



Six Reasons Why Students are Still Studying for the SAT and ACT Exams

Your Score Booster

COVID-19 and Admissions

Although some universities have gone test optional due to COVID-19, many still require students to complete the SAT or the ACT, or have said the tests are optional. For students who don't submit scores, the universities will be forced to depend only on other standards of review: academic profile, extracurricular life, essays and recommendations.

Universities like Cornell have stated that test scores can be considered as “meaningful differentiators,” namely for those who have those students who have still had access to testing, and/or those who have not suffered economic hardships in 2020

But what should they be expecting exactly?

The College Board has reduced test dates and seating capacity. However, that doesn't mean other students haven't been studying—far from it. In fact, SAT testing locations have been filling up. Here are six reasons why students are still preparing for the SAT and ACT, why your children should, and what to do.

1) Register as soon as possible

College Board has added several test dates. Register as soon as possible because the College Board is experiencing significant demand for SAT registration. Considering the large build-up of students after months of test cancellations, you can anticipate registration competition to be fierce. This situation is even more urgent for those soon-to-be seniors come autumn. Test centers in British Columbia are sold out until March 13th 2021, with many of the spring test dates close to capacity. Note that as of the publication of this, the ACT is not administered in Canada. Plan ahead and sign up now.

2) Competitive admissions.

Admissions has become increasingly competitive. MIT, for example, admitted just 719 out of 15,036 applicants – [a record low acceptance rate of just 4.8%](#)! Harvard University's applications spiked 42%. For early action, Harvard accepted just 747 out of 10,086 early-action applicants (7.4%). The University of Virginia saw a 15% increase in the number of applicants. Applications to University of California-Berkeley surged into six figures for the first time -- 112,000 applicants, up a whopping 28%. Note, however, that some universities have gone test-blind – meaning they will not consider the test at all. Contact us for admissions testing requirements.

3) Easy to do at home.

Tutoring can help your student focus and better understand the hidden challenges of the content. Tutoring services like Your Score Booster offer online tutoring so that students can progress from the comfort of their own home. Some students struggle with self-study, especially with libraries and other study locations being closed. Tutors are a good way to help your student track and achieve their goals.

At Your Score Booster, in-person tutoring has returned at the downtown office. A strict COVID-19 safety procedure has been implemented, including a mandatory mask policy and the use of Plexiglass dividers.

4) Productivity during quarantine helps improve mental health.

This is a great time for students to make use of their sudden influx of free time. Think about it: most teenagers spend hours on their phones watching Tik Tok videos or mindlessly scrolling through Instagram.

Without healthy means for mental stimulation, mental health and productivity levels have undoubtedly dropped across the various demographics of culture, age, and occupation—students included.

Through a UNICEF advisory, adolescent psychologist Dr. Lisa Damour recommends combatting anxiety symptoms by “doing homework ... to seek relief and find balance in the day-to-day.” She adds that spending large amounts of “unfettered access to screens and or social media [is] not healthy ... it may amplify your anxiety” (UNICEF, 2020).

5) Opportunity to study with friends online.

Having said that, students may also find it difficult to focus on their studies, especially individuals who enjoy studying in groups. Alongside social distancing recommendations, studying for the SAT or the ACT with friends via online conferences serves as both motivation and a great substitute for face-to-face hangouts.

Friends can support and help each other in those small areas that educators may not quite reach. After all, the common goal is to get into their dream universities, but motivation plays a significant factor in that process.

6) Stay up-to-date.

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