

## Am I an SAT or an ACT Student?

**ACT:** Four sections – English, math, reading, science. Each section is graded from 1-36. The overall composite score is an average of the four multiple-choice sections. Although students receive individual scores (out of 36) for each section, it is the overall composite score that most colleges focus on. For example: English = 27 Math = 28 Reading = 29 Science = 30 Composite =  $28.5 = 29$  (ACT rounds up = BONUS)

**SAT:** Two general sections – verbal and math. Each section is scored from 200 – 800 points. The verbal section contains a reading multiple choice sub-section and a grammar multiple choice sub-section. The math section contains a non-calculator sub-section and a calculator sub-section. The overall score is a TOTAL of the two sections. For example: Verbal = 600 Math = 700 Total = 1300

### Facts:

- ALL colleges accept either test
- Many schools Superscore – highest scores from each section
- Most schools are Scorechoice – you choose what tests to send
- Material ALMOST identical on both exams but material is presented differently
- Learning the material for one exam will help you prepare for the other

### You might be an SAT student if you:

- Like to read. You enjoy making connections, reading beneath the surface, and thinking inferentially.
- Are good at mental math, enjoy word problems, and excel at data analysis.
- Struggle with Geometry. ACT math has three times as many geometry problems.
- Enjoy finding the “tricks” and utilizing strategies.
- Think of testing as a puzzle that needs to be solved.
- Like to complete homework in a relaxed rather than a timed setting.
- Get highly frustrated. ACT scores tend to go up and down; SAT is more consistent.

### You might be an ACT student if you:

- Are a quick reader, thinker, and processor. You are **able to answer questions quickly**.
- Are intimidated by doing math without a calculator.
- Like details and are good at finding these details.
- Enjoy experimental design and quantitative reasoning as well as reading charts/graphs.
- Struggle with vocabulary. (The SAT readings and grammar passages are at a higher reading level and contain more challenging vocabulary.)
- Like straightforward math problems.
- Get extended time.

### How to know for sure:

Take ACT and SAT diagnostic exams.