

10TH GRADE PARENT NIGHT CLASS OF 2027



**Walton High
School
Counseling
Department**

Tonight's Agenda

Part I: Walton Counselor Presentation

- Graduation and grade promotion requirements
- Course registration procedures
- HOPE scholarship details
- Dual enrollment & college visits for junior year

Part II: Heather Meadows-Adamson, Applerouth Tutoring Services

- PSAT score report
- SAT vs. ACT
- Digital PSAT/SAT
- ACT changes in 2025
- Next steps

Who's Who in the Counseling Office



Walton Counseling Department

Counselors (top row): Laura Clary (A-Ch); Betsy Alpert (Ci-G); Donna Dunham (H-K); Erica Watford (L-N); Tina Harwood (O-SL); Lisa Fay (Sm-Z)

Support Staff (bottom row): Rebecca England (College & Career); Stacy Ambles (504 Coordinator); Karen Schwartz (Social Worker); Melissa Schrenk (Registrar); Kristin Fox (Scheduling Clerk); Jen Burns (504 Clerk)

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Walton High School Counseling Department

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[New Student Enrollment Information](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)



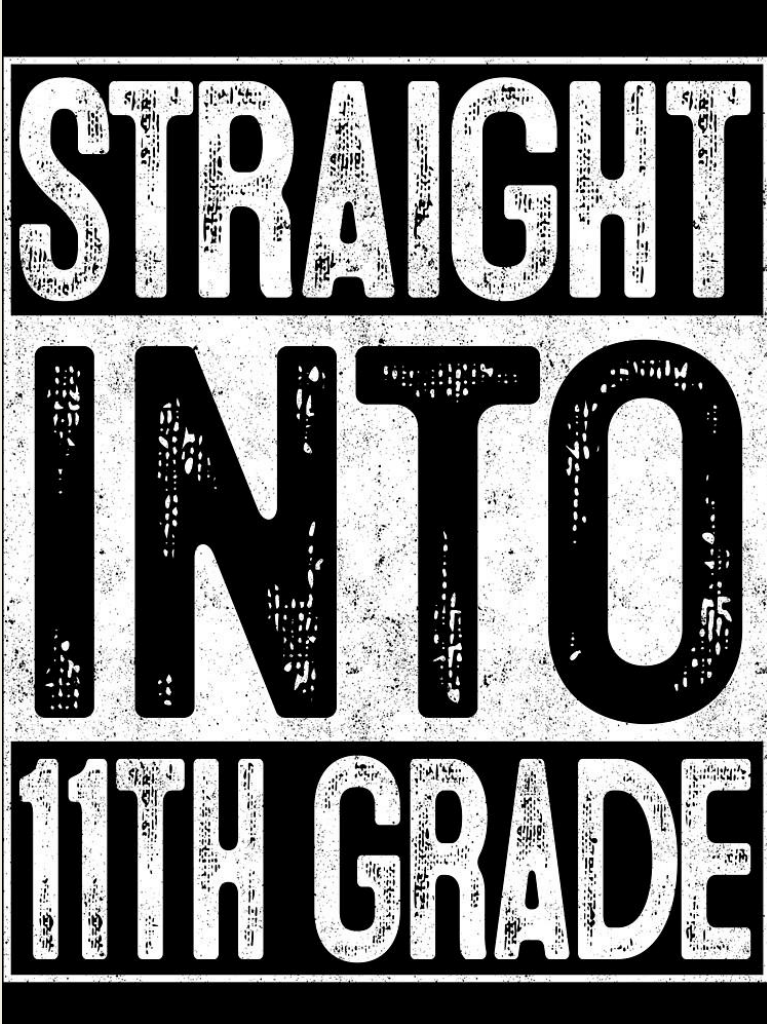
www.waltonhighcounseling.com

SCHOOL
COUNSELING
DEPARTMENT
WEBSITE

Graduation Requirements

Subject	Number of Credits Needed
English	4 credits (MUST INCLUDE: 9 th Lit, American Lit)
Math	4 credits (MUST INCLUDE: Algebra, Geometry, Adv Algebra)
Science	4 credits (MUST INCLUDE: Biology, Physics/Physical Science, Chemistry/Environmental Science)
Social Studies	3 credits (MUST INCLUDE: World History, US History, Personal Finance & Economics/ US Government)
Health and Personal Fitness	1 credit
Career Tech/Fine Arts/Foreign Language	3 credits
General Electives	4 credits
TOTAL	23 credits

Promotion to 11th grade



Requires a total of 10 credits and must include:

- Must include 2 English credits
- Must include 2 Math credits
- Must include 2 Science credits
- Plus 4 additional credits

TENTATIVE REGISTRATION CALENDAR 2025-26

RISING 11TH – 12TH GRADE

Date	Event
Week of February 3	Teachers will do core registration (except science)
Monday, February 10 and Tuesday, February 11	Science registration
Wednesday, February 26 (extended HR)	Core registration letters will be given to students in homeroom. Students will receive information about the elective registration process and deadlines. **Elective Fair in Dining Hall
Friday, March 7	Elective registration will be completed in homeroom
Tuesday, March 11	Links for Mentorship, work-based learning, teacher apprenticeship, and minimum day close at midnight. Links can be found in the student's CTLS homeroom.
Tuesday, April 1	Waiver and zero period deadline. Waiver link will close at midnight. Link can be found in the students' CTLS homeroom.
Friday, May 9	Course requests posted in Student/ParentVue

COURSE CHOICES & PROGRESSION



Grades are the best predictor for placement choices.



GPA and course rigor are the top factors in college admissions. Colleges want to see positive progression in rigor and grades.



Challenging yourself appropriately is important. Rigorous courses prepare you for success in college.



Take the strongest curriculum where you can be successful, taking into account your interests, abilities, and potential college majors.



Requirements vs Expectations

High school graduation requirements may differ from college admission requirements

ACADEMIC PLANNING GUIDE



Available on the School Counseling and Walton websites



FLOW Charts



All courses offered next year for each grade level



Course descriptions



Use in upcoming elective course registration

LET'S TALK ABOUT HOPE!

What are the
different types
of HOPE?

How is the
HOPE GPA
calculated?

What is HOPE
Rigor?

ZELL MILLER

4-YEAR COLLEGE TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Zell Miller Scholarship

- Requires 3.7 core high school (HOPE) GPA as calculated by GSFC
- Requires 1200 SAT Math and Reading or 25 ACT composite
- **Must earn a minimum of 4 credits from the academic rigor course list prior to graduating from high school.**
- Pays for two-year or four-year degree
- Must graduate from a GA high school
- Must be GA resident for at least one year (Green Card or citizenship)
- Covers **FULL** tuition
- Applies automatically for Valedictorian or Salutatorian
- Must maintain 3.3 GPA while in college

Zell Miller Grant

- Requires 3.5 *college* GPA for grant eligibility
- Does not require minimum test score
- Pays for certificate or diploma
- Must graduate from a GA high school
- Must be GA Resident for at least one year (Green Card or citizenship)
- Covers **FULL** tuition (retroactively covers previous semester once 3.5 GPA is earned)
- Must maintain 3.5 GPA while in college

HOPE

4-YEAR COLLEGE

TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Scholarship

- 3.0 core GPA as calculated by GSFC (can be earned in college)
- **Must earn a minimum of 4 credits from the academic rigor course list prior to graduating from high school. (Review your HOPE transcript on GAfutures.org)**
- Two-year or four-year degree
- Must graduate from a GA high school
- Must be a GA resident for at least one year (Green Card or citizenship)
- Covers a **percentage** of tuition

Grant

- No initial GPA requirement
- Technical certificate or diploma
- Must have a high school diploma or GED
- Must be a GA resident for at least one year (Green Card or citizenship)
- Covers a **percentage** of tuition

HOPE GPA

- The average of your core classes, which include ELA, math, science, social studies, & world lang (9th-12th)
- Includes
 - Academic Electives (ex. Algebra Support, Psychology, Yearbook, etc.)
 - ALL grades in these areas (PASSED OR FAILED)
- Core AP/DE earn Extra Quality Points up to a 4.0

Regular On-Level	Honors Level	AP/DE
A=4.0	A=4.0	A=4.0
B=3.0	B=3.0	B=3.5
C=2.0	C=2.0	C=2.5
D=1.0	D=1.0	D=1.5
F=0.0	F=0.0	F=0.0

[How to Check HOPE GPA in GAfutures](#)

HOPE RIGOR

The Class of 2027
must earn at
least four credits
in courses from
the following
categories to be
HOPE/Zell Miller
eligible

Advanced Math

- Adv Algebra,
Precalculus, AMDM,
Statistical Reasoning

Advanced Science

- Chemistry, Physics,
Human Anatomy,
Forensic Science

Advanced Placement

- Core subjects

University System of Georgia

- Dual Enrollment

Advanced World Language

- Level 2 and higher

DUAL ENROLLMENT

- Georgia's Dual Enrollment program allows high school students (10th – 12th grade) to earn college credit while working on their high school diploma.
- Dual Enrollment covers tuition, mandatory fees, and required textbooks.
- Student and parent/guardian are required to attend a mandatory Dual Enrollment Information Session if interested in pursuing Dual Enrollment.



[Dual Enrollment](#)

COLLEGE VISTS

■ College Visits In-Person

- Great way to start learning about colleges & discovering the best fit
- Juniors get 1 excused absence; Seniors get 2 excused absences
- Provide the attendance office with a letter from the admissions office confirming the student's visit or an email the student may receive after the visit thanking the student for visiting the campus

■ College Visits at Walton

- Each year over 100 college admissions counselors come to Walton to present information about their colleges
- Most colleges visit in early fall
- Please encourage your students next year to register and attend.
- Register in Naviance 25 hours in advance



PART 2
PRESENTED BY
HEATHER MEADOWS-ADAMSON
APPLEROUTH TUTORING
SERVICES

The PSAT, SAT/ACT, and College Admissions

Heather Meadows-Adamson
Premium Tutor, Applerouth Tutoring Services

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404-728-0661



Today

- Your PSAT Score Report
- SAT vs. ACT
- The Digital SAT
- ACT Changes in 2025
- Next Steps
- Q&A

Your PSAT Score Report



What is the PSAT?

- PSAT=Preliminary SAT
- Different types of PSAT
 - PSAT 8/9—only offered to 8th and 9th graders
 - PSAT 10—an option that can be offered to 10th graders
 - PSAT/NMSQT—offered to all 11th graders, sometimes also 10th graders (changes by school)
- **NOT used for college applications, must take SAT or ACT**

Why take the PSAT?

- Practice for the SAT or ACT
- For Juniors, it's the first step for the National Merit Scholarship process
- Check your progress in school using percentiles and the College and Career Readiness Benchmarks

PSAT Scoring Scale

PSAT/NMSQT Score Reported	Details	Score Range
Section Scores	Reading and Writing (RW)	160–760
	Math (M)	160–760
Total Score	Sum of the 2 section scores	320–1520
Selection Index Score	$\frac{2(RW) + M}{10}$	48–228

The SAT scale goes to 1600

The Selection Index Score is only applicable to Juniors for the National Merit Scholarship

PSAT/NMSQT™

CollegeBoard

NATIONAL MERIT
SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION

Name: Parker Pupil

Grade: 11

Test administration: PSAT/NMSQT Fall 2024

Tested on: Oct 12, 2024

Record Locator: 4561264

Your Score Report

PSAT/NMSQT Scores

TOTAL SCORE

1120 | 320-1520 | 75th*

Score Range: 1080-1160

3 Year Average Score (all test-takers): 1100

SECTION SCORES

Reading and Writing

620 | 160-760 | 60th*

Your Score Range: 590-650

3 Year Average Score (all test-takers): 600

Math

500 | 160-760 | 70th*

Your Score Range: 490-530

3 Year Average Score (all test-takers): 500

* Percentiles represent the percent of 11th grade test takers from the past 3 years who scored the same as or below you.

Score range: This is the range of scores you could possibly get if you took the PSAT/NMSQT multiple times on different days.

Knowledge and Skills

View your performance across the 8 content domains measured on the PSAT/NMSQT. For more information on performance score bands, visit satsuite.collegeboard.org/skills-insight.

Reading and Writing

Information and Ideas

(26% of test section, 12-14 questions)

Performance: 680-800

Craft and Structure

(28% of test section, 13-15 questions)

Performance: 550-600

Expression of Ideas

(20% of test section, 8-12 questions)

Performance: 550-600

Standard English Conventions

(26% of test section, 11-15 questions)

Performance: 420-460

Math

Algebra

(35% of test section, 13-15 questions)

Performance: 610-670

Advanced Math

(32.5% of test section, 12-14 questions)

Performance: 420-460

Problem Solving & Data Analysis

(20% of test section, 7-9 questions)

Performance: 420-460

Geometry & Trigonometry

(12.5% of test section, 4-6 questions)

Performance: 420-460

Juniors Only

NATIONAL MERIT
SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION

NMSC SELECTION INDEX SCORE

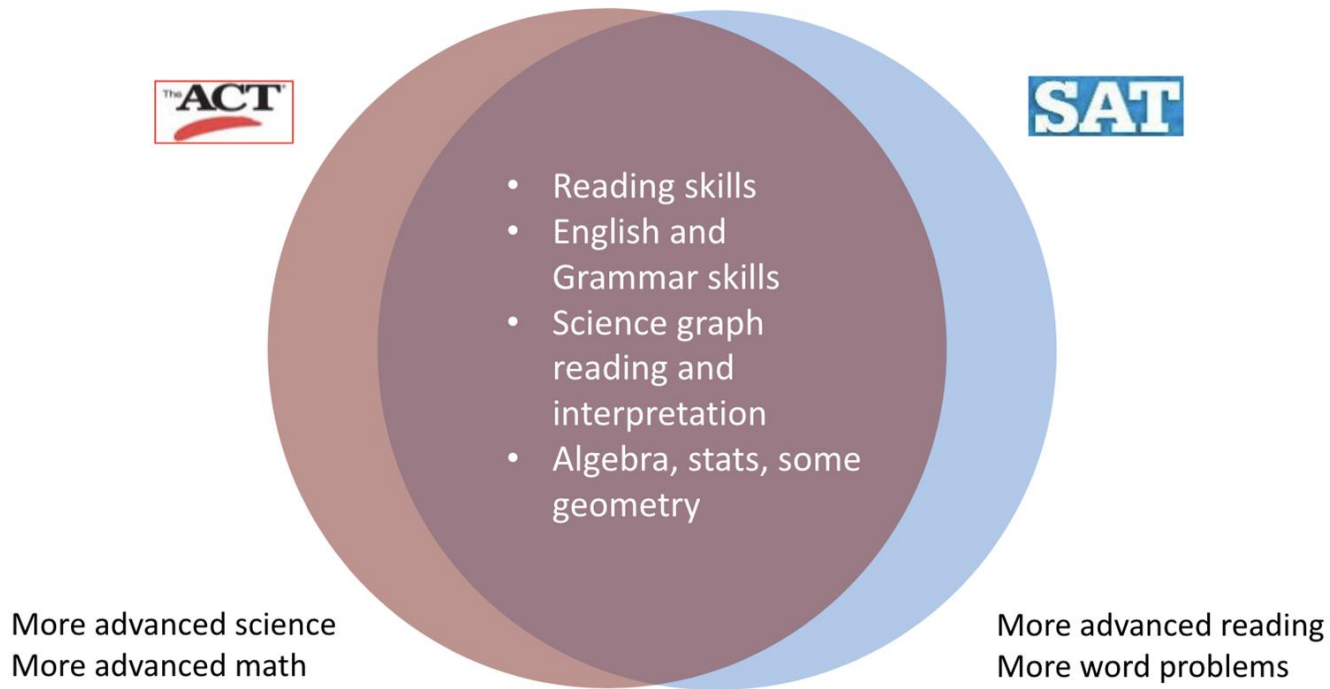
174 | 48-228

You meet entry requirements for the National Merit Scholarship Program. Look on page 2 of this report for more information.

SAT vs. ACT



The (d)SAT and ACT have roughly 80% overlapping content



PSAT/SAT and ACT have moved away from each other in some ways

Short reading passages
Few grammar rules tested
Focus on Algebra and graphing skills
Digitally adaptive testing experience
2 hours and 24 minutes testing time

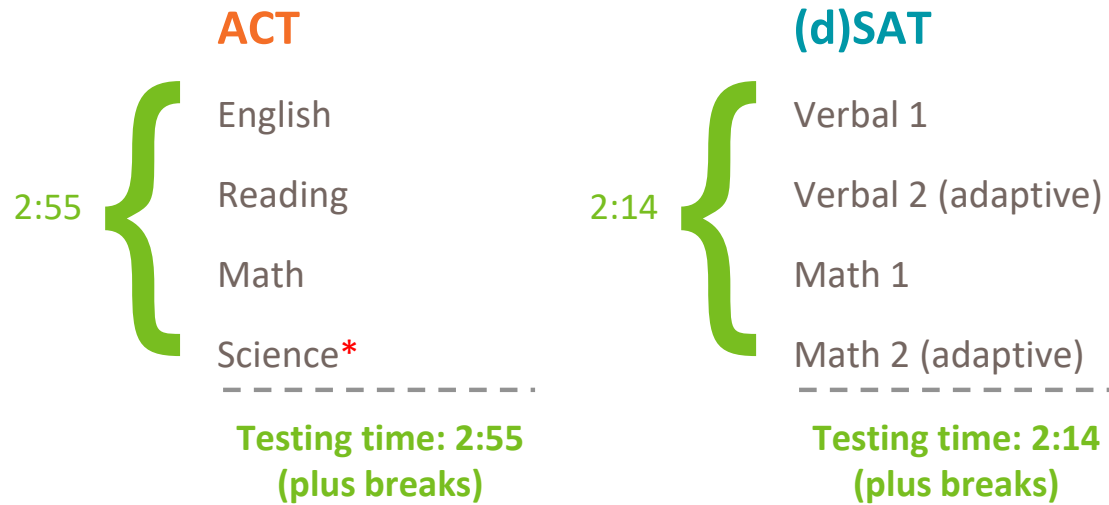


Long reading passages
More grammar rules tested
Covers wide range of math, including Precalculus
Science section
Optional essay
Linear paper-based testing
3 hours and 5 minutes testing time

****ACT Changes coming in 2025-26**



Test Structure and Timing



The amount of time per question is a profound difference

Section	ACT	dSAT	% Difference (dSAT vs. ACT)
Verbal (E/W + R)	44.3	71.0	60%
Math	60.0	95.5	59%
Science	52.5	n/a	N/A

The SAT has a more forgiving timing structure, which can benefit some students, but as we'll see, it's also a more complicated test.

The Digital PSAT/SAT



Why Digital testing?

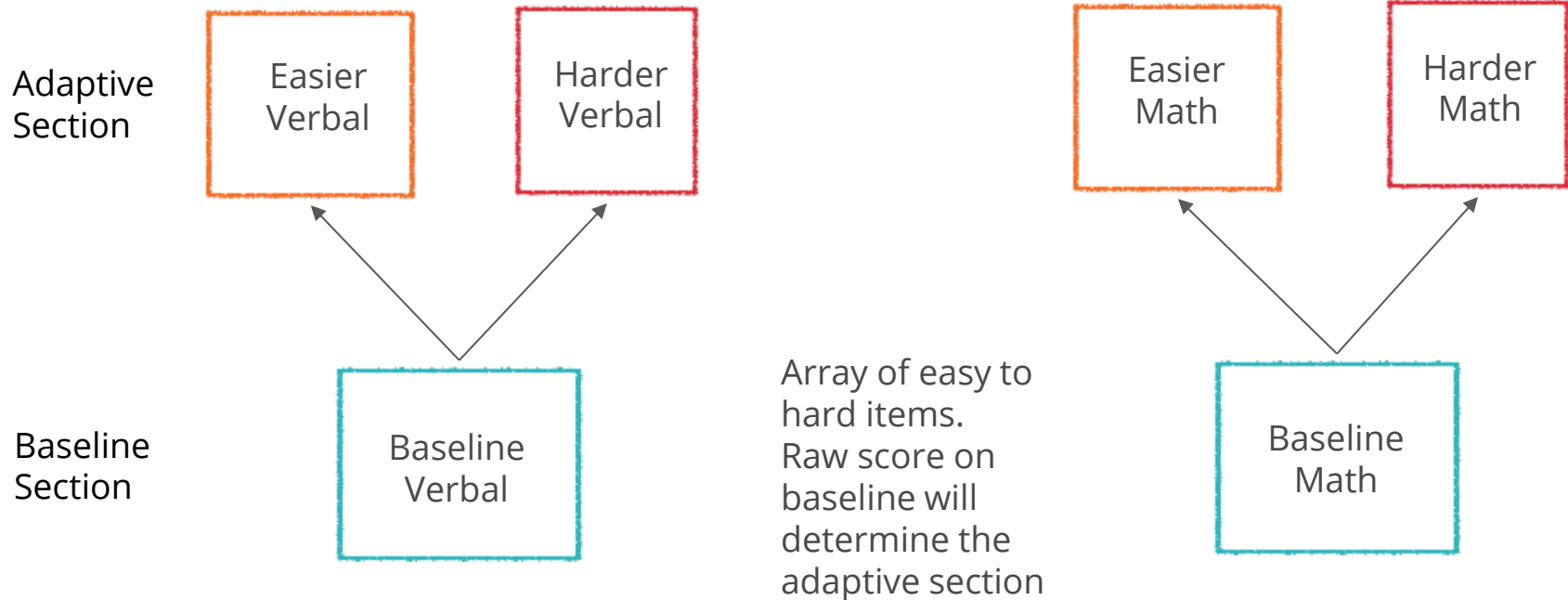
Digital tests have lots of potential advantages over paper ones.

- Eliminates the need for human proctors to manage time; makes the test **more consistent and reliable**
- Eliminates issues with bubbling or gridding in answers, or **the need for scantrons**;
- **Increases test security**, making it less likely whole test administrations will need to be cancelled;
- **Improves accommodations** available for students with learning differences
- Results will be available **faster** (within days, not weeks)
- Test can be **more efficient**, saving students time (and focus!)

What does “adaptive” mean?

- The new SAT will be **SECTION-adaptive**, as opposed to QUESTION-adaptive. Students will see reading/writing and math each twice. Section One will be set, and Section Two will vary based on how the student performs in Section One.
- The second module will adapt in only one of two ways- the questions will be, on average, easier than the baseline, or harder than the baseline
- In adaptive testing, there's **no single, set test form**
- **Earlier questions** can affect students' scores more than later ones

Adaptive Sections



ACT Changes



ACT Changes

The ACT has announced that they will be introducing a new, shorter version of the test that will be available in both digital and paper formats.

Here's their current timeline for the shorter version:

- April 2025: ACT National (Online Only)
- September 2025: ACT National (Paper/Online) & International
- Spring 2026: State & District Testing (School Day Testing)

ACT Changes

What We Heard	How the ACT is Improving	What This Means for the Testing Experience
"The test is too long, I need more time!"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Reducing the number of questions overall (44 fewer questions to be exact.)Reducing the test length from up to 195 minutes to 125 minutes.More time per question.Reducing the number of math question answer choices from 5 to 4.	A test that's more manageable so students can shine, while also maintaining the integrity and rigor of the ACT that colleges rely on and trust to aid in the admissions process and get students placed into the right courses.
"The science section scares me."	Students can now choose to take the ACT with or without science.	More choice and more flexibility, allowing students to tailor their experience to fit their needs. This gives them more control over their testing experience.
"I want to show off my science and math skills for my major."	The score report will include a science score and a STEM score if students choose to take the science section.	If a student is planning to take science courses in college, they still have the option of taking the ACT with science to showcase their skills and work toward their future goals.
"I don't want to test on a computer. I still want paper."	The choice is still theirs! The ACT is available via <u>paper/pencil or online</u> .	<p>Students can test the way they feel most comfortable and show off their best performance.</p> <p><i>Note: If choosing to test online, these enhancements will be made available beginning with the April 2025 ACT test. These enhancements to the test will take effect, regardless of testing mode, beginning with the September 2025 ACT test.</i></p>

Source: ACT.org

Next Steps



Next Steps

- **Meet with your counselor**
- **Create a college list**
 - Gather data on GPAs and test scores
- **Get baseline SAT/ACT scores**
 - How do these compare to the middle 50th percentile scores from your list of schools?
- **Check your calendar**
 - Plan for three tests and stop once you reach your goal
- **Prep if you need it**
 - Rule of thumb is to start practicing and studying 8 weeks before your official test date

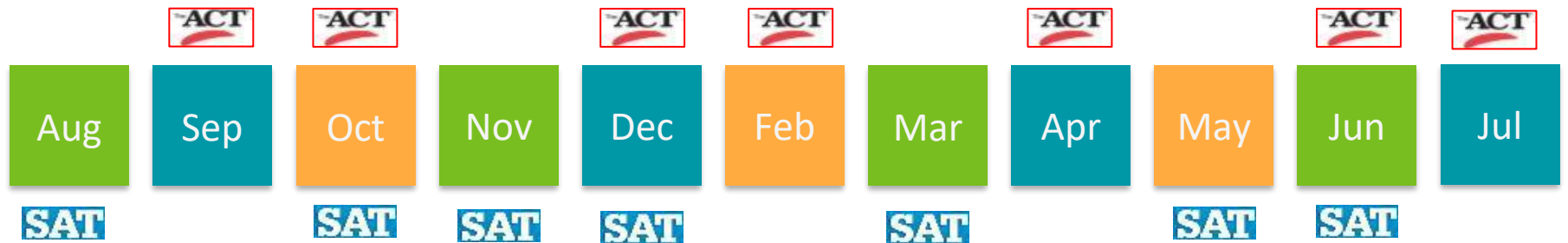
What is superscoring?

Superscoring allows students to combine top section scores from different test dates to form **a new composite score**, the only score to be used in the admissions process.

The vast majority of schools will superscore the SAT, and many will superscore the ACT. Always check with the admissions office of every school your student wants to attend!

Test Date	Verbal	Math	Composite
March	630	670	1300
May	610	630	1240
June	660	650	1310
Superscore	660	670	1330

National testing dates



If possible, plan to test 2-3 times. You may be “one and done,” but you want to build some slack into your plan, just in case. Students usually need to start preparing 8-12 weeks before the test.

Which Test To Try First?

Both of them, ideally, to establish baselines and see which format you prefer (practice, no need to take official tests)

1. Start with your **STRENGTH**. If none,
2. Prep to your **PREFERENCE**.
3. If prep is not yielding results, switch to the other test. If you have to switch, more than 80% of the content transfers

Testing is typically a Junior Year activity

- The overwhelming majority of students can wait until sophomore year has concluded to begin test preparation
 - **Completing AdvAlgebra is beneficial**
- Different students will choose different schedules
 - Consider your busiest season for extra curricular activities and plan around that
- Some students will be ready to begin preparation earlier in the Junior year or even the summer before.
- Waiting until Senior fall to start puts too much pressure on too few test dates.

Ask the Experts

The Real Deal on AP Courses
and College Admissions

📅 Tuesday, February 11

🕒 8pm ET / 5pm PT

EVENT



Mary de Villiers

UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME
Director of International
Admissions



Nathan Mack

UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
Associate Director of
International Admission



Mark Machan

GROTON SCHOOL
Associate Director of
College Counseling



John Moscattello

MARCO LEARNING
Founder & CEO

Questions about APs and College Admissions?

Join our expert panel to explore the role of APs in college admissions, gain strategies for managing academic demands, and uncover tips for exam success.

Secure your spot now.

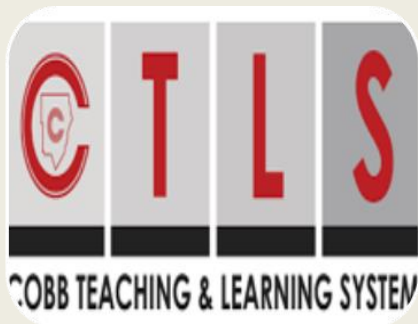
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Event code: EVT83E98

Q&A

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FINAL THOUGHTS

STAY INFORMED



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Night (Spring)



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questions