

# Recommended Standardized Testing Timeline (PSAT 10 / PSAT / SAT / ACT)

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## U.S. University Admission

### 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> Grade

Students should begin their **ACT/SAT** practice and review using the **FREE** resources from [Khan Academy](#) and/or the [ACT Academy](#). By practicing for **both** the **SAT** and the **ACT**, students can determine which test suits them best and make the choice to concentrate on one or the other going forward.

9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> grade students can take the [PSAT 10](#) in order to experience the types of questions and information they should be familiar with. In addition, it is great way to simulate the SAT test environment for students who are not familiar with these types of standardized tests. We recommend that 10<sup>th</sup> grade students pair the **PSAT 10** with the [ACT/SAT Preparation Course](#) in the Spring. The preparation course can help students determine the areas they need to work on and support them with creating a study plan for their practice and review.

- **Khan Academy Official SAT Practice** and/or **ACT Academy Practice**
- **PSAT 10** – February or March of 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> grade
- **ACT/SAT Preparation Course** – Spring of 10<sup>th</sup> grade

### 11<sup>th</sup> Grade

Take the [PSAT](#) in October of 11<sup>th</sup> grade ([NMSQT scholarship consideration](#) - U.S. citizens/residents) followed by the [ACT](#) in February and/or the [SAT](#) in March. **All colleges and universities accept both tests equally and have no preference for one test over the other.** 11<sup>th</sup> grade students should begin their **ACT/SAT** testing as early as possible as that allows for a 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> attempt at improving their score. We also recommend (re)taking the **ACT/SAT Preparation Course** in the Spring prior to (re)taking the **ACT/SAT** in April, May and/or June.

- **PSAT** – October of 11<sup>th</sup> grade
- **ACT** – February and/or April of 11<sup>th</sup> grade
- **SAT** – March and/or May of 11<sup>th</sup> grade (Could also be in December of 11<sup>th</sup> grade)
- **ACT/SAT Preparation Course** – Spring of 11<sup>th</sup> grade
- [SAT Subject Tests](#) (if required – [check university websites for information](#)) – May or June of 11<sup>th</sup> grade

### Summer between 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grade

We recommend plenty of preparation during the spring and in the summer between 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade. If the summer will be busy, then students should begin their practice and review as early as possible after the new school year starts. Review test scores from the February, March, April, May and/or June session(s) and focus on areas that need improvement.

### 12<sup>th</sup> Grade: Re-take SAT, ACT, and/or SAT Subject Tests, if necessary

Answering these questions can help determine the ideal testing timeline in 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

- Will you apply [Early Action or Early Decision](#) to one or more U.S. universities?
- Will you apply to **highly selective** U.S. universities?
- Are your current scores within the expected range of the universities on your final list?
- Do you plan to take both the SAT and the ACT?

If the answers are mostly “**YES**”, then **November of 12<sup>th</sup> grade** should be your last SAT/ACT attempt.

If the answers are mostly “**NO**”, then your final sitting may be in **December** of 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

- **ACT** – September, October and/or \*\*December of 12<sup>th</sup> grade
- **SAT** – October and/or \*\*December of 12<sup>th</sup> grade
- **SAT Subject Tests** (if required) – October, \*November, or \*\*December of grade 12

\*Language with Listening ONLY offered in November.

\*\*December is the final acceptable test date for **regular** applicants (applications due by January 1<sup>st</sup>).

### ACT/SAT Preparation Course

[Academic Services International](#) runs an ACT/SAT preparation courses on the ISD campus each spring. We encourage students to take their first preparation course in 10<sup>th</sup> grade and then re-take the course (**FOR FREE!**) in 11<sup>th</sup> grade. Course information and registration is announced via the Weekly Announcements in early December.