criteria? academic programs/majors? size of college population? location/campus setting? student life/culture?
- February vacation is a good time to visit a range of colleges (virtually in 2021) to assist in your selection process
 - If possible with COVID, school vacation is also a good time to get out and visit a few colleges while they are in session
- Build a college target list with 3-4 Reaches, 3-4 Matches, and 3-4 Safeties

APRIL 2021

- Plan summer productivity activities (training, competing, performing, community service, work or employment, extracurricular, etc.) and college visits
- Start a draft of your college essay (Personal Statement)

JUNE - AUGUST 2021

- **Teacher Recommendations** - Request recommendations from junior year teachers in June ***before*** leaving for the summer
- Enjoy summer while doing something productive or experiential - train, work, volunteer, study ● If possible with COVID, visit colleges—check in with colleges to see when students return to campus and to schedule interviews for college visits
- Make note of upcoming Fall Open House events. (VIRTUAL tours, fairs, and information sessions are available for most institutions)
- Prepare for SAT or ACT ONLY IF testing is safe and relevant rising into senior year ● **Common App** - goes online on August 1, 2021. Summer vacation is a good time to start this application form, but please start the Common App no later than first week of September if you are planning to apply to college in Fall 2020
- Consider Common Application Personal Statement prompts; edit/hone drafts of this main college essay ● Review and confirm the College Target List with your interests, needs and aptitudes in mind

General Updates

The College Board is scrapping the SAT optional essay and subject tests!

Officials say they want to ease demands on students. A revision of the SAT is also planned.

Read in The Washington Post: <https://apple.news/AjsT-vWI5TXierTx4dRNYzQ>

SCOIR podcast about virtual college admissions process: [Operating on 100% Virtual Recruiting](#)

- <https://www.sixcolleges.org/>
- <https://www.fairtest.org/>
- http://v.marketingautomation.services/view?k=3&c=308461598&j=112659188739&l=Mzc0trQ0NjA0NbK0BAA&utm_medium=email&utm_source=sharpspring&sslid=Mzc0trQ0NjA0NbK0BAA&sseid=MzlwMTUxNDMxNQQA&jobid=8c506193-dc3d-4ecb-8a06-9d8050f0d225
- <https://www.forbes.com/sites/brennanbarnard/2020/04/01/virtually-possible-locking-down-the-college-search-in-a-global-pandemic/#66f8b58e2710>
- <https://www.forbes.com/sites/brennanbarnard/#3a524cc783f>

USPA Testing Information: A general standardized testing plan/schedule for college applicants

Sophomores

- PSAT (October or January)
- PLAN
- Advanced Placement (AP) - if relevant

Juniors

- PSAT/NMSQT (October or January)
- ACT **or** SAT (October-June)
- Advanced Placement (AP) Exams (May) - now online
- SAT II Subject Test (May-August)- * these exams have been cancelled

Seniors

- ACT or SAT (September - November)
- SAT II Subject Test (August - November) - * these exams have been cancelled
- Advanced Placement (AP) Exams (May)

USPA curriculum does not offer or deliver online test preparation courses; rather, USPA directs sophomores, juniors and seniors to utilize relevant, effective standardized test preparation sites, sources and tools in advance of scheduling or taking any of the following exams:

For content, scheduling, registration, and payment information, visit these links:

PSAT/NMSQT - [PSAT](#)

SAT - [SAT](#)

SAT II Subject Tests - [SAT Subject Tests](#)

ACT - [ACT](#)

Advanced Placement - [AP Exams](#)

Recommended Online Test Prep Programs

- Khan Academy Test Prep - <https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/sat>
- Aptitude Academics - <http://aptitudeacademics.com/test-prep/>
- Prep Scholar - <https://www.prepscholar.com/>
- Peterson's - <https://www.petersons.com/testprep/>
- Study.com - <https://study.com/>

Which test to take? SAT vs. ACT*

	SAT	ACT
Subject content	<p>Content-based: arithmetic, problem solving & data analysis, core algebra, geometry, pre-calculus, and trigonometry, formulas provided</p> <p>Conventions of Standard Written English Critical reading skills</p>	<p>Content-based: arithmetic, algebra 1&2, functions, geometry, trigonometry, probability & statistics; no formulas provided</p> <p>Conventions of Standard Written English Critical reading skills Dedicated Science section (analytical and critical thinking skills)</p>
Format/style	<p>Evidence and context-based questions, focus on real-world situations and multi-step problem solving</p> <p>Logic and reasoning</p> <p>Quick alternating between math and English sections</p> <p>Not progressive in terms of difficulty or complexity</p> <p>More dynamic</p>	<p>Straightforward, longer but more direct questions, less difficult to decipher</p> <p>Passage-based</p> <p>Focus on single section/skill at a time</p> <p>Progressively more challenging and complex</p> <p>More consistent</p>
Equipment	Calculator for 1-2 sections	No calculator permitted
Scoring	<p>Scale of 400-1600</p> <p>Scored only for correct answers – no penalization for incorrect answers</p>	<p>Scale of 1-36</p> <p>Scored only for correct answers – no penalization for incorrect answers</p>
Essay	<p>Optional</p> <p>Demonstrate comprehension of a source text</p>	<p>Optional</p> <p>Demonstrate ability to evaluate and analyze complex issues</p>

Length	3 hours, 50 minutes Reading: 65 mins Writing/language: 35 mins Math (no calculator): 25 mins Math (calculator): 55 mins Essay (optional): 50 mins	3 hours, 35 minutes English: 45 mins Math: 60 mins Reading: 35 mins Science: 35 mins Writing (optional): 40 mins
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Cost	\$49.50 \$64.50 with essay	\$46.00 (no writing) \$62.50 (with optional writing test) \$29.50 (if registered late).
Score choice	Available - can choose which set(s) of scores to submit. Some colleges require all scores be submitted. Review specific score reporting policy for each college.	Available - can choose which set(s) of scores to submit. Some colleges require all scores be submitted. Review specific score reporting policy for each college.
Schedule	www.collegeboard.com	www.act.org

*Please note that both of these standardized tests are considered equally valid in the college application process. There is no advantage to taking one test over the other, and there is no need to take both tests. Most important is the need to determine which test feels better aligned with a student's learning and testing style.

Contact Julie Glusker, Director of College Counseling, with questions about testing
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