

# TESTING 101

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TESTING OVERVIEW  
PARENT UNIVERSITY, MCLEAN HIGH SCHOOL



# PARENT UNIVERSITY

CLASS OF 2024

MCLEAN HIGH SCHOOL

**Friday, October 8: Testing 101**

**Friday, February 17: Finding the Fit**

**Friday, May 19: Parent Panel**

**Fall 2023: McLean Application Process**

# TEST OR NOT TO TEST

## Why take it? FLEXIBILITY

- Some schools will require test scores
- Some programs of study will require
- Some scholarships will require/or will help

Google - Common Data Set “your school”

# TESTING TERMINOLOGY

- Test Optional, score optional
- Test Blind or Test Free
- Test flexible

<https://www.collegedata.com/resources/prepare-and-apply/test-optional-test-blind-whats-the-difference>

Reach out to admissions rep

# THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR FAIR AND OPEN TESTING

[www.fairtest.org](http://www.fairtest.org)

Provides list of institutions that are “test optional”, “test flexible”, or otherwise de-emphasize the use of standardized tests by making admissions decisions -- without using ACT or SAT scores -- for all or many applicants who recently graduated from U.S. high schools.

# SAT vs. ACT - General

Format	SAT	ACT
Length	3 hours, 50 mins (including optional 50 minute essay)	3 hours, 35 mins (including optional 40 minute essay)
Structure	4 Sections (Evidence-Based Reading, Writing, Math without calc., Math with calc.)	4 Sections (English, Math, Reading, Science) + Optional Essay.
Scoring	SAT	ACT
Score	Out of 1600. 800 for Math and 800 for Reading+Writing. Optional Essay receives separate score, and subscores/ insight scores are available. No guessing penalty.	Composite score on a scale of 1-36 (average of all sections). Essay contributes to ELA score. No guessing penalty.
Reporting Scores	You decide which full score(s) to send	You decide which full score(s) to send

# SAT vs. ACT- Content

	SAT	ACT
Critical Reading	More vocabulary, evidence gathering	More basic fact, less inference
Math	Until end of Algebra II (including Trigonometry). Increased focus on Data Analysis and Algebraic thinking.	Until end of Algebra II. Few topics appear on ACT that do not on the SAT (all of conics, matrices, etc.). Scope more broadly distributed.
Writing	More word usage questions, bigger scope of grammar rules, ~50% of rhetoric questions.	Lesser scope of grammar rules tested, less rhetoric questions percentage than SAT, more questions and repetition.
Science	Not tested, but Insight Score for Science is provided.	Analysis, Interpretation, Evaluation, and Problem Solving.

THE SAT ALLOWS  
MORE TIME PER  
QUESTION THAN THE  
ACT.



# SUPERSCORING: HOW DOES IT WORK?

YOUR STUDENT WILL RECEIVE HIS OR HER SCORES ABOUT THREE WEEKS FROM THE DATE OF THE TEST BY LOGGING INTO EITHER THE COLLEGE BOARD OR THE ACT WEBSITE.

SCORES WILL ONLY GO TO THE COLLEGES YOUR STUDENT CHOOSES.

ADMISSIONS REPS FROM COLLEGES THAT SUPERSCORE WILL CONSIDER ONLY YOUR STUDENT'S HIGHEST SCORES FROM EACH SUBTEST.

CONTACT EACH SCHOOL INDIVIDUALLY TO ASK ABOUT SUPERSCORING.



# SAT OR ACT? WHICH TEST SHOULD YOUR STUDENT TAKE?

STILL NOT SURE WHICH TEST TO TAKE?

- STUDENTS SHOULD TAKE A PRACTICE TEST TO DETERMINE WHICH TEST THEY FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE WITH AND ON WHICH TEST THEY SCORE IN A HIGHER PERCENTILE.
- STUDENTS SHOULD CHECK THE ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS OF SCHOOLS THEY ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING.

# COLLEGE ADMISSION TESTING RESOURCES – TEST PREP

## SAT:

[WWW.COLLEGEBOARD.ORG](http://www.collegeboard.org) : COLLEGEBOARD RECENTLY TEAMED WITH KHAN ACADEMY TO PROVIDE FREE TEST PREP VIDEOS, WEBSITE INCLUDES FREE PRACTICE TESTS AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD AND PRACTICE APPS.

## ACT:

[WWW.ACT.ORG](http://www.act.org) : ACT PROVIDES ACT ACADEMY, WHICH PROVIDES FREE TUTORING AND PRACTICE TESTS ONLINE.

# FCPS RESOURCES

McLean is pleased to share that we offer several resources to help students prepare for college entrance exams including ACT, SAT, and PSAT via two software platforms: albert.io and tutor.com.

## **Albert.io**

Students can access albert.io by joining the McLean HS College Entrance Test Prep class by following the instruction below:

1. Visit [www.albert.io/classes](http://www.albert.io/classes)
2. Click “join class” and enter the code **292XJ9ST2DEMW**

## **Tutor.com**

Students in FCPS have 24/7 access to an online tutoring service called tutor.com. Tutor.com allows students to connect with a live tutor virtually at any time of day, spontaneously or scheduled in advance. Tutors are available via tutor.com to support SAT/ACT and PSAT preparation. For more information, refer to the [FCPS website](#).

# QUESTIONS?

