

ILUMIN EDUCATION

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GREEN AND GROWING

Students are faced with all kinds of new beginnings at this warmer time of year, with many high school seniors prepping for National College Decision Day come the first of May, and underclassmen gearing up for exams, papers, and the long-awaited spring-turned-summer. We're here to help you sprout and grow this upcoming season!

In this issue, check out what our ILUMIN team recommends students consider working on this summer besides summer programs. Is standardized testing making its college admissions comeback? To help with test prep, we share clear tips for how to decide whether the SAT or the ACT is the best choice for your student and their needs. Also, take a look at summer programs that are still accepting applicants.

Let's work together to help your student grow this season!

FROM THE ILUMIN TEAM



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OUR ILLUMIN TEAM ANSWERS:

BESIDES SUMMER PROGRAMS, WHAT SHOULD STUDENTS CONSIDER WORKING ON THIS SUMMER?



“In addition to summer programs, students can also consider **internships, part-time jobs, volunteering opportunities, research projects, or community college courses** during summer. These experiences can help students gain valuable skills, explore potential career interests, build their resume, and network with professionals in their field. Students can also consider **starting a small business or engaging in creative projects** to further develop their skills and interests.

– Kelly Pofahl, *Educational Consultant*



“For 9th and 10th graders, summer should be time to **build their extracurriculars**, such as finding long-term volunteer work, starting signature projects, and developing their hobbies. I even recommend willing students to find **part-time jobs** and get **experience working in real-life settings**, as colleges recognize the tenacity in working. Furthermore, **test prep for SAT/ACT or preview for fall courses** should be something every student should consider.

For 11th graders, I often think this summer would be a good time for them to **reflect upon their resume and see what's missing**. Do you need more hands-on experience? Ways to add more leadership or community initiatives? Once students identify where their gaps are, their last high school summers provide great opportunities to find activities and opportunities to **mend those gaps**. And of course, I ask each of my student to **take a genuine break and enjoy their summer**; they really deserve it.”

– Anna Lee, *Educational Consultant*

SAT *OR* ACT?

WHILE COLLEGES VIEW SAT AND ACT SCORES EQUALLY IN ADMISSIONS, these two major standardized tests are not the same to test-takers. Figuring out which test to take is the first step in the test prep process—but how can you navigate the differences and prioritize your student’s strengths?

Not to worry! Below is **our step-by-step guide** to help determine **which test is best for your student**:

SOME SCHOOLS ARE RETURNING TO TEST-REQUIRED, INCLUDING:

- Brown University
- Dartmouth College
- Georgia Institute of Technology
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Purdue University
- University of Florida
- University of Georgia
- University of Texas at Austin
- Yale University

1 DO FULL PRACTICE TESTS OF BOTH THE (DIGITAL) SAT AND THE ACT.

College Board offers four full SAT practice tests for free through **Bluebook**, its downloadable testing application. Just like the actual SAT, the practice tests are all digital, as well as all adaptive, that is, the difficulty of the questions in the second half will adjust based on a test-taker’s score on the first half.

Similarly, the ACT offers a full-length practice test (along with a study guide) for free via **download** on its website.

While your student takes the tests, they should **try to emulate the real test timing and environment** as much as possible so that they can get an accurate sense of what it would be like to take each test!



2

COMPARE YOUR TEST SCORES WITH A CONVERSION CHART/CALCULATOR.

The range of possible scores for the SAT is from 400 to 1600 (total), while the range for the ACT is from 1 to 36. How can your student compare their test scores between the two with such different ranges?

Luckily, score conversion calculators and conversion tables are available online (such as [these](#) by The Princeton Review)!

Look at the snippets of a conversion table **to the right** to get an idea of how SAT and ACT scores compare:

SAT	ACT	SAT	ACT	SAT	ACT
1600	36	1300	28	970	18
1590	36	1290	27	960	18
1580	36	1280	27	950	17
1570	36	1270	27	940	17
1560	35	1260	27	930	17
1550	35	1250	26	920	17
1540	35	1240	26	910	16

(Note that larger shifts in SAT score make only marginal differences in ACT score when converted!)

3

PRACTICE FOR THE TEST IN WHICH YOUR STUDENT GETS A BETTER SCORE.

Now that your student has gotten an idea of their performance between the two different test options, the crux of test prep is **practice**.



Of course, it may be the case that your student does not have a straightforwardly better test score!

If they continue to get similar scores across both tests when practicing, they should pick the test that **feels most natural to them**.

(For example: Which test's questions are phrased in a way that make more sense to your student? Which test's pacing is more comfortable to your student? Does a certain test cover content in which your student is more confident?)

STILL MAKING SUMMER PLANS?



Many deadlines for summer programs have already passed. However, there are still programs available with upcoming deadlines, as well as those with ongoing rolling admissions!

Explore our list of 2024 summer programs below to help your student discover exciting opportunities:

ART AND WRITING

<u>OTIS College of Art and Design - Summer of Art</u>	<i>April 29</i>
<u>MICA PreCollege Art and Design Residency Program</u>	<i>April 30</i>
<u>Cal Poly - CAED/Architecture Summer Career Workshop</u>	<i>Rolling</i>
<u>Bard College at Simon's Rock Young Writers Workshop</u>	<i>Rolling</i>

BUSINESS AND LEADERSHIP

<u>Tufts University Leadership for Social Change</u>	<i>May 1</i>
<u>Georgetown University Entrepreneurship Academy</u>	<i>May 15</i>
<u>Lehigh University Iacocca Global Entrepreneurship Intensive</u>	<i>Rolling</i>
<u>Wall Street 101 at Bentley University</u>	<i>Rolling</i>

STEM

<u>SUNY Explorations in Forensics</u>	<i>May 1</i>
<u>Tufts Lab Science Investigations: Antimicrobial Resistance</u>	<i>May 1</i>
<u>Johns Hopkins Engineering Innovation Pre-College Programs</u>	<i>May 17</i>
<u>University of Michigan Math and Science Scholars</u>	<i>Rolling</i>
<u>Inspirit AI</u>	<i>Rolling</i>

MULTI-SUBJECT

<u>UCLA Summer College Immersion Program</u>	<i>May 1</i>
<u>Brown Pre-College Programs</u>	<i>May 10</i>
<u>Lumiere Summer Research Scholar Program</u>	<i>May 12</i>
<u>Polygence Project Program</u>	<i>May 15</i>
<u>Cornell SCE Precollege Studies</u>	<i>Rolling</i>