

# Plan Ahead for the SAT or ACT

Going to college is an exciting opportunity, but the application process, especially the testing, can be stressful. Planning ahead for the SAT and ACT will help you minimize the stress and maximize your test scores. These tips for each year of high school will help you set yourself up for success.

## 9th Grade:

- ▶ Complete Algebra II
- ▶ Read every day to increase your vocabulary.
- ▶ Get involved in a club or activity you are passionate about.
- ▶ Sign up for the PSAT 8/9 if your school offers it.

## 10th Grade:

- ▶ Take a challenging math class that includes trigonometry.
- ▶ Start working on a list of colleges that interest you. Check the testing requirements and average test scores of each college on your list.
- ▶ Take a practice SAT and ACT or try a Combo Test to see which test is better for you.
- ▶ Sign up for a summer test prep course. For a 200 point increase on the SAT or 6 point increase on the ACT, plan on 20-25 hours of class time and at least 4 practice tests.
- ▶ Take the Pre-ACT if your school offers it.

## 11th Grade:

- ▶ Take the PSAT/NMSQT in October.
- ▶ Go to [collegeboard.org](http://collegeboard.org) to register for the SAT or to [act.org](http://act.org) to register for the ACT. The registration deadline is usually 4 weeks before the test date.
- ▶ If you will be requesting

accommodations such as extended time, make sure to register 6-8 weeks in advance of the test.

- ▶ Take your first official test in the fall, such as the September ACT or the November SAT.
- ▶ Consider one-on-one tutoring to address your weak areas.
- ▶ Take your second official test in the spring, such as the March SAT or April ACT.
- ▶ Keep May open for AP exams.

## 12th Grade:

- ▶ Finalize your list of colleges.
- ▶ It's not too late to take a test prep class if you still need one.
- ▶ If necessary, take one more official test in the fall to maximize your superscore.



Visit **TP4S.COM** to learn more about our test prep program, fundraisers, and free prep materials.