

SAT Subject Tests: These are one-hour multiple choice tests that measure how much you know about a specific academic subject and also how well you can apply that knowledge. You may take up to three Subject Tests at one time. There are 20 different SAT Subject Tests and these fall into the five core areas of: English, history, math, sciences and languages. The score range for the Subject Tests is 200-800.

Certain colleges and some specific majors may require SAT Subject tests. Students majoring in engineering are often asked to report SAT Subject Test scores. Doing well on a Subject Test can help you place into higher-level courses in college. The appropriate time to take certain Subject Tests varies. For instance, for each of the science subject tests it is appropriate to take the test at the end of the school year during which you took that particular science. If you take chemistry during your junior year, the appropriate time to take the Chemistry Subject Test is in June of that year. It is generally recommended that you take a Subject Test if you have an 85 average or better in the particular course. For the other core areas when you should take the test is determined by how many years of preparation you've had and also by specific topics covered.

Because the SAT and ACT are scored so differently, we have included an SAT-ACT Comparison Chart (*) so that you can see how your scores translate between tests.

Extracurricular Activities and Community Involvement

Involvement in a variety of activities outside of the classroom is also very important. In school these could be clubs, sports, honor societies, peer tutoring or any other way to productively spend your time. Outside of school, volunteer experiences (such as youth group participation) or having a part-time job is the best way to show schools that you are a well-rounded, active member of the community as well as demonstrating responsibility and time management skills. The important thing is not to be involved peripherally in too many things, but instead to take active roles in the things that are important to you. Taking on leadership positions is a great way to indicate that you are ready for the demands of a college curriculum. Even if you have not been involved in a lot of these activities until now, there is still time. The best way to showcase your extracurricular involvement is to create an Activity Sheet/Resume (*), highlighting the activities that you are most proud of or where you were most involved. This should be a typewritten list describing your involvement. A copy of your Activity Sheet (*) should be given to your counselor during the spring of your junior year and then again when it's updated in the fall.

(*) = document available in Appendix