

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

U.S. Higher Education Admission

9th/10th Grade

Begin your **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**, you can determine which test suits you best and make the choice to concentrate on one or the other going forward.

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

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

11th Grade

Take the [PSAT](#) in October ([NMSQT scholarship consideration](#) - U.S. citizens/residents) followed by the [ACT](#) in February **and/or** the [SAT](#) in March. **All U.S. institutions accept both tests equally and have no preference for one test over the other.** 11th grade students should begin their **ACT/SAT** testing as early as possible as that allows for a 2nd or 3rd attempt at improving your 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
- **ACT** – February and/or April
- **SAT** – March and/or May (If you started your preparation early, you could sit the SAT in December)
- **ACT/SAT Preparation Course** – Spring of 11th grade

Summer between 11th & 12th grade

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

12th Grade: Re-take SAT and/or ACT, if necessary

Answering these questions can help determine the ideal testing timeline in 12th grade:

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

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

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

- **ACT** – September, October **and/or** **December
- **SAT** – October **and/or** **December

December is the last possible test date for **regular applicants (applications due by January 1st).

ACT/SAT Preparation Course

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