



US APPLICATIONS TEACHER TRAINING

26th September 2022

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UES

EXPERT ADMISSIONS

Member of



OUTLINE



Rough time	Section
09.00	Introductions
09.10	Overview of holistic review process
09.30	Finance for US college
10.00	Standardised Testing (SAT, ACT etc)
10.40	Choosing colleges
11.00	Break
11.20	Using the Common App portal (and others)
11.40	Letters of Recommendation
12.00	School Documents
12.20	Students' essays
12.30	Application strategies (ED/EA) and deadlines
12.40	Scenarios and discussion
13.00	Lunch!

WHY STUDY IN THE USA?



- The best universities in the world
- Flexibility of subject area
 - Liberal Arts
- Student life
- Sports
- An international education

FINANCE

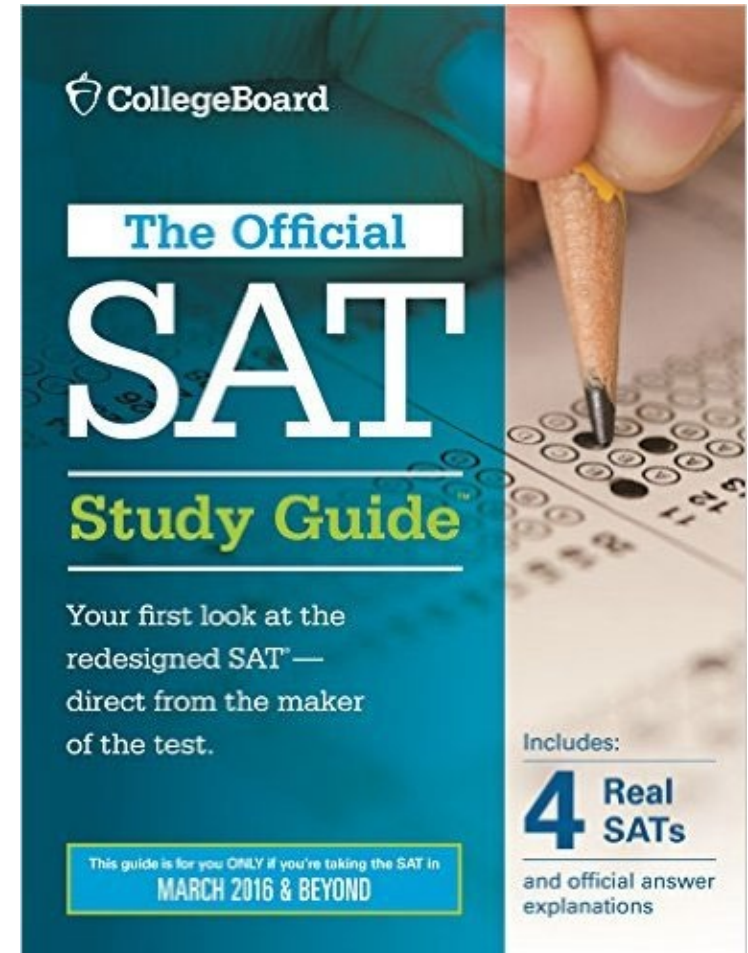


- Need-based aid
 - Need-blind vs need-aware
- Merit scholarships
- Niche scholarships
- Loans
- Sports scholarships
- Use **CSS** profile and/or **FAFSA**

THE SAT

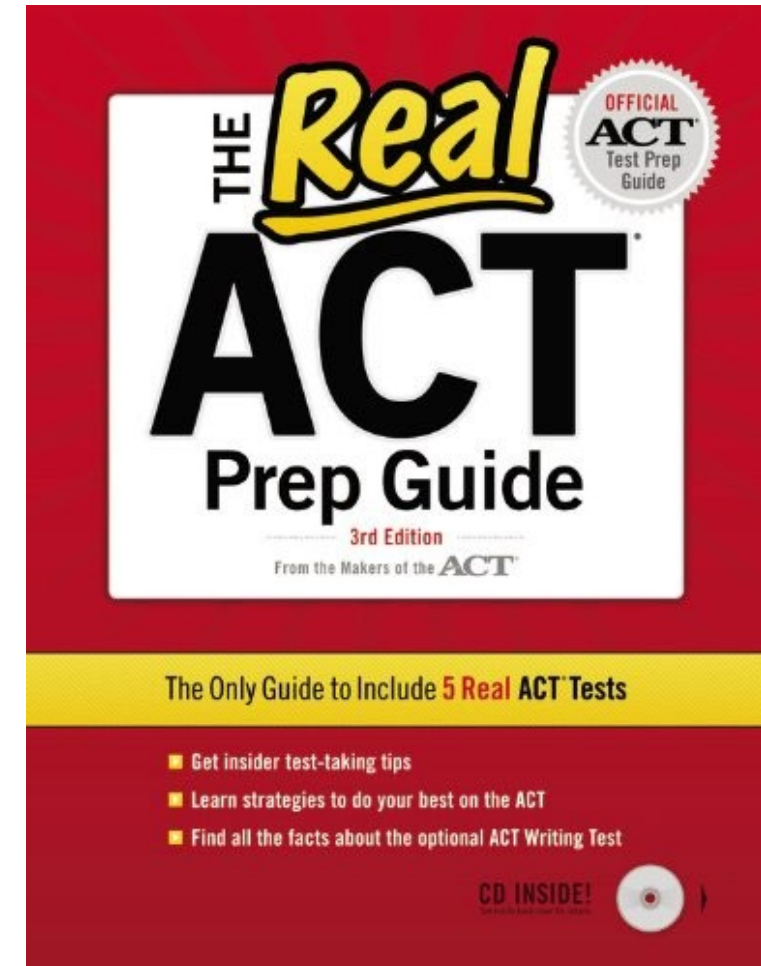


- Two sections scored out of 800:
 - Evidence-Based Reading and Writing
 - Math (calculator and non-calculator)
- Total is out of 1600
 - 1450+ is a very good score (720-730 on each Section)
- Essay is scored out of 24
 - 18+ is a very good score
- 4 hours 10 minutes
- **Paper-based**
- Held on Saturday mornings



THE ACT

- Four sections: English, Math, Reading, Science
 - Each scored between 1 and 36 points
- Overall score out of 36
 - 32+ is a very good score
- Essay is separate, out of 12
 - 9+ is a very good score
- 3 hours 50 minutes
- **Computer-based** (internationally)
- Held on Friday and Saturday mornings/afternoons



SAT VS ACT



Feature	ACT	SAT
Format	Computer-based (outside US)	Paper-based
Time per question	49 seconds	70 seconds
Math	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Broader syllabus• Calculator allowed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Narrower, deeper syllabus• Non-calc section
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus on speed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus on depth
Data Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 'Science' section	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Within Math and English sections
Essay	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Debate style	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Similar to English Language GCSE



THE NEW-NEW SAT

- March 2023 (UK and international)
 - March 2024 in the US
- Digital Test
- In a test centre (to start with)
- But students can use their own laptop
- Embedded calculator
- 2-hours long
- Adaptive-by-section



ACT RANGES – SELECTED COLLEGES*

College	25 th Percentile	75 th Percentile
MIT	35	35
Rice	34	35
Princeton	33	35
Bowdoin	33	34
Vassar	31	34
USD	25	30

*Based on class of 2026

SAT RANGES – SELECTED COLLEGES*



College	25 th Percentile	75 th Percentile
MIT	1520	1580
Rice	1500	1560
Princeton	1490	1580
Bowdoin	1410	1540
Vassar	1390	1540
USD	1200	1350

*Based on class of 2026

RECOMMENDED YEAR 12 TESTING JOURNEY 2022-23



	ACT	SAT
Dec 2022	1 st	1 st
Feb 2023	1 st / 2 nd	
March 2023		1 st / 2 nd
April 2023	1 st / 2 nd	
May 2023		2 nd / 3 rd
June 2023	2 nd / 3 rd	
July 2023	3 rd	
August 2023		3 rd
September 2023	3 rd	
Oct 2023	final for ED	final for ED
Dec 2023	final for RD	final for RD

TESTING IN LONDON AREA



ACT:

Search “London”:

- **Synod Solutions Barking**, Jhumat House, 160 London Road, Barking, IG11 8BB
- **Computer Learning Centre**, 65 Kingley Road, Hounslow, TW3 1QB
- **Iranian Association**, 222 King Street, Hammersmith, W6 0RA
- **PSI Stratford**, Boardman House, 64 Broadway, E15 1NT
- **Synod Solutions Tottenham**, Grove Business Centre, 560-568 High Road, Tottenham, N17 9TA

Search “Croydon”:

- **PSI**, Grosvenor House, 8th Floor, 125 High Street, Croydon, CR0 9XP

Search “Thorpe”:

- **TASIS**, Ten Acre Lane, Magna Carta Hall Reception, Thorpe, Surrey, TW20 8TE

SAT:

- **Southbank International School**, London
- **University College School**, London
- **International School of London**
- **Whitgift School**, London
- **ACS Hillingdon**, Middlesex
- **Wellington College**, Berkshire
- **ACS Cobham**, Surrey
- **ACS Egham**, Surrey
- **The American School in London** (only for ASL students)

WHAT DOES 'TEST-OPTIONAL' MEAN?



- Students don't *have* to submit SAT/ACT scores to apply
- This is not the same as 'test-blind'
- Students can still submit scores if they like
 - This will help their application if they're 'good'
 - Can be a good way to demonstrate academic ability
- This is not a new phenomenon

ACCOMMODATIONS PROCESS



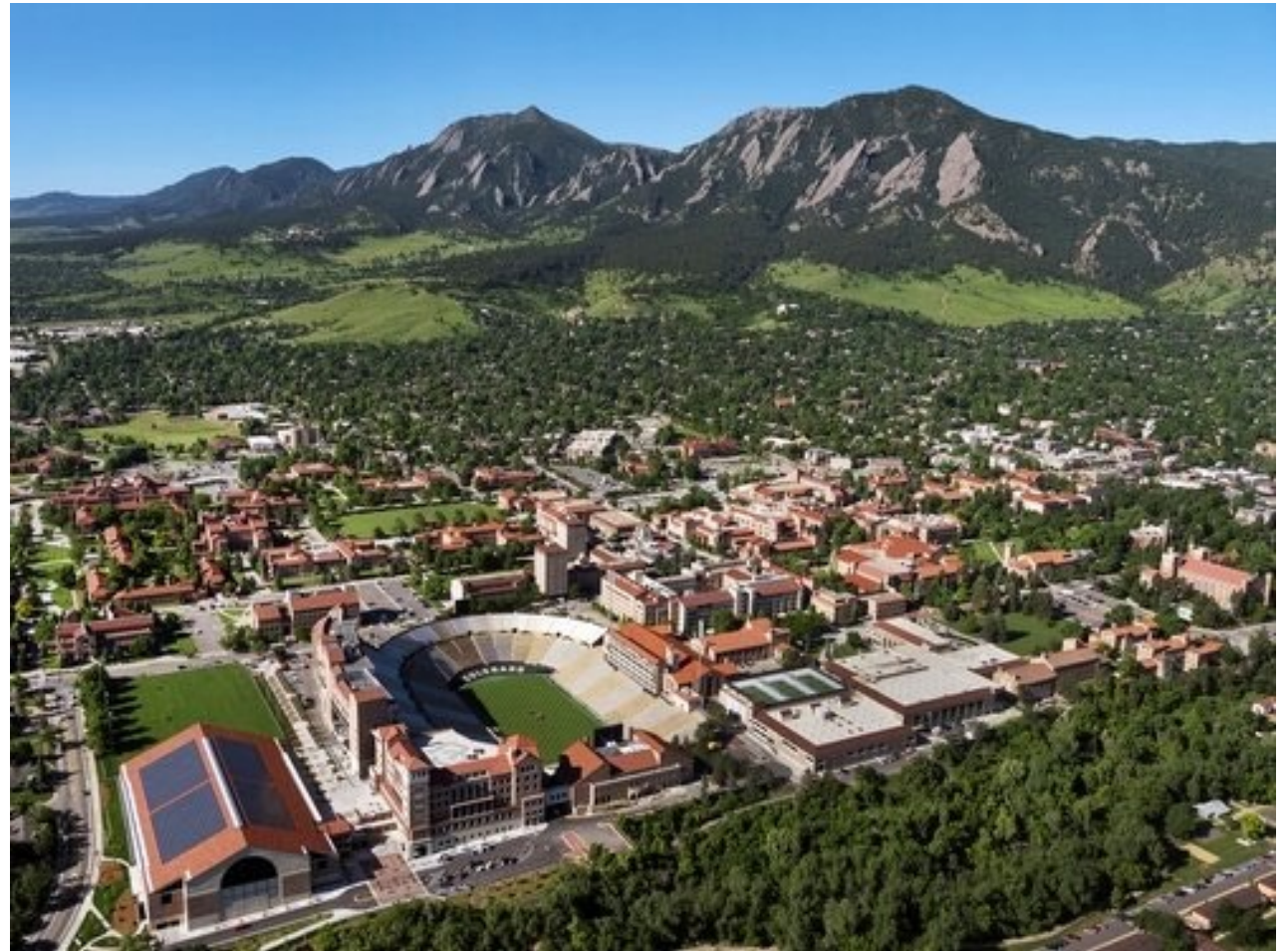
- SAT:
 - School applies for accommodations
 - Student receives SSD code and registers for test externally
- ACT:
 - Student registers for test with accommodations
 - School applies for accommodations
 - Student is registered for requested test
 - If in school, there is a test window
- Please use our guide:
 - ueseducation.com/blog/2021-09-15/applying-for-sat-act-extra-time-accommodations



CHOOSING COLLEGES



- **Fit**
- Finance
- Programs and majors
- Location and climate
- Culture
- Sports



THE COMMON APP (AND OTHER PORTALS)



- The Common App is here: www.commonapp.org
- The Universities of California use a separate system, here: www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/
- Others use their own portals, eg Florida State, MIT, and Georgetown
- There is also an Apply Texas portal, though most will use Common App for UT colleges.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION



- 1-3 Teacher recommendations
 - Personal
 - Contain anecdotes
 - Demonstrate academic ability but not necessarily subject specific
- Counselor Recommendation
 - More overarching
 - Still personal with stories

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION (CONT)



- Other recommenders
 - Peer
 - Sports coach, etc
- FERPA
 - Student should waive right to see letters

SCHOOL DOCUMENTS



- Transcript
 - Academic profile of last four years of school for each student
- School Report
 - Filled in via questions on the Common App or other
- School Profile
 - Publicly available document outlining school context

ESSAYS



- Chance to show who they really are
- NOT a UCAS Personal Statement
- Very personal and honest
- Lots of importance placed on them by colleges
- Two (main) types
 - Common App essay
 - Supplemental (college-specific) essays

DEADLINES



- Early Decision
 - 15th October, 1st November, or 15th November
- Early Action
 - 15th October, 1st November, or 15th November
- UC/UT
 - 30th November
- Early Decision 2
 - 1st January
- Regular Decision
 - 1st January

KEY DATES



- Early Decision/Action notification
 - Mid-December
- Regular Decision notification
 - Early April
- Deposit paid
 - 1st May
- Admitted off waitlist
 - May to August

COMMON SCENARIOS



Consider these scenarios and discuss your action:

1. A family insisting that 'Ivy League' means the best and who won't look at anything else
2. A student who has a balance of academic and athletic ability
3. A family whose financial situation means they need to have 30-50% financial aid
4. A B-grade student who only wants to go to the USA and isn't interested in any other country

OUR SERVICES



- SAT-ACT Online Diagnostic test offered as service to schools
- Parallel (separate) SAT-ACT courses
- Essay workshops for Lower Sixth in summer term
- Discounted intensive course rates
- CPD through conferences, training, and masterclasses
- Links to specialists in different areas including sports scholarship advisors and international college counsellor
- Individual test preparation and essay advice services for students

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www.ueseducation.com/schools