



**'IOLANI TEST PREP INFO: SAT® AND ACT® (COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS)**

Starting in their freshman year, 'Iolani students begin preparations for the SAT and ACT college entrance exams with the Preliminary SAT (PSAT/NMSQT). Students will begin their actual SAT and/or ACT testing in their Junior year.

**DO STUDENTS NEED TO TEST?**

Although most university admissions have now adopted test optional policies, most 'Iolani students still attempt at least one official SAT. A much smaller subset decide to retest based on admission ranges posted on university admission sites. Factors that affect one's exam choice include specific university requirements, personal aptitude for a particular test structure, or ease in retesting. Few students elect the ACT due to the limited testing options on Oahu, and because our students find a natural aptitude for the SAT after 3 years of taking the

PSAT. Less than 90 universities have adopted test-free policies; although this group does include the University of California and California State University systems, these schools are rare. Some scholarships still require standardized testing results. Whatever students do, they should research universities and consult their college counselor to make an informed decision. Students ultimately control whether a university sees a given score, so attempting a test or even retesting comes with little risk.

**TEST DATES 2025-2026**

*Spots go quickly, so sign up ASAP.*

**SAT®**

Register at [www.sat.org/register](http://www.sat.org/register) with student-made account

*Red indicates 'Iolani School*

**August 23, 2025**

Register by: 8/8/25  
Late Registration closes: 8/12/25

**Dec 6, 2025**

Register by: 11/21/25  
Late Registration closes: 11/25/25

**September 13, 2025**

Register by: 8/29/25  
Late Registration closes: 9/2/25

**MARCH 14, 2026**

Register by: 2/27/26  
Late Registration closes: 3/3/26

**OCTOBER 4, 2025**

Register by: 9/19/25  
Late Registration closes: 9/23/25

**May 2, 2026**

Register by: 4/17/26  
Late Registration closes: 4/21/26

**NOVEMBER 8, 2025**

Register by: 10/24/25  
Late Registration closes: 10/28/25

**JUNE 6, 2026**

Register by: 5/22/26  
Late Registration closes: 5/26/26

**ACT®**

Register at [www.my.act.org](http://www.my.act.org) with student-made account

*Red indicates 'Iolani School*

**September 6, 2025**

Register by: 8/1/25  
Late Registration closes: 8/19/25

**April 11, 2026**

Register by: 3/6/26  
Late Registration closes: 3/24/26

**October 18, 2025**

Register by: 9/12/25  
Late Registration closes: 9/30/25

**June 13, 2026\***

Register by: 5/8/26  
Late Registration closes: 5/27/26

**December 13, 2025**

Register by: 11/7/25  
Late Registration closes: 11/24/25

**July 11, 2026\***

Register by: 6/5/26  
Late Registration closes: 6/24/26

**FEBRUARY 14, 2026**

Register by: 1/7/26  
Late Registration closes: 1/21/26

*\*These ACT administration dates are not offered by testing centers on Oahu, so plan accordingly if interested in repeat testing for superscoring.*

# 'IOLANI TEST PREP INFO: SAT® AND ACT® (COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS)

	SAT® (Digital)	ACT® (Paper/Pencil)																																							
<b>Test Structure</b>	<p><b>I. Reading &amp; Writing</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Module 1</td> <td style="width: 20%;">32 min.</td> <td style="width: 50%;">27 questions</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Module 2</td> <td>32 min.</td> <td>27 questions</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>II. Math</b> <i>(w/ Desmos Calculator in Testing App)</i></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Module 1</td> <td style="width: 20%;">35 min.</td> <td style="width: 50%;">22 questions</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Module 2</td> <td>35 min.</td> <td>22 questions</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No essay</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>180 min.</b></td> <td><b>154 questions</b></td> </tr> </table>	Module 1	32 min.	27 questions	Module 2	32 min.	27 questions	Module 1	35 min.	22 questions	Module 2	35 min.	22 questions	No essay			<b>Total</b>	<b>180 min.</b>	<b>154 questions</b>	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">I. English</td> <td style="width: 20%;">35 min.</td> <td style="width: 50%;">50 questions</td> </tr> <tr> <td>II. Math <i>(w/ Graphing Calculator)</i></td> <td>50 min.</td> <td>45 questions</td> </tr> <tr> <td>III. Reading</td> <td>40 min.</td> <td>36 questions</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IV. Science (optional)</td> <td>40 min.</td> <td>40 questions</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Essay (optional)</td> <td>40 min.</td> <td>1 prompt</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>125 min.</b></td> <td><b>131 questions</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><b>(205 min. w/ optimal sections)</b></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	I. English	35 min.	50 questions	II. Math <i>(w/ Graphing Calculator)</i>	50 min.	45 questions	III. Reading	40 min.	36 questions	IV. Science (optional)	40 min.	40 questions	Essay (optional)	40 min.	1 prompt	<b>Total</b>	<b>125 min.</b>	<b>131 questions</b>		<b>(205 min. w/ optimal sections)</b>	
Module 1	32 min.	27 questions																																							
Module 2	32 min.	27 questions																																							
Module 1	35 min.	22 questions																																							
Module 2	35 min.	22 questions																																							
No essay																																									
<b>Total</b>	<b>180 min.</b>	<b>154 questions</b>																																							
I. English	35 min.	50 questions																																							
II. Math <i>(w/ Graphing Calculator)</i>	50 min.	45 questions																																							
III. Reading	40 min.	36 questions																																							
IV. Science (optional)	40 min.	40 questions																																							
Essay (optional)	40 min.	1 prompt																																							
<b>Total</b>	<b>125 min.</b>	<b>131 questions</b>																																							
	<b>(205 min. w/ optimal sections)</b>																																								
<b>Scoring</b>	<p><b>Composite Score Range:</b> 400-1600</p> <p><b>Section Scores:</b> 800 Reading + Writing and 800 Math</p> <p>Superscoring is not an option, although some universities may superscore or combine your best section scores from multiple administrations within their admission process.</p>	<p><b>Composite Score Range:</b> 1-36* (English, Math, &amp; Reading)</p> <p><b>Section Scores:</b> 1-36 for each of the four non-essay sections.</p> <p><b>Essay Scores:</b> 2-12, combining 4 different sub scores (Ideas/Analysis, Development/Support, Organization, Language Use/Conventions)</p> <p>*Students must retake an entire exam, but each of the sections utilize superscoring among multiple exams.</p>																																							
<b>Retesting</b>	<p>Students may take the test as many times as they like, although most 'Iolani students will take at least twice to see improvement. Most students do not see substantial improvement beyond three retests.</p> <p>Section retesting is not an option. Students must retake the entire exam.</p>	<p>Students may take the test as many times as they like, although most 'Iolani students will take at least twice to see improvement. Most students do not see substantial improvement beyond three retests.</p> <p>Superscoring is used, so students can mix and match their best section scores from multiple administrations.</p>																																							
<b>Reporting of Scores</b>	<p>Most colleges require applicants to send them official score reports directly from the student's online College Board® account—they do not accept copies of online score reports or score report labels on transcripts. You can request sending score reports to colleges when registering or after test day.</p> <p><b>When registering:</b> You may send up to 4 free score reports to colleges of your choice every time you register for the SAT®. This is the fastest way to send scores to colleges and scholarship programs—and there's no additional fee.</p> <p><b>After the exam:</b> You can still send four free score reports to colleges up to nine days after the test—after that there's a fee for sending score reports, unless you're eligible for an SAT® fee waiver.</p> <p>If you don't want all of your scores sent to your chosen colleges, use Score Choice on your College Board® account after the exam, to select specific tests based off of that college's requirements. Please note, however, that some colleges require all SAT® scores that you have received to be submitted. Some colleges accept superscoring, or combining your best section scores, but this is by university, not the trend.</p>	<p>Most colleges require applicants to send them official score reports directly from the student's ACT® online account—they do not accept copies of online score reports or score report labels on transcripts. You can request sending score reports to colleges when registering or after test day.</p> <p><b>When registering:</b> You may send up to 4 free score reports to colleges of your choice every time you register for the ACT®. This is the fastest way to send scores to colleges and scholarship programs—and there's no additional fee.</p> <p><b>After the exam:</b> In addition to the four institutions you selected upon registering, you can send your scores to others for a nominal fee, even after you test. You determine which set of scores is sent to colleges or scholarship programs. ACT® will release only the scores from the test date (month and year) and test location (e.g., National, State, School) you designate.</p> <p>ACT® uses superscoring, or combining your best section scores, so most students wait to send their results until they are happy with all their section scores (English, Math, Reading, and Science).</p>																																							
<b>Links</b>	<p><b>College Board's® Testing App:</b> Bluebook (contains full practice digital SAT exams)</p> <p><b>College Board's® Online Learning Tool:</b> Khan Academy <a href="http://www.khanacademy.org/sat">www.khanacademy.org/sat</a></p>	<p><b>ACT® Online Prep:</b> <a href="http://onlineprep.act.org">onlineprep.act.org</a></p>																																							
<p>'Iolani students also have access to <b>'Iolani's Test Prep Google site</b> - link provided on all student iPads.</p>																																									

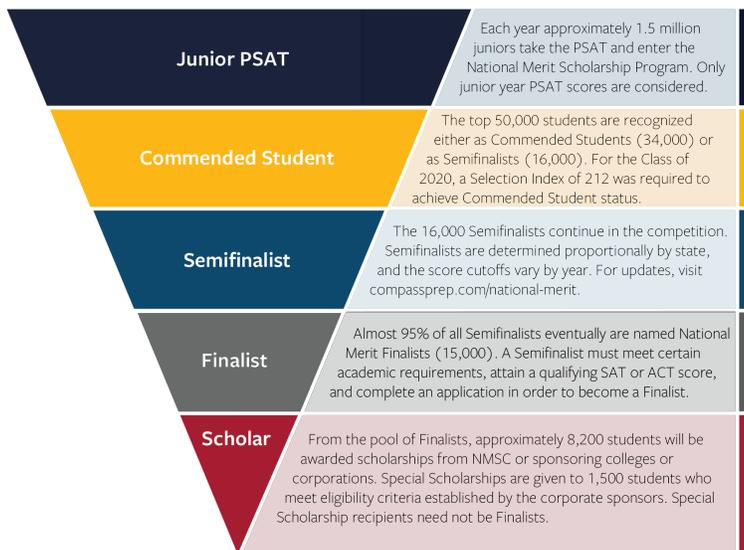
All **'Iolani 9-11 graders** take the Preliminary SAT (PSAT/NMSQT) each fall. This preliminary assessment to the SAT mirrors its structure and scoring. The test takes place during a half day in the fall, and the cost of the exam is covered by tuition. After the test, students are provided with feedback to augment their future scores. Students must bring their Ipad on this day to take the exam. Freshmen and Sophomore test results are for 'Iolani tracking purposes and to provide feedback to students. PSAT/NMSQT results are not reported to colleges. Students may access their student report a few weeks after taking the exam via their College Board account.

## NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

Juniors have the opportunity to win scholarships for their high scores on the last administration of the PSAT/NMSQT®. Although the NMSC is based on PSAT/NMSQT® results, the competition uses an “index score” derived from the below formula rather than student’s scaled scores.

$$\text{Index Score} = 2(\text{Reading \& Writing Raw Score}) + \text{Math Raw Score}$$

Students will find out their commended or semi-finalist results in the Fall semester of their Senior year.



More information can be found at [nationalmerit.org](http://nationalmerit.org).

## PURCHASING AN APPROVED CALCULATOR

The new digital SAT Bluebook App, which will be used for testing, contains its own demo graphing calculator. Students are still allowed to bring in one of their choosing, and are required to have one for the ACT. If purchasing one, 'Iolani recommends the “TI 84 Plus CE” as it meets the requirements of both exams as well as any 'Iolani math course requirement in the future. Both companies offer a list of allowable calculators on their respective sites.

### Questions or Concerns?

Contact 'Iolani's Director of Test Prep Programs, Jeff Andrews at [jandrews@iolani.org](mailto:jandrews@iolani.org)

## RECOMMENDED TIME-LINE FOR (P)SAT® AND ACT® PREPARATION AND ADMINISTRATION

### FRESHMAN YEAR

---

#### FALL SEMESTER:

- Create both a College Board® and ACT® student account. Students should use a non-'Iolani email address when creating an account so they may access after graduation or if they move schools. International students should use their home address when creating an account, not 'Iolani's dorm address.
- PSAT/NMSQT® administration 1

#### SUMMER:

- Read texts that challenge you, particularly within the realm of Natural Science, Social Sciences, and Historical Documents.

#### SPRING SEMESTER:

- Grade Level Meeting to unpack your PSAT/NMSQT® Score Report
- Begin exploring independent online resources (Bluebook, Khan Academy, ACTOnlinePrep, free practice tests)

### SOPHOMORE YEAR

---

#### FALL SEMESTER:

- PSAT/NMSQT® administration 2 - *Fall Semester*
- 'Iolani's Morning (7:10–8:10 a.m.) Test Prep Sessions focusing on the PSAT/SAT®. A flyer with prep session dates will be emailed to students and their families at the beginning of each semester.

#### SPRING SEMESTER:

- 'Iolani's Morning (7:10–8:10 a.m.) Test Prep Sessions focusing on the SAT® and the ACT®. A flyer with prep session dates will be emailed to students and their families at the beginning of each semester.

#### SUMMER:

- All students must begin some focused preparation for these exams. This may include **'Iolani's SAT® and ACT® Summer Courses** (see the Summer School brochure to register), independent practice, or with an independent test prep company, either online or in person.

### JUNIOR YEAR

---

#### FALL SEMESTER:

- 'Iolani's Morning (7:10–8:10 a.m.) Test Prep Sessions focusing on the PSAT/SAT®. A flyer with prep session dates will be emailed to students and their families at the beginning of each semester.
- PSAT/NMSQT® administration 3 that counts for National Merit Scholarship
- Those 'Iolani students who are currently enrolled in Pre-Calculus or higher will begin taking their official SAT® and ACT® exams.

#### SPRING SEMESTER:

- Begin working with your college counselor to explore colleges, which will help you set personal score goals
- 'Iolani's Morning (7:10–8:10 a.m.) Test Prep Sessions focusing on the SAT® and the ACT®. A flyer with prep session dates will be emailed to students and their families at the beginning of each semester.
- If students are considering sending scores to colleges, they should attempt at least one SAT® or ACT® exam by summer to decide whether retesting is needed.

#### SUMMER:

- Continue independent practice.

### SENIOR YEAR

---

#### FALL SEMESTER:

- Complete your final SAT® and/or ACT® administration before applying to the colleges of your choice.
- Ensure your scores are sent to your chosen colleges by using your online accounts.

#### SPRING SEMESTER:

- Share optional AP scores with your intended university for possible course credit.