

## THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE SAT AND ACT EXAM

### ON THE SURFACE

Have you ever really considered the difference between the SAT and ACT? Have you ever stopped to think about which exam might be better for you?

The ACT is considered to be a curriculum-based exam, meaning it is based on a material you may have already seen in the classroom.

The SAT is considered to be more of a skills based test. The exam is designed to show that you have the skills needed to well in college. Some would say it is the test that is better for students who are good test-takers.

### STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

#### **SAT**

The structure and content of the exams are different as well. The SAT has ten sections; three Critical Reading, three Writing, three Math and one Experimental.

The Experimental section is used for future test development purposes. Your answers in this section are not included in your overall score, but while you are taking the SAT you will have no idea which section is considered “experimental”, other than the fact that you happen to have one extra Critical Reading, Math or Writing section.

The Math section includes problems in geometry, algebra II, and probability and statistics. The Critical Reading section tests your vocabulary with sentence completion type questions. It also tests your critical reading and reading comprehension skills by asking you questions on short and long passages. Passages now include topics from natural sciences, humanities, literary fiction and social sciences. The mandatory Writing section asks you to develop an opinion on a topic and will look at how you support your ideas. This section also includes multiple choice questions which ask students to recognize grammatical errors, improve sentence structure or improve paragraph structure.

You should take the SAT for the first time during the fall or spring of your Junior Year. Most students take the test at least twice; waiting until your senior year to take it the first time will not allow you time to retake the test before sending your college applications. If you take the test your Senior Year, pick a test date that is at least 2 months ahead of the application deadlines of all the colleges and scholarship agencies you might want to apply to. It typically takes 4 to 8 weeks after a test date to receive your score reports.

## ACT

The ACT is five sections; English, Math, Reading, Science Reasoning and an optional Writing section. The ACT also has an Experimental section, however, the Experimental section on the ACT is obvious and is only included on certain test dates.

The English section of the ACT tests punctuation, grammar and sentence structure. It will also tests rhetorical skills. The Math section covers topics up through trigonometry, typically what most students would have completed in the classroom by the end of the 11th grade. The Reading section is comprised of four passages, prose fiction, social science, humanities and natural science and tests your referring and reasoning skills.

The Writing section does include an optional essay, however some schools are requiring students who only submit ACT scores to complete the optional Writing section so that they may compare your score to other applicants who are taking the SAT. Make sure you check with the schools you are applying to see what is required prior to taking the exam. During the Writing section of the ACT, you are asked to develop a position on an issue based on the writing prompt.

The Science section of the ACT does not require you to recall everything from you high school biology or chemistry class, but some questions do require knowledge from introductory courses to answer some of the questions. This section is testing your interpretation, analysis, evaluation, reasoning and problem solving skills.

## YOUR SCORES

The scoring of the two tests differs as well. The SAT is on a scale of 2400, with each section (Math, Reading, and Writing) worth 800 points. You also receive a score of 2 to 12 for your essay. There is a penalty for guessing on multiple choice questions on the SAT. You will be docked  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a point for each wrong answer.

On the ACT, each subject test is scored from 1 to 36, and then each of these scores are averaged to create your Composite Score. The Writing test is also given a score of 2 to 12. There is no penalty for wrong answers on the ACT. In terms of how your scores are sent to schools, both tests now give you the option to decide which scores (by test date) are sent to which schools. The SAT can send all of your scores on one score sheet, while the ACT sends scores from each test date individually. Both exams allow you send the first four score reports free of charge. Charges to send additional score reports to more than four schools varies. Remember to check with the schools you are applying to see what their score evaluating policies are. Some schools will combine your highest scores, so it may be worth it to send scores from multiple test dates.

## NEXT STEPS

No matter what the difference is, the best way to determine which test will work for you is to practice. There are both the [SAT and ACT practice tests on-line](#) and plenty of practice test questions out there as well. Take some time to practice both exams, compare your scores, and then determine which exam you feel more comfortable with. Also make sure you check with the schools you are applying to determine which exam they accept.

## HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE SAT

### SAT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### What is the SAT?

The SAT is a 3 hour 45 minute test that measures the reading, writing, and mathematical reasoning skills that students need to succeed academically. The SAT is scored on a scale of 200-800 (one score each for the Math, Critical Reading, and Writing sections). The highest possible combined score is 2400. The test is administered several times a year and is typically taken by high school juniors and seniors.

Colleges and universities use the SAT as a primary determinant in the admissions process, and a high SAT score increases your chances of admission to the college of your choice. During the admissions process SAT scores are compared with the scores of other applicants, and scores can also be used as a basis for awarding merit-based financial aid.

Originally, SAT was an acronym for the Scholastic Aptitude Test. In 1993, the test was renamed the SAT I: Reasoning Test. At the same time, the former Achievement Tests were renamed the SAT II: Subject Tests. These days, the letters "SAT" have no direct meaning, but SAT has become a simple way of referring to the SAT I: Reasoning Test.

#### What is the difference between the new SAT and the old SAT?

In March 2005, the College Board began administering the new SAT to students. The new SAT adds a scored Writing section and expands the topics covered in the Math section. But, to the relief of some students, analogies were dropped from the exam. Despite these changes, the new SAT is not considered more difficult than the old SAT because the concepts tested on the exam still lend themselves to preparation and the rules and standards used to make the test remain the same.

#### When should I take the SAT?

You should take the SAT for the first time during the fall or spring of your Junior Year. Most students take the test at least twice; waiting until your senior year to take it the first time will not allow you time to retake the test before sending your college applications. If you take the test your Senior Year, pick a test date that is at least 2 months ahead of the application deadlines of all the colleges and scholarship agencies you might want to apply to. It typically takes 4 to 8 weeks after a test date to receive your score reports.

#### What does it cost to take the SAT?

The current fee to register for the SAT I is \$45.00. Various services related to score reports and student questions are available for an additional fee. Fee waivers are available for disadvantaged students to help defray the costs of the test.

#### How do I sign up for the SAT?

All registration must be done through the College Board and can be done online at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com).

## HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE SAT

### Should I take the test again?

#### ***SAT Reasoning Test™***

You may be wondering if you should take the test again, and whether your scores will change if you do so. Here are some guidelines that may help you decide:

- Research shows that the average student who retests increases his or her combined critical reading, writing, and mathematics scores by approximately 40 points.
- Overall, 55% of juniors taking the test improved their scores as seniors, 35% had their scores decrease, and 10% had no change.
- On average, juniors repeating the SAT as seniors improved their critical reading scores by about 12 points and their mathematics scores by about 13 points. About 1 in 25 gained 100 or more points on critical reading or mathematics, and about 1 in 90 lost 100 or more points.

Your score report shows the percentage of students with the same critical reading or mathematics scores who scored higher, lower, and the same when they took the SAT again, as well as the average number of points gained or lost. Use this information when deciding whether or not to test again.

#### ***SAT Subject Tests™***

Subject Tests measure your knowledge of a particular subject. If you continue to study the subject and take the test again, your score should reflect your increased knowledge. If you take the test again without any additional preparation, your score may be higher or lower than it was on the previous test.

### What is the SAT test Order?

The SAT is comprised of 10 total testing sections. The first section is always a 25-minute essay, and the last section is always a 10-minute multiple-choice writing section. Sections two through seven are 25-minute sections. Sections eight and nine are 20-minute sections. Test-takers sitting next to each other in the same session may have test books with entirely different content orders for sections two through nine (mathematics, critical reading, and writing).

### What is the unscored section of the SAT?

In addition to the nine scored sections of the SAT, there is one 25-minute section that we use to ensure that the SAT continues to be a fair and valid test. Don't be worried: the section does not count towards your score. It may be a critical reading, mathematics, or writing multiple-choice section.

It is common test development to use an unscored section to try out new questions for future editions of the test. It also ensures that scores on new editions of the SAT are comparable to scores on earlier editions of the test. This helps to ensure the fairness of the SAT, which is one of our primary objectives.

## HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE SAT

### **Do the questions on the SAT ask about the things I'm learning in my high school courses?**

The SAT Reasoning Test shows how well you can use the content you are learning in school to solve problems. It is a measure of the critical thinking skills you'll need for academic success in college. The SAT assesses how well you analyze and solve problems—skills that you develop over years of schooling and in your outside reading and study. The test is designed to allow you to demonstrate your abilities in these areas, regardless of the particular type of instruction you've received or textbooks you've used. These important abilities—understanding and analyzing written material, drawing inferences, differentiating shades of meaning, drawing conclusions, and solving math problems—are necessary for success in college and life in general. This doesn't mean that the SAT is irrelevant to your course work, however; the SAT is closely aligned with the type of skills being taught in the classroom and necessary for college success.

### **Are all SAT questions multiple-choice?**

In addition to multiple-choice questions, the SAT has a 25-minute written essay and 10 student-produced response math questions. The math questions ask you to fill in, or "grid-in," your own answers using a special section of the answer sheet.

### **What will I be asked to write about in the essay?**

The essay question will ask you to develop a point of view on an issue and support it with examples from your studies and experience. You can answer the question successfully in many different ways. You won't have to have any prior knowledge about the topic to write an effective essay. However, you will have to answer the essay assignment directly.

### **What's the difference between the SAT and Subject Tests?**

The SAT measures what you have learned in school and how well you can apply that knowledge. It assesses how well you analyze and solve problems. SAT scores are used for college admissions purposes because the test predicts college success. The SAT Subject Tests are one-hour, primarily multiple-choice tests in specific subjects. Subject Tests measure knowledge or skills in a particular subject and your ability to apply that knowledge.

### **What test should I take first, the SAT or the Subject Tests?**

Most students take the SAT in the spring of their junior year and again in the fall of their senior year of high school. Because Subject Tests are directly related to course work, it's helpful to take tests such as World History, Biology E/M, Chemistry, or Physics as soon as possible after completing the course in the subject, even as a freshman or sophomore, while the material is still fresh in your mind. You'll do better on other tests like languages after at least two years of study.

## HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE SAT

### **SAT SCORING: UNDERSTAND YOUR SAT SCORE REPORT**

In addition to your scores, your SAT score reports also include percentiles and score ranges. Admissions staff uses the percentiles and ranges to evaluate the scores because no single score can tell everything about how you performed on the test. Keep in mind that colleges use more than your SAT scores when making admissions decisions. Your high school record is most important, and colleges may also consider essays, recommendations, interviews, and your involvement in extracurricular activities.

### ***SAT Reasoning Test***

SAT scores are reported on a scale from 200-800, with additional subscores reported for the essay (ranging from 2-12) and for multiple-choice writing questions (on a 20-80 scale). Your scores tell college admissions staff how you did compared with other students who took the test. For example, if you scored close to the mean or average— about 500 on SAT critical reading and 500 on SAT mathematics—admissions staff would know that you scored as well as about half of the students who took the test nationally.

### ***SAT Subject Tests***

All currently administered Subject Test scores are reported on a scale from 200-800, with Subject Test subscores being reported on a scale from 20 to 80. Reading and listening subscores are reported for all Language Tests with Listening, and a usage subscore is also reported for the Chinese, Japanese, and Korean tests. Your scores tell college admissions staff how you did compared with other students who took the test.

### **HOW THE TEST IS SCORED**

#### ***Raw vs. Scaled***

In order to reach the number you see on your score report, two calculations must take place. First, your raw score is calculated. This is the number of points you earned, based on the number of questions you answered correctly, minus a fraction of the number answered incorrectly. Questions you skipped are not counted and no points are subtracted for incorrect Student Produced Response mathematics questions (grid-ins) on the SAT Reasoning Test™.

#### ***SAT Reasoning Test™: Calculating the Raw Score***

Each CORRECT answer: add (+) 1 point

Each WRONG answer for a Multiple-choice question subtract (-) 1/4 of a point

No points are subtracted for Student-produced responses or OMITTED questions.

### ***SAT Subject Tests™: Calculating the Raw Score***

Each CORRECT answer: add (+) 1 point

Each WRONG answer for a:

5-choice question: subtract (-)  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a point

4-choice question: subtract (-)  $\frac{1}{3}$  of a point

3-choice question: subtract (-)  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a point

No points are subtracted for OMITTED question.

### ***Scaled Score***

Your raw score is then converted to a scaled score (reported on a 200-800 scale) by a statistical process called equating. Equating ensures that the different forms of the test or the level of ability of the students with whom you are tested do not affect your score. Equating makes it possible to make comparisons among test takers who take different editions of the test across different administrations.

### ***Subscores***

#### ***Writing Section Subscores***

The raw scores for the multiple-choice writing section are converted to scaled scores that are reported on a 20-80 scale. Every SAT Reasoning Test contains a 25-minute essay. The essay subscore is reported on a 2-12 scale. (Essays that are not written on the essay assignment, or which are considered illegible after several attempts at reading, receive a score of 0.) Each essay is independently scored from 1 to 6 by two readers. These readers' scores are combined to produce the 2-12 scale. If the two readers' scores differ by more than one point, a third reader scores the essay. The multiple-choice writing section counts for approximately 70% and the essay counts for approximately 30% of your total raw score, which is used to calculate your 200-800 score.

#### ***Subject Test Subscores***

Subscores on the Subject Tests are used to compute the total score, but their individual contributions differ between the different tests. Subscores are reported on a 20-80 scale. For the French, German, and Spanish with Listening tests, the reading subscore counts twice as much as the listening subscore. For the Chinese, Japanese, and Korean tests, subscores are weighted equally.

### ***How are SAT scores reported?***

The SAT has three scores, each on the scale of 200-800. Your score includes writing (W 200-800), mathematics (M 200-800), and critical reading (CR 200-800). Two subscores are given for the writing section: a multiple-choice subscore on a scale of 20- 80, and an essay subscore on a scale of 2-12.

### ***Can I find out more detailed information about my results?***

All students have access to a free, more detailed, online score report on [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com). Using the online report, you can access a copy of your essay.

**Are some SAT tests more difficult than other ones?**

All editions of the SAT are developed using the same test specifications. Even if there are tiny differences in difficulty from test to test, a statistical process called "equating" ensures that a score for a test taken on one date or at one place is equivalent to a score for a test taken on another date or in another place. The rumors that the SAT in one month, say in October, is easier, are false.

**Is it true that you get a 200 on the SAT just for signing your name?**

The College Board does not report scores that are lower than 200. In reality, if they receive a blank answer sheet, with only student identifying information filled in, it would be considered an automatic request to cancel scores and no scores would be reported.

**What do my SAT scores tell college admissions staff members about me?**

Your SAT scores can tell admissions staff members how well prepared you are for college-level academics. The scores also allow colleges to compare your college readiness with other students in a standardized way. That's because all scores are reported on the 200-800 scale. For example, if your scores are roughly 500 on each section, which is the mean (average) score, college admissions staff knows you scored about as well as half of the students who took the test.

**Will colleges see my essay? How will they use the writing score?**

A college will be able to view and print a copy of your essay only if you sent an official score report to that college. Writing scores, which have been shown to be an excellent predictor of performance in college, may be used for admissions decisions and possibly for placement in English composition or related courses.

**Additional Information about the SAT Subject Tests**

Subject Tests (formerly SAT II: Subject Tests) are designed to measure your knowledge and skills in particular subject areas, as well as your ability to apply that knowledge. Students take the Subject Tests to demonstrate to colleges their mastery of specific subjects like English, history, mathematics, science, and language. The tests are independent of any particular textbook or method of instruction. The tests' content evolves to reflect current trends in high school curricula, but the types of questions change little from year to year. Many colleges use the Subject Tests for admission, for course placement, and to advise students about course selection. Used in combination with other background information (your high school record, scores from other tests like the SAT Reasoning Test, teacher recommendations, etc.), they provide a dependable measure of your academic achievement and are a good predictor of future performance. Some colleges specify the Subject Tests they require for admission or placement; others allow applicants to choose which tests to take.

**Which Subject Tests should you take?**

Before deciding which tests to take, make a list of the colleges you're considering. Then review school catalogs, College Search Engines, or College Handbooks to find out whether the schools require scores for admission and, if so, how many tests and in which subjects.

Many colleges that don't require Subject Test scores will still review them since they can give a fuller picture of your academic background.

### **When should you take Subject Tests?**

Most students take Subject Tests toward the end of their junior year or at the beginning of their senior year. Take tests such as World History, Biology E/M, Chemistry, or Physics as soon as possible after completing the course in the subject, while the material is still fresh in your mind. For foreign language tests, you'll do better after at least two years of study.

### **Subject Tests fall into five general subject areas:**

#### **English**

Literature

#### **History**

U.S. History

World History

#### **Mathematics**

Mathematics Level 1

Mathematics Level 2

#### **Science**

Biology E/M

Chemistry

Physics

#### **Languages**

Chinese with Listening

French

French with Listening

German

German with Listening

Spanish

Spanish with Listening

Modern Hebrew

Italian

Latin

Japanese with

#### **Listening**

Korean with Listening

*All Subject Tests are one-hour, multiple-choice tests. However, some of these tests have unique formats.*

SAT info from: [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

## **ACT Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the ACT?**

The ACT is a national college admission examination that consists of subject area tests in English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science. The ACT Plus Writing includes the four subject area tests and a 30 minute Writing Test. The ACT includes 215 multiple choice questions and takes approximately 3 hours and 30 minutes to complete (or just over 4 hours if you are taking the Writing test).

### **What is an ACT student Web account and why do I need one?**

An ACT student Web account not only allows you to register online, but also allows you to access a variety of ACT services, even if you register by mail. For example, you will need a student Web account to view your scores and it's the easiest way to make changes to your registration before the deadline.

### **Why take the ACT?**

There are at least 4 good reasons to take the ACT:

- The ACT tests are universally accepted for college admission.
- The ACT multiple choice tests are curriculum based. They are directly related to what you have learned in your high school courses.
- The ACT is more than a test. It also provides test takers with a unique interest inventory that provides valuable information for career and educational planning and a student profile section that provides a comprehensive profile of your work in high school and your future plans.
- The Act is a good value. It provides a comprehensive package of educational assessment and career planning services for students at a modest fee that is lower than the fee for the competing admission test.

### **When should I test?**

You should take the ACT for the first time during the fall or spring of your Junior Year. Most students take the test at least twice; waiting until your senior year to take it the first time will not allow you time to retake the test before sending your college applications. If you take the test your Senior Year, pick a test date that is at least 2 months ahead of the application deadlines of all the colleges and scholarship agencies you might want to apply to. It typically takes 4 to 8 weeks after a test date to receive your score reports.

### **What is the cost?**

The 2010-2011 basic fee for the ACT Plus Writing is \$48.00. This includes score reports for up to 4 college choices for which a valid code is listed at the time of registration. The basic fee for the ACT if you don't take the Writing Test is \$33.00.

### What is the difference between the ACT and SAT?

- The ACT is an achievement test, measuring what a student has learned in school. The SAT is more of an aptitude test, testing reasoning and verbal abilities.
- The ACT has up to 5 components: English, Mathematics, Reading, Science, and an optional Writing Test. The SAT has only 3 components: Verbal, Mathematics, and a required Writing Test. The College Board introduced a new version in 2005, with a mandatory writing test. ACT continues to offer its well-established test, plus an optional writing test.
- You take the ACT Writing Test only if required by the college(s) you're applying to. The SAT has a correction for guessing, that is, they take off for wrong answers. The ACT is scored based on the number correct with no correction for guessing.

### Should I test again?

You should definitely consider retesting if you had any problems during testing, such as misunderstanding the directions, running out of time, or not feeling well. Many students test twice, once as a junior and again as a senior. You may also want to consider retesting if you don't believe that your scores accurately represent your abilities, especially if you see a discrepancy between your ACT scores and your high school grades, or if you have completed coursework or an intensive review in the subject areas included in the ACT since you tested.

Research shows that of the students who took the ACT more than once:

- 55% increased their Composite score on the retest
- 22% had no change in their Composite score on the retest
- 23% decreased their Composite score on the retest

If you test more than once, you control which set of scores are sent to colleges or scholarship programs.

### How can I add/change/cancel my college choices/high school code after I register?

- If you registered for **national or international testing\***, you have until **Thursday at 12 noon, central time, immediately following the regularly scheduled Saturday test date** to make changes to your high school code and/or the college codes.
- You can either log into your student Web account and select "Make changes to your registration" or call ACT Registration to change your high school code and/or college code choices. After that, you will need to order and pay for Additional Score Reports.

### What should I take to the test center?

Be sure you take these items to the test center:

- Your test center admission ticket.
- Acceptable identification. (Your admission ticket is **not** identification.) You will **not** be admitted to test without it.
- Sharpened soft lead No. 2 pencils with good erasers (no mechanical pencils or ink pens). Do **not** bring highlight pens or any other kinds of writing instruments; you will not be allowed to use them. If you registered for the ACT Plus Writing, your essay **must** be completed in pencil.

- A watch, to pace yourself. The supervisor in standard time rooms will announce when five minutes remain on each test.
- A permitted calculator, if you wish to use one on the Mathematics Test. Not all models are permitted. If you use a prohibited calculator (such as the TI-89), you will be dismissed and your answer document will not be scored.
- **Pack your bag the night before and make sure everything is ready to go, especially your calculator if you intend to use one. You don't want to forget anything!**

### **ACT SCORING - UNDERSTAND YOUR ACT SCORE REPORT**

On the ACT you will four different types of scores: one set of scores for each of the four individual Subject Tests, a Composite Score that is the average of the four Subject Test Scores, Subject Test Subscores that break down the Subject Tests into smaller components, and National Ranking scores that show your performance in terms of a percentile. Yes, that is all a little confusing. But it won't be after you've read the rest of this article.

### **ACT Subject Test Scores**

For every question you answer correctly on an ACT Subject Test, you receive 1 point toward your **raw score** for that Subject Test. The number of questions you leave blank or get wrong doesn't matter; there is no penalty for answer a question wrong on the ACT. So, for instance, if you answered 45 of the 60 questions on the Math Subject Test correctly, your raw score for the Math Subject Test would be a 45. However, your raw score will not appear on your ACT score report. Instead you will see a **scaled score** that will range between 1(low) and 36 (high). What is the scaled score? It's your raw score applied to a curve. For instance, in some years a student who scored a 45 raw score on the Math Subject test might have scored better than 77% of other students, while in another year that 45 raw score might have only been better than 75% of other students. So that 45 in that first year is actually a better score than the 45 in the other year; the scaled score accounts for these differences. A 45 on the Math Subject Test will usually translate to a scaled score of 26 or 27.

### **ACT Composite Score**

The ACT Composite score is your total score on the whole ACT. It is calculated by averaging your four Subject Test scores. So if you got the following Subject Test scores:

*English: 28*

*Math: 32*

*Reading: 31*

*Science Reasoning: 29*

Then your ACT Composite Score would be the average of those four scores, which is a 30.

### **ACT Subject Test Subscores**

In addition to the Subject Test Scores, the ACT also breaks down each Subject Test into smaller subscores. These subscores will range between 1(low) and 18 (high). But be warned: the Subscores will not necessarily add up to the score for that Subject Test. For instance, on the English Subject Test you could get a Usage/Mechanics subscore of 16 and a Rhetorical Skills

Subscore of 14, but your English Subject Test score will probably be something other than 30. Here are the subscores you will receive for each of the different Subject Tests:

- **English**
  - Usage/Mechanics
  - Rhetorical Skills
- **Math**
  - Pre-Algebra and Elementary Algebra
  - Intermediate Algebra and Coordinate Geometry
  - Plane Geometry and Trigonometry
- **Reading**
  - Social Studies and Sciences Reading Skills
  - Arts and Literature Reading Skills
- **Science Reasoning** has no subscores.

### **National Rankings**

The National Rankings that appear on your ACT Score Report show your performance on each portion of the test as a percentile. If your national ranking on a particular area of the ACT was an 80, that means that you scored better on that section than 79% of the other students who took the test.

### **The Writing Test Score**

If you take the “optional” ACT Writing Test, the essay you write will be by two trained readers. Each reader will give the test a score from 1(low) to 6(high). Your score on the essay will be the sum of those two scores, so your score will range from 2 to 12, with 12 being a perfect score. If the two readers give your essay scores that differ by more than a point, a third reader will be brought in to resolve the issue. Your Writing Score will appear as a subscore of the English Subject Test on your Score report. You will also receive a Combined English/Writing score (in addition to your English Subject Test Score) that ranges from 1-36 and gives the English Test score a weight of 2/3 and your writing test score a weight of 1/3.

### **When will the college receive my scores?**

Colleges receive ACT score reports according to the reporting schedule they request, at least every two weeks. For that reason, score reports requested at the same time may be sent to different colleges at different times. Some colleges may receive scores only electronically. Those colleges might not review priority reports. Other colleges may receive paper reports sent by first-class mail and delivered within a few days. It is not unusual, however, for there to be some time between when a college receives your report and when the scores are added to your admissions file.

### **Which scores are reported if I test more than once?**

If you have taken the ACT or ACT Plus Writing more than once, we maintain a separate record for each test date. If you ask us to send a report to a college, we will release only the record from the test date you request. This protects you and ensures that you maintain control of your records. If you wish, you may ask us to report more than one test date record to a college.

However, you may not select test scores from different test dates to construct a new record; you must designate an entire test date record as it stands. ACT does not create new records by averaging scores from different test dates.

**When will my college need to have my ACT scores?**

Colleges have different procedures regarding application materials. Many will keep ACT scores in a holding file for a short time until they receive additional materials; however, some prefer to have your application before they receive the score report. Because these requirements differ greatly among the thousands of colleges to which we send score reports, we aren't able to provide students with information about a specific college's practices. Please contact the college directly to learn its preferences.