

# ACT versus SAT

## The ACT

The ACT is America's most widely accepted college entrance exam.

- The multiple-choice tests cover four skill areas: English, mathematics, reading, and science (these tests will take 4 hours total).
- The Writing Test, which is optional, measures skill in planning and writing a short essay (this test is 30 minutes in length).

### ACT Test Tips

- **Answer easy questions first**, then go back and answer the more difficult ones.
- On difficult questions, eliminate as many incorrect answers as you can, then **make an educated guess** among those remaining.
- **Answer every question!** Your scores on the multiple-choice tests are based on the number of questions you answer correctly. There is no penalty for guessing.

## The SAT

The SAT has two parts.

- The SAT I is the test everyone takes; it takes three hours and has seven sections divided up among verbal, mathematical, and analytical problems.
- The critical reading questions measure ability to understand and analyze what you read and understand work meaning in context.
- The mathematical questions measure your ability to solve problems involving algebra functions, geometry and measurement, number operations, data analysis, statistics and probability.
- The SAT II or Subject Tests are optional. The tests are one-hour, multiple choice, and measure knowledge in specific content areas such as English, history, mathematics, science, and language.

### SAT Test Tips

- **Answer easy questions first.** You earn just as many points for easy questions as you do for hard questions.
- **Guess smart.** If you can rule out one or more answer choices for a multiple-choice question as definitely wrong, your chances of guessing the right answer improve.
- **Omit questions that you really have no idea how to answer.** But if you can rule out any choice, you probably should guess from among the rest of the choices.
- **Don't panic if you cannot answer every question.** You do not have to answer every question correctly to get a good score. You can get an average score by answering about half of the questions correctly and omitting the remaining questions.