Starting in their freshman year, 'Iolani students begin preparation for the SAT and ACT college entrance exams with the Preliminary SAT (PSAT). Students will begin their actual SAT and ACT testing in their junior year. Students may choose either assessment, but most 'Iolani students choose to take both exams at least once. Factors that affect one's exam choice include specific university admission requirements, personal aptitude for particular test questions and structure, ease in retesting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Dates</th>
<th>SAT Test Dates 2020-2021</th>
<th>ACT Test Dates 2020-2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>August 29, 2020</strong></td>
<td>Registration: 7/31/20</td>
<td><strong>SEPTEMBER 26, 2020</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Registration: 8/18/20</td>
<td>Late Registration: 9/15/20</td>
<td><strong>OCTOBER 3, 2020</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>December 5, 2020</strong></td>
<td>Registration: 11/5/20</td>
<td><strong>MARCH 13, 2021</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Registration: 11/24/20</td>
<td>Late Registration: 3/2/21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>May 8, 2021</strong></td>
<td>Registration: 4/8/21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>June 12, 2021</strong></td>
<td>Registration: 5/7/21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>July 17, 2021</strong></td>
<td>Registration: 6/18/21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Recommended on-campus administration

**Spots go quickly, so sign up ASAP.**
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.

***Starting September 2020, section retesting will be available at specific testing centers and will take place online. Students must have taken the original paper test. Students do not need to retake the entire test, but rather the section(s) they did poorly on. Superscoring, or combining your top scores for each section, will be accepted.

Composite Score Range: 400-1600

Section Scores: 800 EBRW (Reading + Writing) and 800 Math (No Calc + Calc)

Essay Scores: Three separate scores (Reading, Writing, Analysis) ranging from 2-8.

Superscoring is not an option, although some universities may superscore or combine your best section scores from multiple administrations within their admission process.

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.

When registering: 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. Many colleges view receiving your scores early as a demonstration of your interest.

After the exam: 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.

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.

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.

When registering: 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.

After the exam: 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.

***Starting September 2020, ACT will be using superscoring, or combining your best section scores, so most students wait to send their results until they are happy with all their scores.

Links
College Board’s Online Learning Tool: Khan Academy
https://www.khanacademy.org/sat

ACT’s Online Learning Tool: ACT Academy
https://academy.act.org/

*Iolani students also have access to *Iolani’s Test Prep Google site - link provided in test prep sessions—with more information and specific test prep materials.
RECOMMENDED TIME-LINE FOR (P)SAT AND ACT PREPARATION AND ADMINISTRATION

FRESHMAN YEAR

FALL SEMESTER:
• Create both a College Board and ACT student account
• PSAT administration 1

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

SOPHOMORE YEAR

FALL SEMESTER:
• PSAT 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.

SUMMER:
• All students must begin some focused preparation for these exams. This may include ‘Iolani’s (P)SAT and ACT Summer School course (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 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.

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.
• Some universities' program admissions require a student to show competency on an additional SAT II: Subject Test. This is rare, so students should speak to their College Counselor if they believe this may be the case.
All 'Iolani 9–11 graders take the Preliminary SAT (PSAT) each Fall. This preliminary assessment to the SAT is a bit shorter in both time and questions, does not include an essay, and contains fewer upper level math questions. This 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. Each grade level will unpack their scores and their mistakes in the Spring semester.

**TEST STRUCTURE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Questions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. Reading</td>
<td>60 min.</td>
<td>48 questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Writing</td>
<td>35 min.</td>
<td>44 questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. Math (No Calculator)</td>
<td>25 min.</td>
<td>17 questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV. Math (w/ Graphing Calculator)</td>
<td>45 min.</td>
<td>31 questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>165 min.</td>
<td>139 questions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PSAT SCORE RANGE:** 320–1520

**PSAT RESULTS:** Only Junior PSAT results are looked at by the National Merit Scholarship Competition. Freshmen and Sophomore test results are for 'Iolani tracking purposes and to provide feedback to students. PSAT results are not reported to colleges. Students may access their student report a month 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. Although the NMSC is based on PSAT results, the competition uses an “index score” derived from the below formula rather than student’s scaled scores.

\[
\text{Index Score} = 2(\text{Reading Raw Score}) + 2(\text{Writing Raw Score}) + 2(\text{Math Raw Score})
\]

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

Questions or Concerns?
Contact 'Iolani’s Test Prep Coordinator, Jeff Andrews at jandrews@iolani.org
Members of the class of 2021 were preparing to take spring standardized tests when cities and states issued stay-at-home orders, causing the cancellation of most spring and summer test dates. Delays in registering for remaining test dates made it clear that it might be difficult for the class of 2021 to actually take standardized even once let alone multiple times. Accordingly, over the last few months most schools across the country have adopted “test-optional” policies, either for the class of 2021 only or for a two to three-year long trial period. To determine whether applying test-optional is right for you it’s important to understand how it all works.

Understanding Test-Optional and Test Blind

A college that is test optional means they will consider your application complete without the addition of standardized testing results. Some colleges will require additional materials (a portfolio, graded essay, etc) if a student chooses not to submit test scores, while others will simply waive the requirement. It’s important to understand that if the school does not consider your testing, then they will put greater weight on the other aspects of your application (grades, letters of recommendations, essays). For some students this feels like a positive option, while others will believe that their testing is a positive element to be considered. It is crucial to consider where your testing falls relative to the college’s listed test averages. If you’re within the middle 50% or higher, you may want to include your testing, even if the school is test optional. Ultimately, you should discuss your plan with your college or post-secondary counselor.

Test blind schools say that they will not consider any test results even if submitted, and the reality is that there are very few of these schools. Most colleges went test-optional this year somewhat reluctantly, and it is reasonable to assume that most will welcome the opportunity to consider testing for applicants if it is available.

While colleges have given students the option of applying test optional, they have added some caveats. In order to comply with NCAA regulations, most colleges are requiring that student athletes still submit testing, and some scholarships still require standardized test results.

Next Steps

We all probably remember being told by a parent or teacher that “just because you can do something doesn’t mean you should” and that applies to the idea of applying test optional as well. Consider it more as an option as opposed to a mandate. If your prep work this summer allows you to score well, you may want to include the testing with your college application. If you’re not happy with your scores or not able to retake tests as much as you’d like, you may be able to utilize the test optional pathway. Whatever you do, research your possibilities and consult with your mentors to make an informed decision!