



Digital SAT: What You Need to Know

As technology continues to shape our educational landscape, the College Board has announced a significant update to the SAT. Enter the Digital SAT, a revamped version of the traditional exam that brings the test-taking experience into the digital age, while maintaining the integrity and rigor of the assessment.

Test Format and Scoring

First and foremost, it is imperative to understand that, with the Digital SAT, the test sections and scoring remain unchanged. Students will still encounter the familiar sections—Reading, Writing and Language, and Math—presented in a format similar to the traditional paper-based test. Furthermore, the scoring methodology remains consistent.

Test Navigation and Features

Students can now bring their computers into the test center, creating a more personalized and user-friendly testing experience. It is recommended that you use your own computer since you are most familiar with its functionalities and interface. Make sure to fully charge your computer as you may not have access to an outlet.

If you don't have a device, the College Board recommends you borrow one from your school, friend, or family member. Be sure to check with the College Board for more detailed information. [SAT Device Lending](#).

To streamline the process, students are advised to download the digital application the night before the test, to alleviate stress and avoid last-minute technical issues.

During the test, a proctor will provide an access code, granting students entry into the digital exam environment. Once the test is accessed with the code, all other applications and functionalities on the computer will be disabled to maintain test security and integrity.

Navigating the Digital SAT is intuitive and user-friendly. The test interface displays questions at the top of the screen, with answer choices conveniently listed below each question. A timer is featured at the top of the test, allowing students to monitor their progress and pace themselves accordingly.

One notable feature of the Digital SAT is the ability to flag questions and return to them later within the same section. This allows students

to manage their time effectively and revisit challenging questions without feeling rushed.

Additionally, students taking the Math section will still be provided with a formula sheet, ensuring fairness and consistency in problem-solving. Furthermore, there will be a calculator embedded in the online test, which will be available to students throughout all the sections.

Adaptive Exam Structure

The adaptive nature of the Digital SAT introduces a dynamic testing experience tailored to each student's proficiency level. Upon entering the Math section, you will find that the first module serves to establish a baseline, determining the initial difficulty level of the questions presented.

As students progress through the exam, the test adapts the questions to each student's performance, adjusting the difficulty of subsequent questions accordingly. This adaptive approach not only shortens the overall duration of the test but also ensures a more personalized and efficient assessment of a student's skills and knowledge.

Managing Test Anxiety

With the new changes comes the need to manage test anxiety effectively. The Digital SAT's adaptive format may initially catch some students off guard, especially as they encounter questions of varying difficulty levels. The more familiar you become with the types of questions and timing of the test, the more relaxed you will be on test day. One of the important factors in taking the digital SAT is practice. Try taking a full-length practice test simulating the test day environment. This should be done using a computer adaptive test. That means no cell phones or other distractions. After receiving the results, you will know which areas to focus on. Continue this process until you have achieved your desired results. Learning breathing techniques to focus and calm your nerves will also help on test day. Get to the test site early so you can settle in. Make sure to get enough sleep and eat a healthy dinner and breakfast before the test.

For those who want to opt out of taking the SAT, make sure to check [FairTest.org](#) to find schools that are test optional.



Focus on Majors: Business

Business is among the most popular majors in the U.S., according to the National Center for Educational Statistics, comprising nearly 1 in 5 bachelor's degrees. Business majors explore fundamental business principles and practices that enable companies to run efficiently. Students pursuing a business major often study multidisciplinary concepts so they can develop strong communication, leadership, and analytical skills.

When considering a major in business, research different programs and how they align with your goals. Below is a sampling of options:

Business Intelligence prepares students for analyst positions. The degree combines management, marketing, technology, and data analytics. No computer programming is required; rather, you will develop skills enabling you to manage and interpret large amounts of data and, most importantly, use data to make management decisions. Some skills you will learn are data collection, integration, analysis, critical thinking, and problem-solving.

Business Management & Administration There is a subtle difference between administration and general management. Business administration is concerned with the detailed operations of running a business, while business management is about overall leadership and seeing the bigger economic picture. A business management degree focuses on planning and organizing the activities of a business or organization in order to achieve its goals and objectives. In contrast, a degree in business administration provides a broad background and allows the student to focus on a specialized area of business. Both business management and administration degrees typically include the same core subjects, including marketing, accounting, economics, and finance. These subjects give students a background in how businesses work, from how products are sourced and manufactured to how they are marketed and sold, and finally, how the money is managed and used to grow the business.

A student of business management will generally then go on to take additional courses in related areas that may include communications, logistics, decision-making, information systems, and human resources.

Often, a business administration student will specialize in a specific area such as marketing, accounting, finance, entrepreneurship, healthcare management, international business, or operations management.

Economics/Applied Economics prepares students to pursue careers that use data and economic principles to address real world problems such as food production, trade, environmental, and sustainability issues. Students learn to weigh competing pieces of evidence critically, make sound decisions, and communicate their findings to various audiences. Economics is a significant theoretical model of how societies function. Applied economics is the implementation of that model broadly and in a myriad of specific circumstances.

Accounting majors learn how to create, maintain, and audit a detailed and accurate system that displays the finances of a business or organization. They study the theory behind accounting and learn how to analyze the financial position of a firm or organization.

Accounting majors often work to become certified public accountants (CPAs) and provide expertise in business finance for a wide variety of industries. Many programs allow you to select an area of specialization, which can help you if you know what career you want to pursue after you graduate. Bachelor's degree programs in accounting can help you develop financial problem-solving and decision-making skills. Types of specific accounting degrees include:

- Real Estate Accounting
- Management Accounting
- International Finance
- Auditing
- Mergers and Acquisitions

Career Paths for Business Majors

Business Intelligence

- Computer Systems Analyst
- Data Scientist/Engineer

Accounting

- Budget Analyst
- Financial Examiner
- Accountant/CPA
- Auditor

Business Management & Administration

- Advertising, Marketing Manager
- Financial Manager
- Sales Manager
- Credit Analyst
- Public Administrator
- Systems Analyst
- Health Administrator
- Systems Analyst
- Human Resources Manager

Economics & Applied Economics

- Compensation, Benefits Analyst
- Financial Advisor
- Economist
- Investment Banking Analyst
- Global Markets Analyst
- Business Operations Analyst
- Financial Analyst
- Actuary



Financial Matters: The Hidden Costs of College

College financial aid packages should start arriving this month, but when you begin to compare your out-of-pocket costs, be sure to include expenses that go beyond room, board, and tuition. These costs may vary from one institution to another, but they add up quickly.

Books: According to the College Board (2021-2022 academic year), full-time undergraduates at a four-year university spent an average of \$1,240 on books and supplies. Buying new textbooks from the university bookstore is expensive. Students can look on Amazon, Cheapest Textbooks, or even Barnes and Noble, and they can also buy used textbooks to save money.

Another possibility is the campus library, though this option may not always be available because of the amount of textbooks available. When done with the books, consider reselling them.

Food: Meal plans differ from college to college—buy the plan that best reflects the way you are likely to eat. According to the Education Data Initiative (August 2023), college students spend an average of \$410 a month eating off campus, in addition to the average meal plan of \$331. Food costs also vary depending on the location of the college.

Transportation: Distance from home and availability of lower-cost travel options should be considered. If you will be traveling by air, buy tickets well in advance for peak travel periods such as Thanksgiving. Bringing a car to campus? Better add in the cost of parking, gas, and maybe some parking tickets.

Greek Life: Costs associated with going Greek can be expensive. In addition to chapter dues, initiation fees can range from hundreds to even thousands. Sometimes even higher costs are incurred when living in a sorority or fraternity house rather than in campus housing. Special activities also can be costly.

Club and Organization Fees: These can include fees for intramural sports, political groups, or professional organizations.

Studying Abroad: Expenses are often incurred including air travel, living expenses, and visas. Some colleges will provide stipends to cover additional expenses so that more students can experience a semester abroad.

Decorating and Furnishing Living Spaces: Dorms usually provide basic furniture and lighting. Students will need to provide their bedding, lamps, rugs, and posters. Once they move off campus, they may also need to buy furniture, beds, and kitchen supplies.

Emergency Expenses: Though unpredictable, they are inevitable, whether it is a trip to the emergency room, a car repair or a lost laptop. It is helpful to have some money reserved.



Planning College Visits

College visits can be exhilarating and exhausting. Planning will help to reduce stress and increase enjoyment.

Before visiting, it may be worth previewing a college by watching a virtual tour. When deciding your itinerary, choose a balance of colleges that fit academically and socially. You can always visit more colleges after receiving acceptances. The ideal time to visit campus is when college is in session. This gives you a chance to see the hustle and bustle of campus. When planning visits, make sure to sign up for an official walking tour and an admissions session. Allot at least three hours on campus.

When on the tours, parents should stay closer to the back of the pack and encourage their child to engage with the tour guide. This is an opportunity for you, the student, to ask questions such as: What is the best way to meet people? What kind of clubs are there? As an undergrad, will I have access to professors? The most frequently asked question is usually, “How is the food?”

If possible, schedule a meeting with a professor in the student’s department of interest. Are the facilities up to date? Are there research or internship opportunities for undergraduates?

After the tour, if you have time, go to the dining hall to taste the food and observe the atmosphere. Are kids sitting together or alone? If comfortable, talk to some of them. Ask why they chose this college. What do they like or not like? What is the campus like on the weekends? What is the surrounding area like?

One of the ways to add some fun to touring is by visiting the surrounding area. If you love ice cream, find a local store and indulge. Do this with each college visit and compare the ice cream. If ice cream isn’t your thing, maybe it’s an independent bookstore. Whatever it is, make sure your teen takes notes and pictures. This will help when trying to remember the atmosphere of the school.

Keeping an open mind during this process is important. Some colleges will likely resonate with you, but not your child. Help your child reflect on the visit by asking open-ended questions about what they saw, heard, and thought while on campus. Listen carefully to your child’s reactions before sharing your impressions.

Take notes, as your child may forget to write down information. Most importantly, enjoy this time with your teen before they head into the next chapter of their lives. Try to build some downtime and fun activities that have nothing to do with college and enjoy this exciting journey.

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