

Naperville North High School

Choosing the SAT or ACT



	SAT	ACT
Why Take It	Colleges* use SAT scores for admissions and merit scholarships	Colleges* use ACT scores for admissions and merit scholarships
Test Structure	Reading Writing & Language Math Essay (Optional)	English Math Reading Science Reasoning Essay (Optional)
Length	3 hours (without essay) 3 hours, 50 minutes (with essay)	2 hours, 55 minutes (without essay) 3 hours, 40 minutes (with essay)
Reading	5 reading passages	4 reading passages
Science	None	1 science section testing your critical thinking skills Note: This section does NOT test specific science knowledge
Math	Arithmetic Algebra I & II Geometry Trigonometry Data Analysis	Arithmetic Algebra I & II Geometry Trigonometry
Calculator Policy	Some math sections do not allow for calculator use	Calculator use allowed on all math sections
Essays	Optional. Essay tests comprehension of source text.	Optional. Essay tests evaluation and analysis of a complex issue.
How It's Scored	Scored on a scale of 400-1600	Scored on a scale of 1-36

*The state of Illinois uses the SAT as its state test, however all four-year colleges in the United States accept either the SAT or the ACT. State testing will occur in April.

Questions Regarding Standardized Tests?

Please contact:

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