

FRESHMAN YEAR:

- *No college admissions standardized tests.*
Unless... You are taking Biology, Chemistry, or History honors classes. In this case you may want to consider taking the corresponding SAT Subject exams when you finish with your class.
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SOPHOMORE YEAR:

- *Possibly take PSAT in October.* National merit scholarships are not linked to this test until your junior year, but taking the PSAT as a sophomore is excellent practice.
 - *SAT Subject Tests in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, World History, or US History* (presuming that you took one of these classes in school and did well).
 - If you took an *Advanced Placement (AP)* class this year, take the AP exam in May. Make sure to ask your teacher for advice if you are not sure if you are prepared.
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JUNIOR YEAR: *This is the “biggie” year for testing!*

- PSAT - Take in October. The National Merit Scholarship is linked to this exam. This test is administered through your high school.
 - SAT - The SAT is offered seven times per academic year: October, November, December, January, March, May and June. You can take the exam whenever you want -- we recommend taking it when you have the most time to prepare beforehand, and that you do take the SAT at least once during junior year.
 - ACT - You can take the ACT as well if you'd like -- it's offered several times throughout the year, on different days from the SAT and SAT subject tests. The ACT also now has an optional essay -- you should check with the colleges you are thinking about as to whether they require the essay or not.
 - SAT Subject Tests - Take in May or June (if your school is on a semester system, you should take these in December or January). The UC schools now require two subjects from different categories. There are many from which to choose, ranging from Biology to Spanish. You should take subjects in which you are doing well at school. If you are taking an AP subject that has a SAT Subject test, you should take that exam. Not all schools require the SAT Subject Tests, however. The University of California and Ivy League schools are the most notable examples of schools that require both the SAT and the SAT Subject tests.
NOTE: You may take more than the required number of SAT Subject exams in different subjects, and colleges will use your top scores.
 - AP Exams - Take in mid-May. These are college level, subject-oriented exams for which students prepare throughout the entire school year.
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SENIOR YEAR:

- ACT - Take again in September or October. This will be your last shot at bettering your junior year ACT score in time for all college application deadlines. If necessary, take it again in December.
- SAT or SAT Subject tests - Take again in October. This will be your last time at bettering your junior year scores in time for all college application deadlines. If necessary, take again in either November or December.