



Getting Ready for College: *A student's guide*

to the ACT, SAT, and ACCUPLACER

Student Edition

Purpose:

- To provide YOU with the opportunity to do your best and get the highest score possible on assessments used for college admission

Method:

- Talking to your counselor and scheduling any support and preparation you may need BEFORE you register for the SAT, ACT, or ACCUPLACER test.

What's so important? Why the rush?

1. Almost all colleges and universities use one of these tests for admissions.
2. Even as little as 100 extra points on the SAT or 2 points on the ACT can make the difference between your first and second choice college or university— basically, it could make the difference between getting into that school you've always dreamed of and the one you'd settle for if you had to.
3. For Montgomery College, it could even make the difference between a year spent taking developmental courses— course you HAVE TO take before you can take courses within your major and don't even get credit for— or starting right off in your major.

What are my testing options?

The SAT Reasoning Test

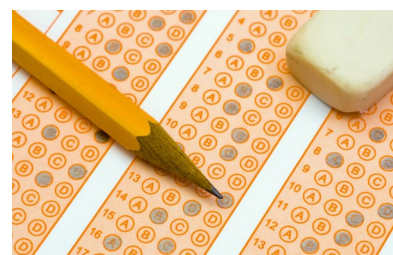
- Students says, "I always outsmart the test even without studying."
- standardized test used by MANY colleges and universities as one aspect of the admission process.
- "measures critical reading, writing, and mathematical reasoning skills."
- highest possible score is 2400, 800 on each of the three sections.

The ACT

- Student says, "I know the material. If the test were just more direct I'd ACE it!"
- standardized assessment used by ALL colleges and universities as part of the admissions process.
- "measures academic achievement in the areas of English, mathematics, reading, and science."
- highest possible composite score is 36.

The ACCUPLACER

- Student says, "I'm planning on going to a 2-year college like Montgomery College and I want it actually take me only two years!"
- standard assessment used by many colleges and universities to accurately place students in the correct level of classes.



Who do I see and when?

If you're planning on taking one of the three tests you should take Northwood's preparation course, College Readiness Prep, as part of your regular schedule.

We can help you get that score you want and need! Work with your counselor to decide which one fits you best.

Believe it or not!

Which test fits me?

It all depends on YOUR personal style. Just like you might learn material differently from your friends, you might do better on a different test than your friends, too. It depends on a whole bunch of things. It depends on your PSAT score, the classes you're taking, your grades, and the time and preparation YOU are willing to put into

I'll just take the test and see how I do

STOP! Put down your pencil! Step away from the test! NOW!

Colleges and universities have the ability to see ALL your attempts at that test. Yes, they may see you best, and they may also see your WORST!

DO NOT take a test without the proper preparation! Prepare for each attempt!

There are MANY versions of each test. Taking the test does not prepare you for your next attempt.

And if you've already taken it, know that the average students who take it again without preparation will score **WORSE** than their first try.



I want to take one of these tests.

What do I do?

1. Plan ahead.
2. See your counselor ASAP.
3. Register to take the College Readiness Prep and Connections class in your *junior* year.
4. Talk to your College Readiness Prep teacher about which test fits you best.

Why should I take the College Readiness Prep class?

WITH the class you GET:

- In school support for the test
- Preparation to do your best on the ACT, SAT, or ACCUPLACER
- Help searching for colleges and universities
- Help searching for money to pay for college (scholarships, grants, endowments, fellowships)
- Help on your college applications and essays

WITHOUT the class you get:

- To do LOTS of extra and make-up work when you get pulled from your other classes to get ready to take the ACT, SAT, or ACCUPLACER
- To find help on your own with college searches and applications, money



I spoke a different language when I was younger. What should I do?

Speak with your counselor about your options, but there are other versions of the test including the ELL ACCUPLACER specially designed for students who learned English as a second language.