

SAT vs. ACT: Understanding the Differences

	SAT	ACT
Purpose	The college entrance exam is used by many colleges and universities as part of the admissions process.	The college entrance exam is used by many colleges and universities as part of the admissions process.
Sections	Reading and Writing; Math	English; Math; Reading; Optional Science; Optional Writing
Format	Digital, adaptive test administered through Bluebook.	Digital test with a traditional question format and optional Science/Writing sections.
Testing Time	Approximately 2 hours and 15 minutes (without breaks).	Approximately 2 hours and 5 minutes (without optional sections).
Scoring	Scores range from 400–1600.	Composite scores range from 1–36.
Calculator Use	Calculator permitted throughout the Math section.	Calculator policies vary by section; students may use an approved calculator on the Math section.
Best Fit For Students Who...	Prefer more time per question and are comfortable with a stronger emphasis on reasoning and problem-solving.	Prefer a faster-paced exam and want the option to showcase science reasoning skills.
Availability at FUMA	Offered at Fork Union Military Academy on scheduled SAT test dates.	Not offered at FUMA; students register for national ACT test dates at approved testing centers.