

ASSESSMENTS/TESTS

There are several types of tests students take during their high school years. Some tests are state and/or district required and others are entrance exams for post-high school education programs. The table below provides an overview.

Grade	Test/Assessment	Required	Dates	Information
9	Writing Assessment	District	Spring	Writing performance levels
10	Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL)*	State	Spring	Reading, writing, math, and science scores showing proficiency levels. Note: Opportunity may exist for 9 th graders to take this test.
<p><i>*Students get 5 opportunities throughout high school to take the WASL and meet standards. Only on the first attempt do students who exceed standard (Level 4) earn "Scholar" designation on high school transcript.</i></p>				
10, 11 or 12	Entrance Exams WCC & BTC	Admittance to Running Start.	Varies	Acceptance and/or placement into English and math courses and specific programs.
11	Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT)	Not required but recommended	mid-October	Practice achievement test in verbal & math for 4-year university. Also, provides qualification test for National Merit Scholars. Take at high school.
11 or 12	Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) I	Not required but recommended for all juniors & seniors considering college *	7 Saturdays throughout school year	Verbal & mathematical reasoning abilities as they relate to successful performance in college. Test NOT taken at high school campus. Students select test location on registration form. Pre-register at least 6 weeks prior to exam date.
11 or 12	Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) II	Needed for entrance into highly selective colleges *	7 Saturdays throughout school year	Measures specific areas in world language, writing, math, and science reasoning. Pre-register at least 6 weeks prior to exam date.
11 or 12	ACT	Not required but recommended for all jrs. & srs. considering college *	6 Saturdays throughout school year	Measures knowledge and skills in English, mathematics, reading, and science reasoning and application of skills. Pre-register at least 6 weeks prior to exam date.

* The SAT/ACT tests are only required for admissions to 4-year colleges. However, because student post-high educational plans do change, it's recommended to take these tests while still in high school while knowledge is fresh. It's important to keep options open.

TAKING THE SAT & ACT TESTS

For entrance into a 4-year college or university, students must take either the SAT I or ACT during the spring of the junior year or fall of the senior year. Colleges will take either score so students are encouraged to take both the SAT I and ACT to determine which test is a better test for the individual student. However, consult your counselor to see if one test is preferred over the other for any reason.

	SAT I		ACT	
What's the test like?	<p>Critical reading section: formerly known as the verbal section, will include short reading passages along with the existing long reading passages. Analogies have been eliminated, but sentence-completion and passage-based reading questions remain.</p> <p>Math: two 25 min. sections & one 20 min. section - Number and operations; algebra and functions; geometry; statistics, probability, & data analysis. Calculators OK</p> <p>Writing: Multiple-choice questions (35 min.) and student-written essay (25 min.)</p> <p>NOTE: Results of Writing portion may NOT be used for Admissions Screening but may be used for English Placement information at the colleges/universities.</p> <p>Scoring: mathematics (M 200-800), critical reading (CR 200-800), writing (W 200-800)</p> <p>Penalties for incorrect answers</p>		<p>English: 75 questions in 45 minutes - Measures standard written English and rhetorical skills.</p> <p>Math: 60 questions in 60 minutes – calculator use permitted. Measures mathematical skills students have typically acquired in courses taken up to the beginning of grade 12.</p> <p>Reading: 40 questions in 35 minutes - Measures reading comprehension</p> <p>Science Reasoning: 40 questions in 35 min. - Measures the interpretation, analysis, evaluation, reasoning, and problem-solving skills required in the natural sciences.</p> <p>Optional Writing: 1 prompt – 30 min. Measures writing skills emphasized in high school English classes and in entry-level college composition courses</p> <p>Scoring: 1-36 No penalties for wrong answers</p> <p>NOTE: Students need to check with colleges to determine if Writing portion is required</p>	
How do I prepare?	Practice materials available in Counseling & Career Center or on-line at www.collegeboard.com , www.testprephelp.com , and www.kaplan.com . Prep classes available at WCC for a fee.		Practice materials available in Counseling & Career Center or on-line at www.actstudent.org , www.testprephelp.com , or www.kaplan.com . Prep classes available at WCC for a fee.	
When is it offered?	Test Date	Registration Deadline	Test Date	Registration Deadline
Dates in 2007-2008	Oct. 6 Nov. 3 Dec. 1 Jan. 26 March 1 May 3 June 7	Sept 10 Oct. 2 Oct. 30 Dec. 5 Jan 29 April 1 May 5	Sept. 15 Oct. 27 Dec. 8 Feb. 9 Apr. 12 June 14	Aug. 10 Sept. 21 Nov. 2 Jan. 4 Mar. 7 May 9
How do I register? * Early Registration is critical!	On-line at www.collegeboard.com Or packets available in Career Center		On-line at www.act.org Or packets available in Career Center	
Cost **	\$43.00 <i>Late fees apply – see registration for details</i>		\$30 (Optional Plus Writing = \$44.50) <i>Late fees apply – see registration for details</i>	
Where do I take it?	Tests are NOT offered at the high school. Students select the test site when they register. NOTE: Important to register EARLY to get test site preference.			

*** SCHOOL CODES FOR REGISTRATION:**

Each high school has a specific required code. See your counselor/career center or registration websites.

****FEE WAIVERS:** Students may be eligible for a fee waiver from ACT and/or the College Board. See your counselor/career center for fee waivers.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Students with a diagnosed learning or health disability may be eligible to take the SAT and/or ACT with extended time. Documentation (educational testing within the last three years) will be required through the form of a current IEP, or current 504 Accommodation Plan, which demonstrates the need for extended time on school and other testing. **Students who believe they may qualify for extended time should see their counselor early in sophomore or junior year because the process with the testing service companies can be lengthy.**