

College Entrance Exams 2019-2020

All colleges require some sort of entrance exam in order to be accepted and the scores are usually valid for 5 years. Four-year universities require either the SAT or the ACT but sometimes ask student to also take TSI. Community colleges accept the TSI Assessment, but a student might be exempt based on their SAT or ACT scores. For example, CTC will exempt a student from one or more TSI requirements if:

- SAT (March 2016+) math score is at least 530 – exempt from TSI math exam
- SAT (March 2016+) Evidence Based Reading & Writing score is at least 480 – exempt from TSI reading section
- ACT score is at least 23 and a math score is at least 19 – exempt from TSI math exam
- ACT score is at least 23 and an English score is at least 19 - exempt from TSI reading section

Which test should you take SAT or ACT? <https://www.kaptest.com/sat/sat-vs-act>

SAT

Register: Online at www.collegeboard.org Deadline is usually about 4 weeks prior to testing date (upload photo)
You can have your scores sent to up to 8 colleges for free (4 with registration & 4 additional).

Cost: **\$64.50 (with Essay)** Online registration requires credit card payment or fee waiver; check/money order fill out paper registration form. **If on free/reduced lunch, see home campus counselor for a fee waiver code - limit 2 (once in 11th and once in 12th) & get 4 college application fee waivers sent to you**

Late Fee: Additional \$29.00 (can use fee waiver for late registration)

Accommodations: After approved for test accommodations, provide SSD Number from College Board's Eligibility Letter

Score Reports: **To send colleges your report for free, you must do so within 9 days after taking the test - limit 4**

Evaluates: General thinking and problem-solving abilities

Focus: Real-world learning and analysis and what students learn in school; heavy on vocabulary

Bring: Calculator

Length of time: 3 hours for exam plus 50 minutes for essay

2016+ Sections: Three sections (total of 154 questions excluding the essay):

- Math (80 minutes for 58 questions - more algebra & problem solving; limited use of calculator)
- Evidence-Based Reading (65 minutes for 52 questions)
- Evidence-Based Writing (35 minutes for 44 questions)
- Essay (take it because most colleges require it) student reads a 650-750 passage and prepares a "facts-based essay" (similar to AP exam questions)

2016+ Scoring: Reverts to 1600-point scale with Math & EBRW score each ranging from 200-800. Will also show TOTAL SCORE.
No penalty for wrong answers.

Additional scoring:

- 3 test scores (10-40) on Reading, Writing/Language, & Math;
- 2 cross-test scores (10-40) on Science & Social Studies;
- 7 subscores (1-15) on Relevant Words in Context, Command of Evidence, Expression of Ideas, Standard English Conventions, Heart of Algebra, Passport to Advanced Math, Problem Solving and Data Analysis;
- 3 essay subscores (2-8) on Essay Reading, Essay Analysis, & Essay Writing.

Resources: www.deliveringopportunity.org &/or <https://www.khanacademy.org/sat>

Test prep tutors recommend taking the SAT 3 times/back to back.

Contact: **1-866-756-7346**

ACT

- Register:** Online at www.actstudent.org Deadline is usually about 4 weeks prior to testing date (upload photo)
You can have your scores sent to up to 4 colleges for free through the registration process.
- Cost:** **\$67.00** (with Writing section) **If you are on free/reduced lunch, see your counselor for a fee waiver code (limit 2).**
- Late Fee:** Additional \$30.00 (CANNOT use fee waiver for late registration fee)
- Evaluates:** Overall educational development and ability to complete college-level work
- Focus:** Heavy on grammar and punctuation
- Length of time:** 2 hours and 55 minutes (not including breaks or the optional 40 minute essay)
- Sections:** Four sections (215 questions) excluding the optional essay that you should do:
- English (24 minutes for 75 questions)
 - Reading (35 minutes for 40 questions)
 - Math (60 minutes for 60 questions)
 - Science (35 minutes for 40 questions)
- New Fall 2015:** Enhanced writing test, new scoring for STEM, Career Readiness Indicator, Test Complexity Indicator, ELA Score
- Format:** 215 questions – all multiple-choice
- Scoring:** Each test score ranges from 1 to 36 (No penalty for wrong answers)
Composite Score is figured by adding the four sections and dividing by 4 (this is what colleges are looking for)
- Resources:** ACT website: ACT Aspire & \$\$ Kaplan's ACT Online Prep (free for students who used fee waiver)
McGraw-Hill's 10 Practice ACTs
- Contact:** **319.337.1270**

TSI Assessment

- Length of time:** Allow at least 4 hours (it is untimed, but students have been known to take up to 6 hours to complete)
- Sections:**
- Math (elementary and intermediate algebra & functions, geometry and measurements, data analysis, statistics & probability)
 - Reading (literacy analysis, main idea and supporting details, inferences in text, author's use of language)
 - Writing w/ Essay (essay revision, agreement, sentence structure, sentence logic)
- Format:** Must complete Pre-Assessment Activities **before** you can begin the test
- i. CTC's Pre-Assessment – go to www.ctcd.edu and type in "PAA" in the Search Box, and click "Pre-Assessment Activity – Central Texas College" and go through each of the 5 links.
 - ii. TC's Pre-Assessment – go to www.templejc.edu click on "Resources" click on "Testing Center", then click "College Placement & Program Admissions Testing"

Scoring:

	Score Required to not have to take developmental classes
Math (starts with Alg II concepts)	350
Reading	351
Writing w/ Essay	5 on Essay or 4 on Essay w/ 340 on objective
You can still enroll in a community college if you score below this, but you may be require to take some developmental classes and it may prevent you from getting accepted into certain programs (i.e. Nursing).	

- Register:** Check with your home campus by talking to your counselor because each campus does it differently.
- Cost:** **Free** on KISD campus (limit 2 attempts per yr). **The Career Center will only test CCALL students who plan to attend CTC.**
You can also take it at CTC's Testing Center, but follow these directions:
- Bring:** Student ID # & valid photo ID (DO NOT bring anything else with you)
 - Cost:** **\$25** (includes Writing) Prepay at CTC's Business Office if you don't have exact cash (Bldg 119)
Take receipt to Testing Services (Bldg 111, Rm 233). Below are the Testing Services' hours:
 - Hours:** Mon-Thurs 7:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Friday 7:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Resources:** <http://sites.austincc.edu/tsiprep/> http://ctle.hccs.edu/gcpass/PREP_Home.htm
- Contact:** **866-607-5223**