COLLEGE ADMISSION TESTS 101

How Admission Test Can Help You
College admission tests, such as the SAT, SAT Subject Tests and the ACT, can help you on your college journey in several ways:

- **They open doors.** Most 4-year colleges require you to submit admission test scores as part of your application. So if you want to keep your options open, it’s a good idea to take a test.

- **They help guide your choices.** Many colleges publicize the admitted students. This allows you to see how your score compares with those of the students at the colleges you’re considering. And it allows you to consider other colleges that have similar test-score distributions. Remember, though, that an average test score is just that — an average. Don’t be afraid to apply to a college that seems right for you even if its average score is higher or lower than yours.

- **They help you qualify for scholarships.** Some colleges and educational organizations award scholarship money or merit aid to students based in part on admission test scores.

- **They help colleges find you.** By opting in to the Student Search Service® when you register for the SAT, you can receive free information from colleges and scholarship programs. This can help you to discover a good match.

- **They may earn you advanced placement or college credit.** Some colleges allow you to skip some introductory courses and may even grant you credit if you score high enough on your admission test. This could save you both time and money. Don’t forget to check the credit and placement policies at the colleges you are interested in.

Which admission test do you need to take?
There are a couple of different standardized college admission tests. The word standardized means that the test measures the same thing in the same way for everyone who takes it. The results of these tests help colleges determine how well prepared you are for college-level work. Some colleges ask applicants to take a specific test.

- **The SAT and the ACT**
  - Most four-year colleges require that students submit SAT or ACT scores. Here’s how each of these tests is structured: The SAT has three major sections: math, reading and writing (which includes a written essay). The ACT has four major sections: English, math, reading and science (and an optional essay section).
When To Take Admission Tests

These facts may help with your planning:

- Most students take the SAT or ACT for the first time in the spring of junior year.
- Students who choose to take the SAT or ACT a second time typically do so in the fall of senior year.
- SAT Subject Tests are best taken directly following relevant courses, while the material from class is still fresh in your mind. But you can take them at any time during high school. Keep in mind that while many students take tests more than once, there’s no evidence that taking a test more than twice significantly improves students’ scores. The best thing you can do is take time to prepare and get familiar with the test format before you take the test.
- Scores May Determine Placement in College Classes
  Admission tests evaluate the reading, writing and math skills you’ll need in college. So some colleges use scores to place students in classes that are at the right level for them. Scores can also be used to identify students who may benefit from specific advisors or academic support in college.
- Most Four-Year Colleges Require Scores, and Some Two-Year Colleges Recommend Them
  Nearly all four-year colleges require you to submit SAT or ACT scores — you can’t apply without them. Some four-year colleges and open-admission colleges, including community colleges, don’t require scores but may use them for placement or scholarships.
- Colleges Consider Multiple Scores in Different Ways
  You decide who sees your scores, because you’re in charge of sending them. If you take a test more than once, you can often choose to send only your best scores. But each college sets its own policy for how it uses multiple scores:
  - Some colleges require all your scores.
  - Some colleges look at your highest combined scores from one test date.
  - Some colleges accept your highest section scores from any day you tested.

Get More Information

Every admission policy is different. Use trusted sources to do research before you apply. You can use College Board’s online college search at https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search to find a college’s SAT score-use policy and score ranges — just visit the Applying area of any college’s profile. Or check out a college’s official website to learn about its score-use policy and score ranges.

Source: http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/testing/8-things-to-know-about-how-colleges-use-admission-tests

Don’t Delay the FAFSA!

Complete the FAFSA soon. If you procrastinate until April, when income taxes are due, you could miss deadlines for state financial aid assistance. If completing your income tax promptly is impossible, fill out the FAFSA with estimated numbers from previous taxes! You can always log back into your FAFSA account with the updated figures later.
Wen Jing Yang won 1st place in the Ka’u Science Fair.

KaMele Sanchez has been selected to represent Hawaii as a National Youth Delegate at the 2013 Washington Youth Summit on the Environment at George Mason University this summer!

UB students learned about DNA structure, cells, genetics and heredity.

FAFSA Priority Deadline

MARCH 1

First-come, First-serve basis!

2012 BIIF Cheerleading Champions
Great work Mary Ann Calamayan!
Don’t Forget it’s...

TAX
TIME

You’ll need it for college Financial Aid!