



**1** Research your options

**2** Finance your studies

**3** Complete your application

**4** Apply for your Student Visa

**5** Prepare for your departure

**Your 5 Steps  
to U.S. Study**



# Standardized testing

While an increasing numbers of colleges in the U.S. are choosing to be ‘test optional’, most still require the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) or the American College Test (ACT) standardized test result for undergraduate admissions. Admissions requirements vary between institutions so be sure to confirm which standardized test(s) you need with the institutions that you want to apply to.

## Helpful Information

- Generally institutions have no preference to which standardized test score you supply when seeking admittance – either the [ACT](#) or [SAT](#).
- Tests can be taken more than once and colleges may use your best score from each test section. This is referred to as ‘super scoring’ and in such cases there can be great benefit to taking the test multiple times.
- Selective colleges may require two additional SAT subject tests, so be sure to check requirements and build any extra tests into your timeline.
- Testing needs to be completed in time for results to be released by application deadlines.
- There are limited testing dates and places fill quickly, so register as soon as you can for your planned testing date(s).
- EducationUSA recommends that you complete all testing by the end of Year 11. However if you need to do tests in Year 12 to improve your scores you should aim to sit the SAT no later than May, and the ACT no later than June.
- Included in the test registration cost is the option for your scores to be sent to up to four colleges or organizations like the NCAA or NAIA—check the relevant deadlines for these submissions.

## Test timeline

- Year 9 - No testing recommended
- Year 10 - Practice testing recommended for [PSAT](#) or [Pre-ACT](#) - if these are offered in your area
- Year 11 - Take the SAT or ACT at least once but possibly twice
- Year 12 - Take the SAT or ACT at least once (unless test results already received are sufficient)

## Helpful websites

SAT	ACT
<a href="#">General Information</a> <a href="#">International Registration</a> <a href="#">Preparation</a>	<a href="#">General Information</a> <a href="#">Registration</a> <a href="#">Preparation</a>