

COLLEGE TESTING

Admission to the University of California is based on an eligibility index. Components of the index are grade point average in UC-approved college preparatory classes taken in grades 10 and 11, SAT Reasoning Test or American College Test with Writing scores, plus scores from two SAT Subject Tests. Subject tests are available in history, literature, foreign language, science, and mathematics. The University of California will not, however, accept the Math Level 1 Subject Test. The two SAT Subject Test scores submitted must be from two different academic areas. For example, the requirement can be met with a World History score and a Biology score, but not a World History score and a U.S. History score, or a Biology score and a Chemistry score.

Beginning with the Class of 2012, submission of Subject Test scores will be optional, but strongly recommended for certain competitive majors, such as Engineering. High School Freshmen and Sophomores interested in studying physical sciences or engineering in college should take the Chemistry or Physics Subject Test in June of the year of enrollment, and the Math 2 Subject Test at the end of Pre-Calculus or Advanced Math Topics. Like Advanced Placement test results, Subject Test results will either help a candidate for admission or be a neutral factor, so any student who believes his or her application will be strengthened by demonstrating mastery of a particular subject should take and submit Subject Test scores.

Registration for SAT and ACT (American College Test) test dates is by mail or on-line at www.collegeboard.com or www.actstudent.org. Juniors planning to apply to the University of California or competitive private colleges generally take the ACT in April, and/or the SAT Reasoning Test in May, and the SAT Subject Tests in June. These one hour Subject Tests are designed to be taken at the end of a course of study. Students may take one, two or three Subject Tests on an SAT Saturday. It is not possible to take the SAT Reasoning Test and SAT Subject Tests on the same date. Juniors planning on an Engineering major at UC should take the Math Level 2 test at the end of Pre-Calculus or Advanced Math Topics, as well as a subject test in Chemistry or Physics (or Biology for Bioengineering). UC San Diego suggests that any student planning to major in science at UCSD take the Math 2 test and a science test.

Juniors, particularly those who are CSU-bound, should consider taking the ACT in April or June. The American College Test is more closely aligned to high school curriculum than the SAT Reasoning Test. Furthermore, the Writing component of the ACT is optional. The Cal State system, plus many other colleges across the country, does not require a writing test. Students who do not need to submit a writing score can save time, money, and stress by taking the ACT without the essay. Consult admission information at college web sites to determine whether or not a particular college or university requires a writing score for admission. The Cal State system has never required the submission of Subject Test scores.

All colleges and universities in California, both public and private, now accept the ACT in place of or in addition to the SAT Reasoning Test. The University of California's electronic application automatically converts SAT and ACT scores to a common UC scale. Students who take both the SAT and the ACT can use the UC Eligibility Index Calculator at: www.UniversityofCalifornia.edu/admissions/scholarshipreq to determine which scores are

relatively higher. A new eligibility index will be developed for the Class of 2012 and subsequent classes.

The most selective private/independent colleges and universities typically require the same configuration of tests as the University of California. A few require a third SAT Subject Test, and often specify that the Math Level 2 test be one of the three test scores submitted.