

Calvary Christian Academy

Facts for PSAT and SAT Test Taking



Facts for CCA students taking the PSAT and SAT

PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test)

- Calvary offers the PSAT/NMSQT to all 10th graders. This test is administered at CCA and is given in the Fall on a Saturday morning.
- Test Registration forms will be sent home in the Spring. Students must register and pay the fee in order to take the PSAT.
- Juniors are also eligible to take the PSAT. They may choose to take the test in order to qualify for the National Merit Program OR for additional SAT practice.
- We encourage all our 10th graders to take the PSAT as it will help to prepare them for the SAT by giving them a detailed interactive score report.

SAT (test for college admissions)

- All students who are planning on attending College should take the SAT.
- Students who plan on applying to College the Fall of their Senior year should take the SAT in the Spring.
- Students can take the SAT as many times as they would like.
- CCA offers the SAT twice during the school year. It is administered on a Saturday morning usually during the months of November and May. If you choose to take the SAT on another date you will need to pick another test site.
- Students need to register for the SAT on www.collegeboard.org

ACT (American College Testing Program)

- Another option for college admissions standardized testing.
- The ACT is not offered at CCA. You can find test sites and more information at: www.act.org



Typical Timeline for College Entrance Testing

(Taken from www.collegexpress.com)

Freshman year

You just began your high school career, so take it easy. Don't worry too much about preparing for standardized tests like the SAT or ACT because you still have plenty of time to study for them later on. Instead, focus on starting your high school life on the right foot! Look into the various classes, clubs, and sports your school offers and really dive in and do the best work you can in the hardest courses you can handle. You need not fret about the standardized tests just yet.

Sophomore year

October: Take the PSAT

The PSAT is a "preliminary" test that provides a rough estimate of your potential SAT score, so you don't need to invest *too* much time or energy in worrying about it. It is a practice test.

Junior year

September through August: Take the SAT or ACT

October: Take the PSAT/NMSQT if you haven't already

October through August: Take or Retake your SAT or ACT if needed

In case you are dissatisfied with your first score (which is true for most students), there are multiple chances for you to retake the SAT or the ACT throughout the school year. Be sure to check out each company's website for registration and their corresponding test dates.

A note about retaking your standardized tests: Though you definitely want to get the best standardized test scores you can so you have a better shot at scholarships and getting admitted to your top colleges, make sure you have realistic expectations about your retakes. You will need to double-down on your studying and really target your problem areas to improve your score. Keep in mind that you probably won't see any huge jumps either; the average score increase for SAT retakes, for example, is 40 points. There's also a chance your score might even go *down* with a retake; the College Board reports that 55% of students increase their SAT score, 35% see a decrease, and 10% stay the same.

Senior year

November: Last SAT for early birds

When applying Early Action or Early Decision, the last opportunities for you to take the SAT and SAT Subject Tests are in November. But, again, that may be too late, depending on where you're applying early. So you might want to take the SAT in October just to be sure.

October: Last ACT for early birds

If you are applying to colleges Early Action or Early Decision, the latest you can take the ACT is in October—though that might be too late for some early deadlines. So you can take the September test to be safe. Remember: you'll need to register a month in advance too.

December: Last SAT and ACT for forever

For Regular Decision applicants, the *very* last test dates for both of these standardized tests are in December. This is the absolute last resort for anyone who is still unhappy with their scores if they've already taken the test—or if they haven't taken them at all. Though, again, keep in mind it takes a few weeks to get your scores, so you may be cutting it close with even your Regular Decision deadlines. It may be worth shooting for an earlier test date.