



FAQ's About College Admissions Testing

How do I register for tests?

Urban School does not administer the SAT OR ACT. You must register at The College Board website (www.collegeboard.com) or the ACT website (www.actstudent.org). Register as soon as you know which tests you plan to take: test sites fill up quickly and you are more likely to get the site of your choice if you register early.

What tests should I take as a Junior?

We recommend that students take one SAT Reasoning Test or ACT with Writing and two Subject Tests in the spring of Junior year. Students will most likely repeat all tests in their Senior year.

When should I take the tests?

The SAT Reasoning Test is offered in March, May and June, and the ACT is offered in April and June. Any of these months are good times to take the SAT Reasoning Test or the ACT. In addition to the student's individual schedule and commitments, test prep classes and timing of the Subject tests should be considered.

What Subject tests should I take?

This varies from student to student according to their course schedule, preferences, strengths, etc. Many Urban students choose to take Literature, Math 1 or 2, Foreign Language, Chemistry or Physics. Students should talk with their counselor about the best timing for these tests.

Do colleges have specific requirements for Subject Tests?

Most selective colleges require any two subject tests; a (very) few require three. Engineering programs usually require Math 2 and recommend a science subject test. Students should always check the website of an individual college for the requirements as they can change from year to year.

When should I take the Subject tests?

May or June of Junior year is a recommended start date. Students are able to take up to three tests in one day. Again, how many tests a student takes on one day depends on individual strengths, testing style, preferences and schedule.

Can I take the SAT Reasoning and Subject tests on the same day?

No.

Should I take the tests more than once?

We recommend that most students take a set of tests once in the spring of their Junior year and repeat the tests in the Senior year. This is an individual decision that you can discuss with your counselor.

How late will colleges accept the tests?

Colleges will accept tests through the December test date – even if, like the UCs – the application is due earlier. The exception is an Early Admission application.

When is the last test date for Early Decision/Action?

Students applying early should plan to complete their testing by October.

Do colleges see all of the tests?

Some will, some will not. The College Board has implemented a policy called Score Choice that allows students to choose which SAT scores to send. The ACT allows students to send the results of only one test. However, some colleges are requiring students to send all of their scores. In any case, colleges almost always consider only the highest scores required.

When should I send the tests to colleges?

You DO NOT need to send scores to colleges in the Junior year. For Regular Decision, scores should be sent to colleges only once upon registering for the last test. For Early Admission programs, it is important that they arrive on or close to the early deadline. Keep in mind that scores usually take three weeks to arrive after you request a score report to the colleges.

How do I know which test is right for me?

In 2016, the College Board introduced a redesigned SAT. Urban students are well prepared for this test. Sophomores and Juniors are introduced to the SAT when they take the PSAT each October. Urban offers an optional mock ACT on site each fall. Urban students may use the PSAT and the mock ACT to determine which test may be their best match.

What about extended time?

Please contact Urban's Learning Services Office with any questions about accommodations for college-related standardized testing.