

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

Are you preparing to tackle college applications soon? If you are, it is important to prepare ahead of time, research, stay organized, and prioritize your best options throughout the entire application process.

- College applications are typically done online via a school's specific application portal accessible through their admissions webpage, or through the Common App, the Common Black College Application, or the Coalition Application.
 - While students are encouraged to apply to more than three institutions, covering the costs of college applications may be an obstacle for students. All students are encouraged to take advantage of college application waivers that they may be eligible for (see: Common App waiver, Coalition application waiver, NACAC Waivers, waivers provided by CollegeBoard or the ACT) and submit applications during specific days, weeks, or months where institutions in their state are waiving fees (See: Georgia Applies to College or North Carolina's Countdown to College).
- Institutions on your list of colleges and universities each may have their own policies on reporting scores for the SAT and ACT, and even other standardized test scores like AP or IB exams.
 - The SAT and ACT are both standardized college entrance exams that admissions officers may use to determine your likelihood of academic success during your first year of college.
 - The majority of colleges do not have a preference for one exam over the other and may require you or give you the option of submitting one or the other exam's scores. To learn more about either of the exams and how these scores are used please consider reading: USNews's "[ACT vs. SAT: How to Decide Which Test to Take](#)," or the Princeton's Review article "[SAT vs ACT: Which Test is Right for You?](#)" "[How to Calculate Your SAT or ACT Superscore](#)", their video "[What Test-Optional Means Right Now | The Princeton Review](#)".
 - Many students may be eligible to receive fee waivers for both the SAT and ACT. Please contact your school's guidance counselor or post-secondary transition specialist for more information. Students can typically be given two fee waivers per exam (a total of four waivers).
- It is common for AP and IB exam scores to be submitted post-acceptance, as most colleges only use them to determine what institutional credits you may be eligible to receive. While that is true, some institutions or external scholarship providers may also require them in order to determine what merit-based scholarships they are able to provide you with.
- To learn more about other aspects of your college applications please check out the Princeton Review's "[College Admissions Guide](#)," and their article on "[How to Apply for College](#)".