

How to Optimize Your Test Prep Strategy When Everything is Changing



*A Special Guide for the
Class of 2025*

The SAT is going digital in the middle of your junior year.

Got questions? We've got answers.

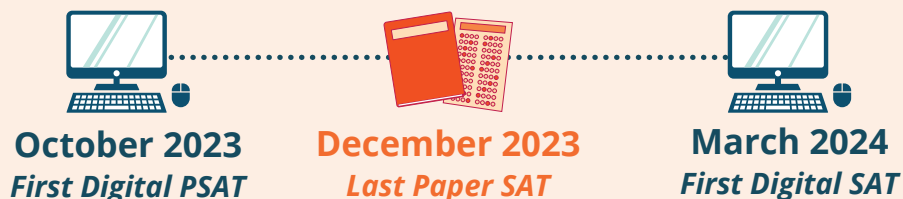
FOLLOW THESE STEPS TO TESTING SUCCESS

1

KNOW THE FACTS

Strong SAT or ACT scores can set you apart in college admissions. The PSAT and SAT are changing and becoming digital, adaptive tests.¹

When are the PSAT and SAT changing?



What about the ACT?

The ACT will continue to be offered as a paper-based test. There will be an option to take the test on a computer at select test centers starting in late 2023 and early 2024, but the computer-based test will be identical to the paper test in length and format.

2

CHOOSE YOUR TEST

Colleges don't have a preference between the SAT or ACT, but *you* might. Take a practice ACT and SAT to see if you score higher on one or the other.

3

BUILD YOUR TESTING TIMELINE

Every student's testing timeline is unique. Let Applerouth help you find the test, timeline, and prep plan that are perfect for you.

Look inside!



Learn how to build a winning test prep timeline and see a summary of all the changes!



BUILD YOUR TESTING TIMELINE

Your Test Prep Timeline Checklist



- ☐ Start prep after you complete most of Algebra 2.
- ☐ Prep when extracurricular and family commitments are lighter.
- ☐ Plan for **up to three official tests** to hit your goal score.
- ☐ Finish testing by October senior year (for early decision) or December (for regular decision).²

TAKE THE
ACT

OR

TAKE THE
SAT

Official Test Dates

2023



Digital PSAT

2024

Apr Jun Jul Sept Oct Dec Feb Apr Jun Jul Sept Oct Dec



Choose the ACT prep and testing window that meets your needs.

The ACT is offered primarily as a paper-based test, but you'll take the digital PSAT in October of your junior year.

Official Test Dates & Sample Testing Timelines

2023 Paper



Digital PSAT

2024 Digital

May Jun Aug Oct Nov Dec Mar May Jun Aug Oct Nov Dec



Summer Prep, Fall Testing

Start Prep — Test #1 (Paper) — Digital PSAT — Test #2 (Paper) — Test #3, if needed (Paper)



Fall Prep, Winter/Spring Testing

Start Prep — Digital PSAT — Test #1 (Paper) — Test 2 (Paper) — Test #3, if needed (Digital)



Winter/Spring Prep, Spring Testing

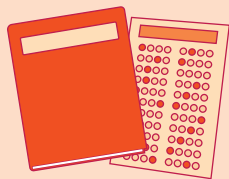
Digital PSAT — Start Prep — Test #1 (Digital) — Test #2 (Digital) — Test #3, if needed (Digital)

NOW'S THE TIME TO MAKE YOUR PLAN!

No matter your timeline, planning now is the key to success. Get started and schedule your practice SAT and ACT today.



PAPER SAT



FIXED



3 HOURS



Longer
10-11
questions per
passage



**WHAT'S
CHANGING?**

DIGITAL SAT



**NEW DIGITAL
FORMAT**

**TEST RESPONDS
TO YOUR
PERFORMANCE**

**SHORTER
TEST**

**MORE
TIME PER
QUESTION**

**SHORTER
READING
PASSAGES**

**CALCULATORS
ALWAYS
ALLOWED**

FASTER RESULTS

ADAPTIVE



2 HOURS



Shorter
1 question per
passage



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



A lot of colleges are now “test-optional.” Does that mean I don’t have to test?

Test-optional means you have the option to submit test scores (or not) when you apply. We recommend taking a practice test to see how you’d score. Strong scores show that you’re ready for college and can often open the doors to admission and scholarship offers, even at test-optional schools.



Does the digital SAT offer any advantages?

The new SAT has certain features that many students may find advantageous, including:

- Shorter test
- More time per question
- Shorter reading passages
- Faster score delivery
- Built-in graphing calculator
- A way to flag questions in order to come back to them later
- A countdown clock, which you can show or hide
- A reference sheet of common math formulas



For students who take a hybrid (paper/digital) approach, will colleges superscore the paper and digital SAT?

The College Board says that colleges plan to use “scores from the digital test as they do now.” This suggests that colleges that currently superscore will continue to do so across testing formats. Each college sets their own policy, so be sure to check with the schools on your list.



Does Applerouth recommend a particular test prep timeline?

Colleges have no preference between the ACT and SAT and only require that your testing is complete by the application deadline. The “right” timeline is the one that works best for you. Schedule a call with an Applerouth Advisor to build your ideal plan.

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Small Groups

For students who like learning together.

Starting at \$999



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Personalized prep that’s tailored to be a perfect fit.

Starting at \$175/hour

Schedule a call with a Program Advisor to select your perfect plan!



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¹ The paper tests will no longer be available for most students. Some exceptions may apply for students who receive testing accommodations.

² Deadlines vary by school. Be sure to determine the specific deadlines for each school on your list.