

COLLEGE BOARD ASSESSMENTS

An Overview for Community Colleges



A Partnership for Student Readiness and Success

At the College Board, we know that community colleges propel students from all walks of life toward success—both in career and further academic studies. That’s why we’ve developed a variety of assessments to meet your institution’s unique needs.

While open-door admission policies make college access a reality for many students, a key challenge is to ensure that students *complete* their educational goals. Together with dedicated instructors, College Board assessments, including the SAT®, next-generation ACCUPLACER®, CLEP®, and Advanced Placement®, can help your students reach their goals.



The SAT Serving Students’ Educational Aspirations

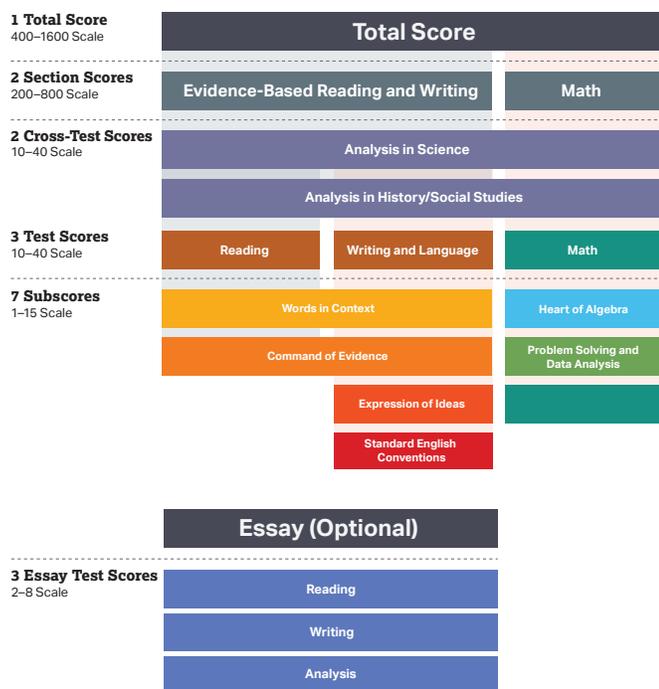
Given that the SAT isn’t a requirement for admission at most two-year institutions, it may be surprising to learn that nearly one-quarter of all community college students took the SAT in high school. And survey data show that most first-time community college students want to transfer and earn a baccalaureate degree. The educational goals of many community college students aren’t different from their peers’ at four-year institutions.

The SAT gives community college professionals powerful information to attain an insight into their students’ college readiness, including:

- Test scores and subscores that help place students in college-level reading, writing, and mathematics courses.
- The SAT Essay that reveals whether students are ready for the writing demanded in most college classrooms.
- Cross-test scores in science and history/social science that shed light on student interests in and preparation for a variety of majors.

With this information you can help students start off on the right foot when they step on campus and guide them along the path to achieving their educational goals.

SAT SCORING GUIDE



Next-Generation ACCUPLACER Starting Students on the Right Path to College Success

Used by more than 2,000 community colleges nationwide, ACCUPLACER is an integrated system of computer-adaptive assessments designed to evaluate students’ skills in reading, writing, and math. For over 30 years, ACCUPLACER has helped educators place students in college courses, supporting a holistic approach that takes multiple factors into consideration, including assessment performance, high school grades, number of years in a specific course, and self-reported academic and nonacademic information.

In 2016, the College Board launched next-generation ACCUPLACER. The new tests focus on what matters most for college readiness and success, with content specifications that are:

- aligned to the SAT Suite of Assessments
- aligned to state college and career readiness standards
- connected to instruction

This approach helps place students in courses where they can confidently meet entry-level college requirements and pursue their educational aspirations.

CLEP—College-Level Examination Program® Getting Credit Where Credit Is Due

CLEP is the most widely accepted credit-by-examination program in the nation, working with over 2,900 colleges and universities and administered at over 1,900 test centers. CLEP offers computer-based exams in 33 college subjects, including many in general education areas that help students make progress toward their goals. CLEP is especially helpful for community college students who have mastered course content through professional experience, by independent study, or in the military.

Research demonstrates that students who earn credit through CLEP perform better in subsequent upper-level courses and complete their degrees at a higher rate than students who do not earn credit by examination through CLEP. These exams have also been used by colleges and universities to reduce time to degree and increase institutional completion rates.

AP—Advanced Placement Program® **Challenging Students** **for College Success**

More and more students are challenging themselves in high school by completing college-level courses. For example, 38% of the U.S. public school graduating class of 2017 took at least one AP® Exam. Research shows that students who complete one or more of the College Board's 38 different AP courses and succeed on end-of course AP Exams come to college better prepared to complete a postsecondary certificate or degree. By taking AP courses, students send a signal to colleges that they are serious about their education, focused on completing their goals, and willing to challenge themselves with rigorous coursework.

ACES—Admitted Class **Evaluation Service™** **Using the Right Assessments** **for Your Students**

ACES™ is a free online service that allows colleges and universities to use a combination of selected College Board tests and additional predictors to establish the validity of those measures for use in course placement. This is especially important for community colleges that want to demonstrate the effectiveness of their placement policies and practices.

College Completion **and Student Success**

Today's students need more than just access to higher education, they need your support to complete their academic goals. Community colleges' extraordinary access agenda means that all students with educational drive and ambition—regardless of their previous academic preparation—can earn a postsecondary credential. College Board assessments give community college leaders the information they need to advance their students' success, through course placement, academic advising, and timely completion.

More Information

For more information on College Board assessments and programs visit:

SAT: sat.org/highered

ACCUPLACER: accuplacer.collegeboard.org

CLEP: clep.collegeboard.org

AP: aphighered.collegeboard.org

ACES: aces.collegeboard.org