

Junior Parent Night

September 25, 2018

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Agenda

- Welcome
- Testing
- College Systems
- Naviance
- Timelines
- Questions



SAT/ACT Testing

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The PSAT vs. The SAT

Score is out of 1520 points total

2 section scores: evidence-based reading and writing and math

No essay

Each section score is out of 760

2 hours and 45 minutes

Maximum score is 1600 points

3 section scores: evidence-based reading and writing, math, and the optional essay

50-minute optional essay that asks students to analyze evidence from a source and examine the persuasive abilities of the author

Each section score is out of 800. The essay score consists of 3 scores (Reading, Analysis, and Writing). The essay score does not factor in to the score of 1600, and is separate.

3 hours long, plus 50 minutes for the optional essay

- **Students will not be able to use a calculator on one math section**
- **No points subtracted for wrong answers**
- **The PSAT at Mercy will be held on 10/10**

Which Test is Right for Your Student?

Some General Guidelines

The ACT may be better for students who:

- *hate standardized exams*
- *lack testing confidence*
- *are stronger in reading comprehension than math and read quickly*

The SAT may be better for students who:

- *are stronger in math than English*
- *have difficulty finishing exams in the allotted time*
- *are good at solving puzzles*

- The content covered on the SAT and ACT is almost identical. The SAT is more logic and reasoning based, whereas the ACT is more content based.
- When SAT and ACT scores are equated, most students (80%) score exactly the same on both exams. However, some students score dramatically better on one test than the other.
- It is difficult to predict who will perform better on the SAT or ACT. Students almost always subjectively prefer the ACT to SAT. The ACT is an easier test in that students get a higher percentage of questions correct. However, scaled scores are derived by comparing a student's performance with that of other students who have taken the exam.
- The best way for a student to determine which test is the best fit for him or her is to take a practice exam of both the SAT and ACT and to compare the scores.

Testing Schedule for Juniors

- We believe that there is no one right testing schedule. There are some schedules that make sense and some that don't. It mainly depends on the student's schedule, extracurriculars, course load, etc.
- As a general rule, all students should take the PSAT in October of the junior year and complete a full round of testing by the end of their junior year. A full round of testing would include: the SAT, two to three SAT subject tests (if necessary for the schools to which the student is applying), and possibly the ACT exam. Students can retake any test in August, October, November, or December of the senior year.

Incoming ACT, SAT and GPAs for UC Schools, Class of 2017

Fall 2017 Freshman Admission Profile University of California System (25%-75%)

College	Average ACT/SAT	Average GPA	% Accepted
Berkeley	30 - 34/1280-1490	4.15 - 4.30	17.2%
Davis	26 - 32/1190-1430	3.95 - 4.25	43.6%
Irvine	26 - 32/1190-1420	4.00 - 4.25	36.6%
Los Angeles	30 - 34/1280-1500	4.13 - 4.31	16.1%
Merced	20 - 27/1020-1230	3.40 - 3.91	70.0%
Riverside	23 - 30/1090-1310	3.60 - 4.04	57.4%
San Diego	29 - 34/1250-1470	4.04 - 4.28	34.1%
Santa Barbara	28 - 33/1210-1450	3.96 - 4.25	32.8%
Santa Cruz	26 - 31/1170-1380	3.70 - 4.13	51.4%

Some examples of different approaches/timelines.

The minimalist approach:

Junior year

- *PSAT in October*
- *SAT/ACT in March, May, or June*

Senior year

- Retake SAT/ACT in Fall (depending on results)

The normal approach (for most students):

Junior year

- PSAT in October
- SAT in March or May
- ACT in April or June
- SAT Subject Tests in May or June
- **AJ Tutoring recommends trying both the SAT and ACT junior year and then focusing on the test that is a better fit as a senior.**

Senior year

- Retake SAT or ACT in fall depending on previous results

The intense approach (for ambitious students and aspiring college athletes):

Junior Year

- *PSAT in October*
- *SAT in December and/or March*
- *ACT in April*
- *SAT Subject Tests in May*
- *Retake SAT or ACT in June*

Senior year

- *Retake SAT or ACT in fall depending on previous results*



For more information on testing or academic support for your student, please contact AJ Tutoring at **(650) 331-3251** or **info@ajtutoring.com**. One of our talented Directors would be happy to speak to you about your son or daughter and see how we can be of support!

Just a few of our convenient offices:

- **Burlingame** (1199 Howard Ave.)
- **San Mateo** (221 N. San Mateo Dr.)
- **San Carlos** (1016 Laurel St.)
- **Woodside** (2105 Woodside Rd)
- **Menlo Park** (1155 Crane St.)

COLLEGE SYSTEMS

What are your options?

- ▶ California State Universities (CSU)
- ▶ University of California (UC)
- ▶ Private and Out of State Publics
- ▶ Community Colleges

California State Universities or CSU

23 different campuses in the State

- ▶ California Maritime Academy
 - ▶ California Polytechnic
 - ▶ California Polytechnic Pomona
 - ▶ Humboldt State University
 - ▶ San Diego State
 - ▶ San Francisco State
 - ▶ San Jose State
 - ▶ Sonoma State
 - ▶ Other Locations: Bakersfield, Channel Islands, Chico, Dominguez Hills, East Bay, Fresno, Fullerton, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Monterey Bay, Northridge, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Marcos, Stanislaus
- ▶ Things to consider...
 - ▶ Eligibility Index
 - ▶ Impacted programs
 - ▶ Areas of study/majors
 - ▶ Admissions timelines
 - ▶ Practical applications and non research
 - ▶ CSU GPA
 - ▶ Local context

Cal State Apply

One application that goes to as many campuses as you would like

- ▶ One place to send test scores
- ▶ Many resources for the CSU System on one website

Term	Application submission period beginning
Fall	October 1
Winter	June 1
Spring	August 1
Summer	February 1

www.calstate.edu/apply

University of California or UCs

- ▶ Public Research University System
- ▶ 238,700 Student
- ▶ 5 Medical Centers
- ▶ 150 Academic Disciplines

▶ Campuses

- ▶ Berkeley
- ▶ Davis
- ▶ Irvine
- ▶ Los Angeles
- ▶ Merced
- ▶ Riverside
- ▶ San Diego
- ▶ Santa Barbara
- ▶ Sant

UNDERGRADUATE SNAPSHOT

California resident	84.5%		
Nonresident	15.5%		
Community college transfer	27%		
First-generation students	42%		
African American	4%		
Latino	22%		
White	24%		
Asian American	35%		
Graduation rate	4-YEAR	5-YEAR	6-YEAR
ALL STUDENTS	64%	82%	85%



UC Application

- ▶ Applications due November 30th
- ▶ Application tips
 - ▶ No longer required to submit two personal statement essays
 - ▶ Freshman applicants choose four out of eight personal insight questions to answer.
 - ▶ Answers to each question are limited to 350 words.
- ▶ Available August 1st but cannot submit until November 1st
- ▶ Key is to be direct

ACT and SAT exams

If you're a freshman applicant, you must take the ACT with Writing, SAT or SAT with Essay.

Private Colleges and Universities

► Types of schools

- Liberal Arts
- Major Research
- Comprehensive
- Faith Based
- Law, Medicine, Engineering, Art and more

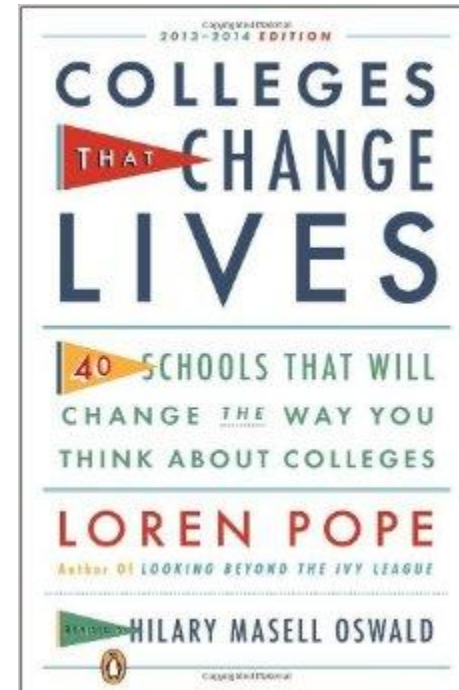
► Holistic Review Process

- Curriculum
- Test scores
- Essay
- Supplements
- Letters of Rec.
- Activities
- Differing acceptance rates



Colleges That Change Lives

- ▶ Over 40 schools
 - ▶ Primarily liberal arts
 - ▶ Small class sizes
 - ▶ Specialized programs
 - ▶ Helps students to expand the college search past rankings and ratings



- ▶ www.commonapp.org

CTCL
COLLEGES THAT CHANGE LIVES

Out of State Public Schools

- ▶ WUE
- ▶ Varying applications
 - ▶ Some take the Common App and Others do not
- ▶ Varying Requirements by school

Community College

- ▶ Applications become available in Spring of Senior Year
- ▶ PEP program
- ▶ TAG/GTC Agreements
- ▶ Workshops with UC/CSU system
- ▶ www.assist.org

Application differences

► Early Decision

- Binding
- Benefits: if you know it's right for you!

► Early Action

- Non binding
- Know sooner, act later

► Regular Decision

- Usually January or February
- Allows schools to see progress during Senior year

**DO YOUR
RESEARCH**

► Rolling Admission

- Students usually notified 3-4 weeks after submittal

► One Drop

- All students notified at once (CSU/UC)

College Visits

- ▶ Multiple colleges visit throughout the fall
- ▶ Students must ask permission 24 hours in advance
- ▶ Typically scheduled at lunch and during collaboration
- ▶ Calendar available on *Mercy Website* and in Naviance
- ▶ All held in Room 306

Naviance

- ▶ www.naviance.com
- ▶ Online portal used to search for colleges, manage college list, hold resumes
- ▶ Username and password is typically your email address.
- ▶ Email Fohanessian@mercyhsb.com for a password reset
- ▶ Students and Parents have their own accounts.

TIMELINE

- ▶ Fall/Winter
 - ▶ Visit colleges and explore majors
 - ▶ Naviance and Big Future
 - ▶ Register for Spring testing
 - ▶ Work hard in school
 - ▶ Attend College Fairs
- ▶ Spring
 - ▶ Take testing
 - ▶ Set up meeting with Mrs. Ohanessian
 - ▶ Attend College Fairs

Upcoming Events

Tri-School College Fair

October 17, 2018

Serra High School Gym

5:30 - 8:30 pm

Contacts

- Elisabeth Franco - Academic
 - efranco@mercyhsb.com
- Francesca Ohanessian - College
 - fohanessian@mercyhsb.com
- Joy Phillips - Wellness
 - jphillips@mercyhsb.com

Questions?

Thank you for coming!