We’re glad you are joining us!
In the chat box, please list your grade level and high school so we have an idea of our audience.
HCS District College Counselors

www.hcscollegecounselorsinfo.weebly.com
Facebook: HCS District College Counselors

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Parent Outreach Meetings

- Registration – Choosing Courses with College in Mind
- February – Understanding College Costs
- March - College Planning
- April - Selective College Planning
GPA = Grade Point Average

High schools report the weighted cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale

Grades in all courses beginning with 9th grade

Based on completed courses

Includes added weight for Honors & AP/IB/DE courses

What is a 4.0 Scale?

Standard classes: A = 4, B = 3, C = 2, D = 1, F = 0

Honors classes: A = 4.5, B = 3.5, C = 2.5, D = 1.5, F = 0

AP/IB/DE classes: A = 5, B = 4, C = 3, D = 2, F = 0
Think about it . . .

On a 4.0 scale, a B receives 3 points (80-89)

Therefore, an 81 receives 3 points, and an 89 also receives 3 points

Students apply for college beginning in fall of 12th grade. Therefore, the GPA that is reported includes courses and grades earned from 9th to 11th grades.
Testing has a purpose . . .

These are NOT intelligence tests

Tests provide information about the student’s knowledge and skills as demonstrated on that date.

Tests provide information to colleges, scholarship programs, and NCAA that is used to compare students to a standard or to other applicants

Score reports provide detailed information that can be used to best prepare for the next test
Information is entered by the student when registering for the test including:

- Demographics
- GPA/course grades
- Courses taken
- Career Interest Inventory
PSAT/NMSQT

- Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (Pre-SAT)
  - Given on a Wednesday in October
  - Optional – students had to sign up & pay ($17)

- 10th grade – Practice Test

- 11th grade – Practice Test AND the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test
## 2020 PSAT College and Career Readiness Benchmark Scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Evidence-Based Reading and Writing</th>
<th>Math</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10th</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th</td>
<td>460</td>
<td>510</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* National benchmark scores are determined by College Board
How does the PSAT predict scores on the SAT?

- The PSAT and SAT scores are “aligned”, but they are not “equivalent”.
  - PSAT Score range 160 – 760 (Total 1520)
  - SAT Score range 200 – 800 (Total 1600)

- Concordance tables at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)
National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test

National Merit Semifinalists
Top 16,000 scorers nationwide
Cut-off score (selection index) varies by state and by year
Notified in early September of 12th grade

Historical data for Alabama
Class of 2022 - ???
Class of 2021 - 212
Class of 2020 - 216
Class of 2019 - 216
Class of 2018 - 216
Class of 2017 – 215 (re-designed test with new scoring)

More information
PSAT Test – www.collegeboard.org
National Merit Scholarship Corporation – www.nationalmerit.org
# College Entrance Tests

**ACT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subtests</th>
<th>Tests in English, Reading, Math, and Science</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overall score</strong></td>
<td>“Composite” is the average of the scores from the four subtests; score range 1-36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>Optional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes</td>
<td>No penalty for guessing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SAT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subtests</th>
<th>Tests in Reading, Writing and Language, Math Calculator, and Math No Calculator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overall score</strong></td>
<td>“Total Score” found by adding Evidence Based Reading and Writing and Math (EBRW + M); score range 400 - 1600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>Optional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes</td>
<td>No penalty for guessing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Registering to Test

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ACT</th>
<th>SAT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Website</strong></td>
<td><a href="http://www.actstudent.org">www.actstudent.org</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.collegeboard.org">www.collegeboard.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Test Dates</strong></td>
<td>September, October, December, February, April, June, July</td>
<td>August, September, October, November, December, March, May, June</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Cost**       | ACT $55.00  
ACT with Writing $70.00 | SAT $52.00  
SAT with essay $68.00 |
| **Fee Waivers**| Students who participate in free/reduced lunch can receive a total of four fee waivers  
* See your counselor! | Students who participate in free/reduced lunch can receive a total of two fee waivers  
* See your counselor! |
| **Other fees** | Late registration $35  
Additional score reports $13 | Late registration $30  
Additional score reports $12 |
| **Reminders**  | Deadlines, Photo Upload, Admission Ticket, Photo ID | |

*See your counselor!*
“We were originally thinking SAT, but then Noah's admissions advisor told us left-handed students born on Tuesdays do better on the ACT.”
Which test should I take?

- Either ACT or SAT will be accepted by colleges and universities
- Consider trying both tests
- If you scored well on the PSAT, take the SAT (and ACT too!)
- Compare your scores between ACT and SAT
  - Comparison charts (concordance) at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) or [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)
  - [www.convertyourscore.org](http://www.convertyourscore.org)
How do I improve my score?

- Set realistic goals
- Utilize the score report information
- Academic Coursework
- READ, READ, READ!
- Prepare
Test Prep

- FREE resources are available online through the testing site (www.collegeboard.org or www.act.org)

- FREE Online ACT Test Prep through Alabama Public Library Service at www.learningexpresshub.com

- 11th grade only - FREE ACT online prep program from ACT – see your grade level counselor for access information

- A semester ACT Prep class may be offered at your high school.

- Private test prep
When should I test?
(Everyone’s got an opinion!)

- PSAT in 10th and 11th
- All 10th grade students are scheduled to take the Pre-ACT in February (Details will come from the school.)
- All 11th grade students will take the ACT on March 9 at their high school for state testing (Details from the school)
- ACT and SAT are designed for 11th grade knowledge
- Plan to take the ACT/SAT test at least 3 times (with last time in fall of senior year).
- Consider taking both tests
Plan it out!

Timing
- When should you take the test for the first time?
- Take the test for the final time in October/December of 12th grade
- Be mindful of your activity schedule
Changes & Challenges this year . . .

 действие ACT proposed several changes to start Fall 2020, and they did not happen.

Current Seniors (class of 2021)
- SOME colleges are test optional . . .
- Scholarships . . .
- NCAA
What does this mean for the future?

- Admissions guidelines/requirements at each college are made year by year.
- Taking the ACT/SAT is the best way to keep your options open.
What is Superscoring?
(We get this question a lot 😊)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TEST DATE</th>
<th>ENGLISH SCORE</th>
<th>MATH SCORE</th>
<th>READING SCORE</th>
<th>SCIENCE SCORE</th>
<th>COMPOSITE SCORE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APRIL</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUNE</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEPTEMBER</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TEST DATE</th>
<th>BEST ENGLISH SCORE</th>
<th>BEST MATH SCORE</th>
<th>BEST READING SCORE</th>
<th>BEST SCIENCE SCORE</th>
<th>SUPERSCORE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMBINED</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Find the Superscore Calculator at [act.org/MoreChoices](http://act.org/MoreChoices)
## What are colleges looking for?
*(Information available on the college websites)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Test scores/GPA for admission</th>
<th>Merit Scholarships begin with . . .</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calhoun Community College</td>
<td>No minimum; may submit a test score or take a placement test</td>
<td>Minimum 2.0 to be considered for competitive scholarships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alabama A&amp;M Univ.</td>
<td>Test scores waived for class of 2021; GPA 2.0</td>
<td>ACT 17; GPA 2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UAH</td>
<td>May request test optional if unable to test; ACT 20; GPA 2.9 (sliding scale)</td>
<td>ACT 21; GPA 3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The University of Alabama</td>
<td>Test scores waived for class of 2021; GPA 3.0</td>
<td>Two scholarship structures for class of 2021 <a href="https://scholarships.ua.edu/freshman/in-state/">https://scholarships.ua.edu/freshman/in-state/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auburn University</td>
<td>Test scores waived for class of 2021; Holistic review</td>
<td>Holistic review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanderbilt University</td>
<td>Mid-50% ACT 33-35; Approximately 9.1% of applicants are admitted</td>
<td>A limited number of merit scholarships offered to the top 1% of applicants</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* GPA/test score requirements may differ for different opportunities – admission, scholarships, Honors College, etc.*
Thanks for attending!