

TESTING INFORMATION FOR COLLEGE BOUND STUDENTS – page 1
The school code for AFE is 053951

<http://www.collegeboard.com> - the website for the company that administers the SAT exam, also has a “college matchmaker” service and provides detailed information on colleges and universities across the nation. In addition, students who take the PSAT in their freshman, sophomore or junior year are immediately able to access detailed college search and career planning information by using the College Board’s QuickStart program. My College QuickStart is a personalized college and career planning kit comprised of four main sections: a score report, an individual SAT study plan, college matches, and major and career matches.

<http://www.act.org/> - the website for information and registering for the ACT

COMMUNITY COLLEGE:

If you plan to go to a community college, you must take assessment tests in writing, reading comprehension, and math to enroll. These exams are used to determine which courses you are eligible to take. It is important to review and take practice tests to do your best on the assessment tests so you don’t have to repeat curriculum at Cabrillo you already know. Call the Assessment Center at 479-6165 for an appointment.

4-YR COLEGE:

PSAT: The PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test measures verbal and math reasoning abilities important for academic performance in college. It assesses ability to reason with facts and concepts rather than the ability to recall and recite them. The PSAT includes two verbal sections, two math sections and a writing skills section. This 2-hr + 10-min exam is given only once each year in October and is most often taken by juniors although 10th graders who completed geometry may choose to take the PSAT for practice. AFE students sign up to take this course at a comprehensive high school.

The PSAT is not a required exam and is not used as part of the college admission process. However, it is very beneficial as a preview of the SAT I and as predictor of possible SAT scores. More importantly for juniors, exceptionally scores may qualify the student for a National Merit Scholarship.

SAT I: Reasoning Test is an entrance exam required by most 4-year colleges. The 3-hr test that measures verbal and math abilities is administered at Santa Cruz high schools on 5 identified Saturday mornings throughout the year for a fee. Most students take the SAT I twice, as juniors in May or June and then again as seniors in October. Colleges will use the highest score for admissions.

SAT II: Subject Tests are required in addition to the SAT I by UC, some out of state and many private colleges as part of the admissions process as well as for placement purposes. Each 1-hr exam measures your knowledge of a particular subject and your ability to apply that knowledge.

TESTING INFORMATION FOR COLLEGE BOUND STUDENTS – page 2

The UC system and many of the other campuses require 3 tests. Writing and one of three choices of math must be taken in addition to one elective choice from literature, two areas of history, three sciences or eight world languages. Be sure to check the particular college catalog for specifics.

The registration process, test sites, etc. for the Subject Tests are the same as the SAT I. You may not take the SAT I and SAT II on the same day; however, you may take one, two or three SAT II Subject Tests on the same day. Each test is one hour during a possible 3-hr testing session. The best time to take a Subject Test is either after completion of the particular course (e.g., Biology) or at the end of a sequence of classes (e.g., Spanish 1,2, 3, test). Most students take two or three subject tests at a time, usually in June of their junior year and again in November or December of the senior year for most college admissions.

ACT: The American College Test, ACT, is very similar to the SAT I and may be used by most colleges instead of the SAT I. In fact, a few campuses prefer the ACT so be sure to check the particular college catalog. The ACT reports scores in English, math, reading, and science reasoning. The ACT is administered at SCCS comprehensive high schools on 5 Saturday mornings throughout the year for a fee.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students requiring testing accommodations because of a physical or learning disability must make special application to the ACT and SAT programs. Because extensive documentation and local administrative sign-off is required, the application process needs to be initiated well before test registration deadlines. In fact, if classroom accommodations were not in place and being used in high school classes, it is possible the testing accommodations will not be allowed. Check in with your consultant teacher with questions about this.