

# College Entrance Exams 101

*UCPS College Readiness Series*

# Welcome!



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## **Tonight's Agenda**

- Welcome and overview
- Resources 101
  - Albert
- Understanding the ACT and the SAT
  - Huntington Learning Center Weddington, Jewel Wiesinger





## **A UCPS Graduate is a RESILIENT PROBLEM-SOLVER**

*Capitalizes on productive struggle, inquiry, discourse and social learning to think critically and solve relevant and meaningful problems. Lifelong learning is driven by the desire for continuous improvement.*



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**COLLEGE APPLICATION**  
**WEEK IS OCT. 21-27**



Approximately 100  
colleges and universities  
will be in attendance.

**Sunday, October 13**  
**2 - 4 PM**  
**CATA, 600 Brewer Dr.,**  
**Monroe**

*Registration is  
encouraged.*

## GET READY FOR THE UNION COUNTY COLLEGE FAIR

Sunday, October 13th from 2 PM-4 PM  
CATA, 600 Brewer Dr., Monroe, NC 28112



Strive Scan helps you share your information with colleges with just a barcode.

Visit <https://strivefair.com> to register!

### REGISTER FOR YOUR BARCODE

#### 1. ON YOUR PHONE, GO TO:

[WWW.STRIVEFAIR.COM](https://www.strivefair.com)

or



SNAPCHAT  
Press and hold down



CAMERA  
Scan with your camera app

#### 2. FILL OUT A SHORT REGISTRATION FORM TO GET YOUR BARCODE

#### 3. SCAN YOUR BARCODE WITH COLLEGES TO RECEIVE MORE INFORMATION

#### Why should I get a StriveScan account?

- Allows you to share information with colleges at the fair without filling out cards
- Takes 90 seconds to sign up
- Use your phone to share your information with colleges!
- Get information from all the colleges you want directly to your inbox after the event

*Registration with and use of StriveScan is optional.*

## What other support is available?

### FAFSA Support from SPCC

*Contact the Financial Aid office for assistance completing the FAFSA*



<https://spcc.edu/pay-for-college/financial-aid/>

### College Readiness Canvas Support

*Check your child's Canvas account for their counseling site*



Senior application timeline, Scoir support, and more!





# ACT / SAT Resources

Home > Academics > College Readiness > College Preparation >  
ACT / SAT Resources

## College Readiness

- College Readiness
- International Baccalaureate
- Parent & Student College Readiness Sessions
- College Preparation
- ACT / SAT Resources
- Earning College Credit in High School
- Scoir College Search and Application Management System
- Scholarship & Financial Aid Information

## ACT and SAT Resources

Expand All

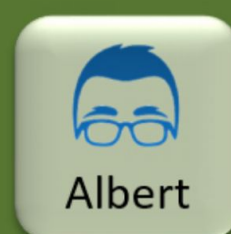
- In-Person SAT and ACT Practice Tests
- ACT and SAT Practice through Albert
- Huntington Learning Center - Weddington Partnership
- ACT School Day Information

## Quick Links

- ACT National Test Dates and Deadlines
- SAT National Test Dates and Deadlines
- Digital SAT Information

Edit Page

# High School Student Startup Page



# UCPS Albert Team

## Representatives:

- Help coordinate and manage test prep initiatives with UCPS
- Here to support teachers, admin, students, and parents

## Backgrounds:

- Former teachers
- Passion for student empowerment



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# What is Albert?

An online practice and assessment platform built to empower students and boost academic performance



# College Entrance Prep on Albert

What is included  
in my student's  
access?



- Free SAT®, ACT®, PSAT® practice exams and practice questions
- Thorough answer explanations for every question
- Performance tracking

When will my  
student have  
access?



- Classes open now
- Practice exams available now
- One practice exam for ACT & SAT open now; a second opens in January

How can my  
student get  
started?



- Go to student startup page
- Log into Albert with Google
- Complete practice exams
- Practice independently
- Track data & repeat!



**Huntington**  
LEARNING CENTER®



Jewel Wiesinger, owner



# COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS 101




**This presentation was created for the purpose of the Parent Readiness Series and is solely owned by JLAB Resources, Inc. dba Huntington Learning Center – Weddington**



## THE MILLION-DOLLAR QUESTION(S)

Should my child  
take these tests?  
And when?

Which test is  
right for my  
child?



# WHAT DO COLLEGES EXPECT?

- [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)
- Sample of NC and other out-of-state colleges and universities
- These scores adjust every fall based on the scores of the freshmen class
- *Arranged by ACT score due to limited standardization of new SAT.*

College	ACT	SAT
Duke University	34-35	1520-1570
UNC Chapel Hill	30-34	1360-1520
Clemson University	28-32	1240-1400
University of South Carolina	26-31	1150-1340
Elon University	26-31	1200-1360
University of Tennessee	25-31	1190-1340
NC State University	25-31	1280-1430
UNC Wilmington	24-28	1230-1340
University of Alabama	22-30	1120-1370
UNC Charlotte	21-27	1070-1290
Western Carolina	19-26	1050-1230
East Carolina University	19-24	1040-1200

# FIRST, WHEN ARE THE TESTS?

## 2024/2025 TEST DATES

<b>SAT</b> <a href="http://www.collegeboard.org">www.collegeboard.org</a>	<b>ACT</b> <a href="http://www.act.org">www.act.org</a>	
October 5, 2024	October 26, 2024	
November 2, 2024	December 14, 2024	
December 7, 2024	February 8, 2025	
March 8, 2025	April 5, 2025	
May 3, 2025	June 14, 2025	
June 7, 2025	July 12, 2025	

# TEST OPTIONAL? IS IT REALLY OPTIONAL?

**Test optional is divided into two categories:**

- **Optional for some:** Score submission is not required if other admissions requirements are met.

**Sample 'other requirements:**

- **Academic:** Applicant must meet minimum GPA and/or class rank requirements
- **Residency:** Applicant must live in-state
- **Major or program:** Applicant must select a qualifying course of study
- **Prerequisites:** Applicant must have completed select Advance Placement or college-level courses during high school
- **Optional for all:** Any applicant can choose to omit test scores from their application.
- *The landscape for test optional is rapidly changing, with many school reverting back to "Test Required"*

## COMMON APPLICATION DATA – CLASS OF 2024

[WWW.COMMONAPP.ORG](http://WWW.COMMONAPP.ORG)

- **Applications submitted:**
  - National total: 8,206,451
  - North Carolina Total: 288,103
  - 15% Increase
- **Test Submission:**
  - National: 45%
  - North Carolina: 44%



### Top 15 receiving members nationally from North Carolina applicants

Listed in descending rank order by application count

1	North Carolina State University (NC)
2	Appalachian State University (NC)
3	University of North Carolina at Charlotte (NC)
4	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (NC)
5	East Carolina University (NC)
6	University of North Carolina Wilmington (NC)
7	University of North Carolina Greensboro (NC)
8	Western Carolina University (NC)
9	North Carolina A&T State University (NC)
10	University of South Carolina Columbia (SC)
11	Duke University (NC)
12	Clemson University (SC)
13	University of North Carolina Asheville (NC)
14	Campbell University (NC)
15	Wingate University (NC)



# SAT VS. ACT

## SAT

- **Composite Scale: 400-1600**
- **Digital & Adaptive** – questions presented to students will adapt based on previous performance.
- **Shorter in length** – from 3 hours to 2 hours and 14 minutes.
- **2 sections: Reading & Writing + Math**
- **More Reading passages, but shorter.** Students will answer one question per passage.
- **Math problems will be less wordy** – woohoo!!
- **All calculator**
- ***Please note – this is still a brand new test!***  
***There are many unknowns!***

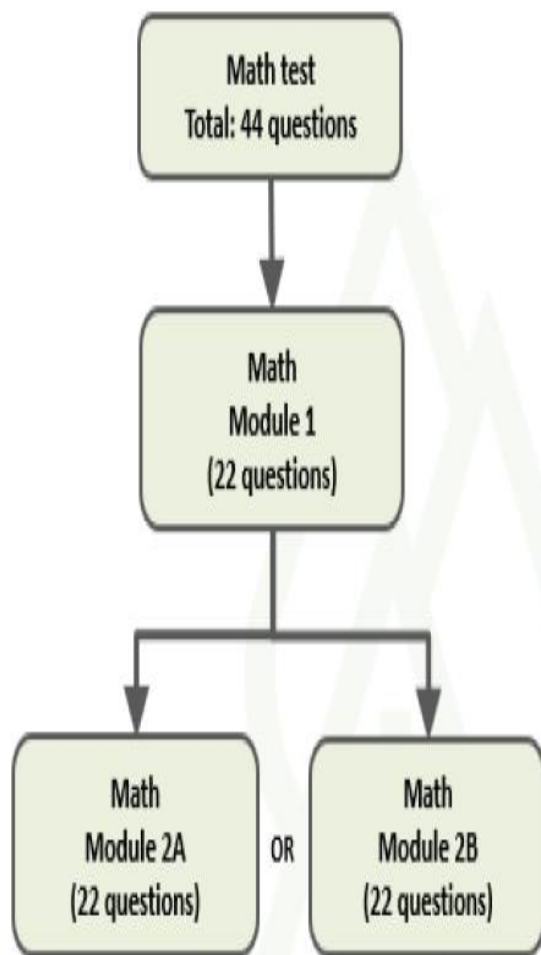
## ACT

- **Composite Scale: 1-36**
- **National Average: 20**
- **Online Option**
- **Changes coming...**
- **4 Domains**
  - **English**
  - **Math**
  - **Reading**
  - **Science**






College  
Board

# SAT MULTISTAGE ADAPTIVE EXAMPLE






Reading & Writing  
Module 1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	

 = EASY QUESTIONS  
 = MEDIUM QUESTIONS  
 = HARD QUESTIONS




Reading & Writing  
Module 2A

28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54

 = EASY QUESTIONS  
 = MEDIUM QUESTIONS  
 = HARD QUESTIONS

Reading & Writing  
Module 2B

28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54

 = EASY QUESTIONS  
 = MEDIUM QUESTIONS  
 = HARD QUESTIONS

# UPCOMING ACT CHANGES



## FLEXIBILITY



- **Students can choose whether to take the Science Section – offered as an optional section**
- **Composite score will be the average of English, Reading, and Math – will continue to be reported on the same 1-36 scale**
- **Students can opt to take the test online or with paper and pencil.**

## SHORTER

- **The length of the test has been reduced by up to 1/3**
- **The new core test will be 2 hours**
  - **Shorter passages on English and Reading**
  - **44 fewer question total**
  - **More time to answer each question**
    - **Currently unknown how significantly this will impact time per question.**

# MORE SPECIFIC CHANGES

TEST SECTION	CURRENT TEST	NEW TEST	WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?
ENGLISH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 45 minutes</li> <li>- 75 questions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 35 minutes</li> <li>- 50 questions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 10 minutes shorter</li> <li>- 25 fewer questions</li> </ul>
MATH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 60 minutes</li> <li>- 60 questions</li> <li>- 5 multiple choice answers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 45 minutes</li> <li>- 45 questions</li> <li>- 4 multiple choice answers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 15 minutes shorter</li> <li>- 15 fewer questions</li> <li>- 1 less answer choice</li> </ul>
READING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 35 minutes</li> <li>- 40 questions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 40 minutes</li> <li>- 36 questions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 5 minutes longer</li> <li>- 4 fewer questions</li> </ul>
SCIENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 35 minutes</li> <li>- 40 questions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 40 minutes</li> <li>- 40 questions</li> <li>- Optional</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 5 minutes longer</li> <li>- Optional section</li> </ul>
WRITING (ESSAY)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 prompt</li> <li>- 40 minutes</li> <li>- Optional</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 prompt</li> <li>- 40 minutes</li> <li>- Optional</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No change</li> </ul>

2025 NATIONAL TEST DATES		
Test Date	Digital ACT	Paper ACT
Feb	Current	Current
Apr		Current
Jun		Current
Jul		Current
Sept		
Oct		
Dec		

# WHEN WILL THESE ACT CHANGES TAKE PLACE?

**Online Testing only**

**State & District Testing**

**Sep. 2025**

**Apr. 2025**

**Spring 2026**

**ACT National Paper &  
International; Updated  
Composite Score for All ACT  
Tests**

## 2 BASIC DIFFERENCES, IN ADDITION TO DIGITAL FORMAT

**Content**

**Timing**



# TIME MANAGEMENT

## SAT

- **Reading & Writing: 2 Modules → 27 questions each and 32 minutes (54 total questions and 64 total minutes)**
  - **Approximately 1 minute and 11 seconds/question**
- **Math: 2 Modules, ALL CALC → 22 questions each and 35 minutes (44 total questions and 70 total minutes)**
  - **Approximately 1 minute and 35 seconds per question**

## CURRENT ACT

- **English Test: 75 questions in 45 minutes (36 seconds/question)**
- **Math Test: 60 questions in 60 minutes (1 minute/question)**
- **Reading & Science Test: 40 questions in 35 minutes (52.5 seconds/question)**

# **SAT VS. ACT – IT ALL COMES DOWN TO...**

## **SAT: CATEGORIES & QUESTION TYPES**

- **Reading**
  - **Information & Ideas**
  - **Craft & Structure**
- **Writing**
  - **Standard English Conventions**
  - **Expression of Ideas**

## **ACT: REPORTING CATEGORIES & QUESTION TYPES**

- **English**
  - **Production of Writing**
  - **Knowledge of Language**
  - **Conventions of Standard English**
- **Reading**
  - **Key Ideas & Details\*\*\***
  - **Craft & Structure**
  - **Integration of Knowledge & Ideas**

# **SAT VS. ACT – IT ALL COMES DOWN TO...**

## **SAT: CATEGORIES & QUESTION TYPES**

- **Math**
  - **Prob. Solving & Data Analysis**
    - **Arithmetic**
  - **Algebra**
  - **Geometry & Trigonometry**
  - **Advanced Math**
    - **Quadratics, Graphing Functions, Conic Sections, Polynomial Division**

**\*\*\* Please still expect Student Produced Responses**

## **ACT: REPORTING CATEGORIES & QUESTION TYPES**

- **Math**
  - **Integration Essential Skills**
    - **Arithmetic**
  - **Preparing for Higher Math**
    - **Algebra, Geometry, Stats/Prob, Numbers/Quantity. Functions**
  - **Modeling\*\*\***
- **Science**
  - **Interpretation of Data**
  - **Scientific Investigation**
  - **Evaluation of Models Inferences, & Experimental Results**

SO HOW DO I GET TO EVERY QUESTION?

TRUE or FALSE  
→ You should  
guess?

DASH

- Determine
  - Always
  - Sometimes
  - Haven't Ever



**BACK TO DASH –  
DON'T BE  
AFRAID TO**

**“LET IT GO”**

**OR “JUST KEEP  
SWIMMING!!!**





# KEY STRATEGY

- **Read/Work/Apply – Break it down!**
  - **Read: Look at the question - saves time when you know what to do!**
  - **Work: Solve the question – what to you need to do to get points!**
  - **Apply: Answer the question – connection between the work you do and the points you can earn!**
    - **Each section of both tests has a further 3-step Strategy.**



## **SAT WRITING/ACT ENGLISH**

**Ability to REVISE & EDIT text – act as if you are an Editor**

**Measures understanding the rules of Standard English grammar, usage, and punctuation**

### **SAT Writing**

- Integrated with Reading portion
- Sequenced within the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of each module

### **Current ACT English Test**

- 5 passages
- Each passage is about 300 words
- 15 multiple choice questions per passage

# SAT WRITING CHANGES:

- **Standard English Conventions questions are comparable between SAT and ACT**
- **New questions within Expression of Ideas – how the author wrote the passage**
  - **Development & Organization**
    - **Central Idea & Theme, Sequence, & Transitions**
  - **Rhetorical Synthesis**
    - **Distinguishable by format**
    - **Synthesize information**

## SAT Writing SEC changes:

**Boundary Questions**

**examples:**

**Punctuation**

**Colons & Semi-colons**

**Commas**

**Parentheses**

**Dashes**

**Form, Structure, & Tense**

**examples:**

**Agreement**

**Verb Tense**

**Plurals**

**Possessives**

# **SAT/ACT READING QUESTION TYPES**

- **SAT – integrated with Writing; however, distinctive pattern of Reading questions 1<sup>st</sup> in both modules**
- **NEW for SAT – POETRY!!!!**
- **ACT 4 passages**
- **Remember timing**

<b>SAT</b>	<b>ACT</b>
<b>Main Concept</b>	<b>Main Concept</b>
<b>Fact</b>	<b>Fact</b>
<b>Inference</b>	<b>Vocabulary In Context</b>
<b>Evidence (2 types)</b>	<b>Inference</b>
<b>Words in Context</b>	<b>(Sequence)</b>
<b>Text Structure Text Purpose</b>	<b>(Relationships)</b>
<b>Cross-Text Connections</b>	

# **SAT & ACT READING PASSAGE TYPES:**

## **SAT**

- **Literature – Human Interest**
- **Science**
- **History**
- **Poetry**

## **ACT**

- **Literary Narrative**
- **Social Science**
- **Humanities**
- **Natural Science**
- **(Paired Passages)**

# **SAT & ACT MATH QUESTION TYPES (REMINDER):**

## **SAT**

- **Problem-Solving & Data Analysis**
- **Algebra**
- **Geometry & Trigonometry**
- **Advanced Math**

## **ACT**

- **Arithmetic**
- **Numbers & Quantity**
- **Algebra**
- **Functions**
- **Geometry**
- **Statistics and Probability**

# MATH: WHAT TO EXPECT ON THE MATH SECTIONS?



## SAT

**2 Modules – 22 questions/35 minutes each**

**All Calculator Active**

**Less “wordy” problems**

**Desmos calculator provided**



## ACT: Math has 1 section

**Calculator – 60 questions,  
60 minutes**



**Directions are Important - The directions on the ACT AND the SAT will explain some very vital information to you that should be kept in mind when taking the test:**

*It's a bad idea to take too long to solve a problem.*

*Some problems are best solved without a calculator.*

*Diagrams are not drawn to scale.*

# ACT Science

**There are 7 passages with  
40 questions total.**

**You do not need advanced  
knowledge of Biology,  
Chemistry, Physics, or Earth  
Science to do well.**

**General scientific knowledge  
and a little bit of math is all  
you need.**



**This test is designed to test your ability to interpret, evaluate, and analyze  
scientific data across Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Earth Science.**

**The “harder” the Science topic in the  
passage the easier the questions will  
be – use the information given!**





## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Huntington Learning Center – Weddington😊

UCPS - Albert

ACT Academy

Collegeboard.org

Khan Academy



## **Need more assistance?**

Visit <https://bit.ly/UCPScollegereadiness> to find additional information and our contact information.

Have a question for Jewel? Visit <https://huntingtonhelps.com/center/weddington> for additional information.



# Thank You

Thank you for joining us tonight.  
The recording will be posted at <http://bit.ly/collegereadywebinars>.

UNION COUNTY **PUBLIC SCHOOLS**