

# Approaching SAT/ACT Testing: You Have Four Decisions to Make



## Decision

## Considerations

1

Should I take a  
**practice SAT & ACT?**

- **ALL** students should take a practice SAT and ACT
- Taking a practice SAT and ACT is the only way to make an informed choice about decisions 2-4

2

Should I take the  
**official SAT or ACT?**

- **MOST** students should take the official SAT and ACT
- **Skip** the official SAT/ACT only if **100% certain** you're applying exclusively to test-blind schools and NOT applying for APS, WUE, or other test-based scholarships (unlikely for most students)

3

Should I **prepare for**  
the official SAT or ACT?

- **SOME** students should prepare for the SAT and ACT
- Prepare if your baseline scores are below:  
(i) the **average for admitted students** at your colleges of interest, or (ii) **scholarship cut-offs**

4

Should I **submit my scores**  
to any given college?

- **DEPENDS** for each college you apply to
- In general, submit to any college your scores meet or exceed the average for admitted students
- Judgment call for other colleges depending on your individual application assets/circumstances