For those who are just learning the ropes of the college admissions process, the SAT and ACT are two different national tests most colleges require high school students to take before applying.

“The reason [colleges] have you take a national test is [that] it’s a way they can compare students across the country on an equal basis,” said Wenatchee High School counselor Mary Howie. Almost all schools across the nation accept scores from either test.

Subjects: The SAT tests students on three sections: math, reading, and writing an essay. The ACT, however, tests students on four sections: math, reading, science, and English. Students are not required to write an essay for the ACT, though they may for an additional fee.

“For those students lacking confidence about writing an essay in 25 to 30 minutes, this may be a plus of the ACT. Both exams ask multiple-choice questions about improving sentences and paragraphs, but the SAT focuses on advanced vocabulary while the ACT focuses on grammar, punctuation, and syntax.”

“When helping a student decide which test to take, Howie said she first looks at their strength in math. ‘If math isn’t a student’s strongpoint, I would recommend doing the ACT because you have four sections your scores are spread out over,’ said Howie.”

(Continued on page 4)

Tips For Choosing The Right College — by Elizabeth L. writer for Teen Ink

“It’s probably one of the most important decisions you’ll make in your life, so you don’t want to make the wrong one. But choosing a college can be so confusing...There are many ways to decide which college is right for you. Here are a few important Do’s and Don’ts to remember.”

“When choosing a college, always take time to think things over. Make sure you do a lot of research on any college you are considering. Take advantage of any open houses a college offers and try to take a campus tour... Make a point to see as much of a college as possible. The best time to visit is when classes are in session.”

…One of the important things to consider is how far from home you want to be...When choosing a college, make sure you choose one that suits your personality. Also, keep in mind that if you don’t feel comfortable with the college you select, you can always transfer.”

“…Don’t rush your decision, even if it seems everyone else knows where they want to go. Don’t be embarrassed to ask questions or request additional information. It is your future and no one else’s.”

Teen Ink (www.teenink.com) – Elizabeth L. Pascoag, RI-12/13
Dec./Jan.- College Planning Tips - from ICAN

Sophomores:
*College can be affordable. Try not to be put off by “sticker shock” and don’t drop colleges from your search because of the price. With financial aid, most college can make sure the “sticker price” is not your out-of-pocket cost.

*Organization is the key to success. Begin to track extracurricular, volunteer and work experience, the courses you’ve taken and contacts that may make good references.

*Talk to your school counselor about college admission requirements so that you’re staying on the right track with your class schedule.

Seniors:
*Attend a financial aid night. Check with your high school counseling office for date, time and location.

*Finish your college admission applications you haven’t completed.

*Save your year-end payroll stubs. (This goes for your parents, too.) You may need them for estimating information on the FAFSA. Also, schedule an appointment to have your taxes prepared early.

*Start the new year off right by filing the FAFSA (www.fafsa.ed.gov) as soon after Jan. 1 as possible. Watch the FAFSA priority filing deadlines at the colleges of your choice.

College:
*Study Abroad. You may have heard about the opportunities that students on your campus have to study abroad. This can be a very rewarding experience for students but there are some things that you need to do in the planning process; first, visit with the study abroad office on your campus to choose the appropriate program for you and your major; second, make sure you know the costs and what is and is not covered by your financial aid; and third, make sure you apply for your passport as early as possible.

*Help your wallet survive the holidays. There are so many temptations to buy things you don’t need—especially with all of the holiday “bargains” that are being advertised. Just because it is on sale does not mean that you need or should buy it. Stick to your budget so that you are not struggling to pay your bills in the new year.

Juniors:
*Begin to research scholarships. Learn about selection criteria and what’s required to apply.

*Register now if you’re planning on taking the January SAT or February ACT.

*Get involved. Colleges seek well-rounded students who not only get good grades, but who are also involved in school activities or community organizations.

*Organize scholarship information according to deadline. Keep your planner or organizer updated with application deadlines so you won’t miss any.

Parents:
*Review the information you and your student gather on colleges and discuss the options. Work toward attainable goals and workable solutions. Before you know it, your child will be heading to college, and you will have played an important role.

*College is a worthwhile investment, but it can be an expensive one. Talk to your student about the costs involved. Keep in mind that being involved now in the financial aid process will help prepare your child to better manage money later in life.

*Help your senior student fill out their FAFSA, but make sure they are playing a role in the process.
When you think of a mathematician, you may imagine a gray-haired man standing in front of a chalkboard covered end to end with formulas. In fact, mathematicians come in all shapes and sizes. And they work with the latest computer technologies in fields as varied as business and physics.

There are two main groups of mathematicians. Theoretical mathematicians come up with new ways of thinking about quantities – you can thank them for adding to the formulas and principles you learn in math class. Applied mathematicians, on the other hand, use math to solve practical problems in fields like computer science. The line that divides these two groups, however, often blurs.

**Did you know?**

Mathematicians use mathematical theory, algorithms, and computers to solve problems in economics, science, engineering, and other fields.

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**Career: Mathematicians**

From bigfuture.collegeboard.org

“I loved math because of the clarity of it. With math, there are no arguments, no discussions; you have a proof or an answer or you don’t.”

Jim

Mathematician, National Security Agency.

**Are you ready to.....?**

* Communicate complicated math ideas to those not well-versed in math
* Work with cutting-edge computer technology to deal with complex mathematical issues
* Work on an interdisciplinary team that may include engineers, computer scientists, economists, and physicists
* Meet deadlines, working overtime when needed
* Travel to conferences and seminars

**It helps to be...**

An abstract thinker who loves seeking answers as much as finding them. If you like logic, playing with numbers, and using computers, then mathematics might be the field for you.

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**Did You Know...?**

Mathematicians work for universities, government agencies, and businesses.

**Outlook**

Government economists expect jobs for mathematicians to grow about as fast than the average for all careers through 2020. But this will remain a very small profession, so expect a lot of competition.

**Compensation**

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that the average yearly salary of:

* **Colleges, universities, and professional schools**: $75,760
* **Management, scientific, and technical consulting services**: $99,350
* **Architectural, engineering, and related services**: $84,190

**Make High School Count**

Preparation is the key to any career. To become a **mathematician** you should:

* Take advanced math and science classes, like AP-Calculus and Physics.
* Get comfortable with computers. You’ll spend a lot of time using them to analyze data.
* Explore subjects, such as economics and business, that rely on math.
* Take part in the **International Math Olympics**.

- bigfuture: by the 2013 The College Board
The 50 Greatest Breakthroughs Since the Wheel

“The Atlantic asked a dozen scientists, historians, and technologists to rank the top innovations since the wheel. Here are the top ten:

10: The steam engine, 1712
9: The Internet, 1960s
8: Vaccination, 1796
7: The internal combustion engine, late 20th century
6: Paper, second century
5: Optical lenses, 13th century

4: Semiconductor electronics, mid-20th century
3: Penicillin, 1928
2: Electricity, late 19th century
1: Printing press, 1430s

The printing press was described as the turning point at which ‘knowledge began freely replicating and quickly assumed a life of its own.’ ”
- From The Atlantic- James Fallows

November, 2013

Breaking it down: SAT vs. ACT — Continued from page 1

“Though the ACT covers trigonometry, algebra, and geometry, the SAT only covers algebra and geometry.”

“So which one should I take? According to Howie, the starting point is looking at what tests the colleges a student is interested in require or accept. Besides just deciding between the two tests, this can indicate if taking the writing option of ACT is needed.”

“If the colleges you plan to apply to accept both tests, consider the differences between them and how they may dictate your results. Taking the SAT and ACT preliminarily tests in sophomore and junior years, the PLAN and the PSAT respectively, can help a student get better acquainted with each test’s format.”

“Still can’t decide? Though she said twice as many students take the SAT versus the ACT at WHS, Howie has seen many students take both and recommends it when one can’t decide. Taking either test in the spring of junior year additionally gives students time to retake the tests to improve their scores.”

-Emily C. – TeenKidsNews.com

December 9, 2013.

About Our Organization…

Who are we?
A life-enhancing college-prep program that provides opportunities for capable and motivated high school students to gain the academic and life skills necessary to enter and succeed in post-secondary education.

* 100% funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education

* Serving high school students from Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and Missouri since 1992.