

## COLLEGE TESTING PROGRAMS

Four-year colleges and universities use entrance exams as a way to determine whether you have the potential to be a successful student at their college. College admissions counselors will also take into consideration your completion of college prep classes, and your GPA.

- PSAT/  
NMSQT** Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. This test is a practice SAT and a qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarships. **The PSAT is only given once per year in October.** Although it can be taken in the sophomore year, juniors are encouraged to take it. (11<sup>th</sup> grade is the only time a student can qualify for the NMSQT).
- SAT I** The Scholastic Aptitude Test. This test is used as an entrance exam for most colleges and universities. The SAT I is mostly multiple-choice questions, but there are some questions where students fill in the blanks with answers. The test takes 3 hours, broken into timed parts, and covers verbal and math abilities. The verbal questions test your vocabulary and verbal reasoning, and your understanding of written material. The math questions test your ability to solve problems involving arithmetic, elementary algebra and geometry. You receive two SAT scores (verbal and math), each is reported on a scale of 200-800.
- SAT II** Scholastic Aptitude Test: Subject Tests. **The SAT II: Subject Tests are required for admission to the University of California system.** They may be required for other private colleges and universities - check the requirements in the college catalog. For UC requirements students must take three subject tests including English Writing, Mathematics Level I or Level IIC, and one test in one of the following areas: English, Foreign language, Science, or History/Social Science.
- ACT** American College Test. This test is used as an entrance exam for most colleges and universities. The ACT consists of four areas: English, Mathematics, Reading and Science Reasoning. While the SAT emphasizes basic aptitude and “creative” thinking, the ACT is based more on the skills and content learned in school. The ACT measures more of what the student has actually learned in school, while the SAT is more a measure of the student’s aptitude to do college-level work. The ACT score ranges from 10–30.