

Preparing for the college admission process takes time, organization, and effort. The information that follows will guide you through this process, providing general requirements, timelines, terminology and procedures. Each section outlines an overview of a specific topic, but more in-depth information on each topic is addressed on Naviance, accessible through the Mercy website.



## Testing

Most colleges require that students take either the SAT or ACT by December of the senior year. All colleges place different weight on the importance of test scores in the admission process. Scores should be sent directly to the colleges by the application due date, and can be requested through [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) and [www.act.org](http://www.act.org). Register online for both the ACT and SAT, and send colleges the more favorable test scores.

## College Admissions Planning Calendar

### Junior Year

#### January

- PSAT Results and Programming Meeting for Juniors. In selecting your senior year schedule, colleges like to see challenging courses, AP, or Honors.
- Attend College Night for Juniors and Parents

#### February

- Set up an account and register online for the March SAT and/or Subject Tests at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) and for the ACT at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org). If you do not have one, apply for a Social Security number.
- Prepare for SAT/ACT. Check Test Prep Resources on Naviance and Counseling Center.

#### March

- Make appointment with College & Career Center to initiate college search process
- Prepare preliminary list of 10 colleges before individual appointment with your counselor
- Community College reps visit Mercy
- Research summer programs and job/internship opportunities
- Registration deadlines: April ACT & May SAT

#### April

- Visit colleges with your parents and friends during Easter break
- Apply for summer jobs and internships.
- Visit College & Career Center for help with resumes and cover letters.
- Attend National College Fair on April 17, 1:30 – 4:30 p.m., Concourse Exhibition Center
- Attend College Admission Case Studies Program with parents, April 18, St. Ignatius

#### May

- Registration deadlines for June ACT
- Study for finals, AP tests – do your very best!

#### June

- Happy summer! Visit colleges, take classes, work, volunteer, participate in summer programs, and **read!**

**Mercy High School  
College Board Code  
052975**

## SAT

The SAT Reasoning Test has traditionally measured college readiness and academic aptitude in verbal and mathematical reasoning. The SAT is a three and a half-hour test, divided into three sections: Critical Reasoning, Math and Writing. Each section is scored on a scale between 200-800 points, for a possible total SAT score of 2400 points. Students receive full credit for correct answers, and ¼ point is deducted for all incorrect answers. The SAT is administered by The College Board.

## ACT

The ACT is designed to assess high school students' general educational development and ability to complete college-level work. The test covers four skill areas: Math, English, Reading, and Science Reasoning, with an optional Writing section. Each area is scored between 1-36 points. The composite test score is also scored between 1-36, and is the average of the individual area scores rounded off. No points are deducted for incorrect answers.

## SAT Subject Tests

SAT Subject Tests are hour-long, multiple-choice tests, designed to measure students' knowledge of a particular academic subject. *It is recommended you take a Subject Test immediately upon completion of that subject course.* Subject Tests are available in 22 subject areas and are usually offered on the same dates as the SAT Reasoning test, but they cannot be taken on the same day. Up to three Subject Tests may be taken in one day. The UC system requires 2 and some private colleges require or recommend between 1-3 tests, in addition to either the SAT Reasoning Test or ACT. Note that language tests with listening are offered only once per year in November.

### ACT to SAT Conversion

ACT	SAT
36	2400
35	2340
34	2260
33	2190
32	2130
31	2040
30	1980
29	1920
28	1860
27	1820
26	1760
25	1700
24	1650
23	1590
22	1530
21	1500
20	1410
19	1350
18	1290
17	1210
16	1140
15	1060
14	1000
13	900
12	780
11	750

## ACT Test Dates – [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

Test Date	Registration Date	Late Registration
April 10, 2010	March 5, 2010	March 6-19, 2010
June 12, 2010	May 7, 2010	May 8-21, 2010
September 11, 2010	August 2010	TBD
October 23, 2010	September 2010	TBD
December 11, 2010	November 2010	TBD

## SAT Test Dates - [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

Test Date	Tests Offered	Registration Date	Late Registration
March 13, 2010	SAT + Subjects	February 4, 2010	April 8, 2010
May 1, 2010	SAT + Subjects	March 25, 2010	April 8, 2010
June 5, 2010	SAT + Subjects	April 29, 2010	May 13, 2010
Oct. 9, 2010	SAT + Subjects	September 2010	October 2010
Nov. 6, 2010	SAT + Subject Tests + Languages w/Listening		