The Digital SAT® Suite of Assessments: What Higher Ed Needs to Know

In 2023, the SAT Suite of Assessments began transitioning to an all-digital platform.

The Digital SAT Suite of Assessments

Students live in a digital world and taking the SAT® shouldn’t be the exception. We’re not simply creating a digital version of the paper and pencil test—we’re taking full advantage of what it means to deliver an assessment digitally. The digital SAT Suite of Assessments is easier to take, easier to give, more relevant, and more secure.

What’s Not Changing

- The digital SAT Suite will continue to measure the knowledge and skills that students are learning in high school and that matter most for college and career readiness.

- Digital SAT scores will mean the same thing and stay on the same 1600 scale. You won’t have to adjust the way you interpret scores.

- The digital SAT will still be administered in a school or in a test center with a proctor present—not at home.

Benefits for Students

- The SAT will be shorter—about 2 hours, instead of 3, with more time per question.

- Test content will feature many more texts, topics, and authors that reflect the diversity of our students.

- Going digital allows us to give every student a comparably unique test form, so the digital SAT Suite will be far more secure, which is especially important for global access to the tests.

- If a student doesn’t have a device, we’ll provide one on test day. Students can use their own device, a school-issued device, or request to borrow one from College Board.

Benefits for Higher Ed

- In the U.S., going digital will provide access for more SAT School Day test takers. SAT School Day is an important driver of equity and access.

- Increased flexibility will enable more SAT administrations internationally, including 2 additional international administrations in the first year.

- Your institution will receive scores faster.

Timeline

- The digital SAT was successfully administered to more than 100,000 students testing at international test centers in spring 2023.

- All students will take the digital PSAT™ 8/9 and PSAT/NMSQT® starting in fall 2023, followed by the digital PSAT™ 10 in spring 2024.

- In the U.S., students in the high school class of 2025 will be the first class to take the digital test.
Research and Validity

The SAT Suite of Assessments is rigorously researched, ensuring our ability to provide an opportunity for all students to show their college readiness knowledge and skills, and to provide higher education with a reliable tool for predicting success in the first year of college and beyond.

We have completed two comprehensive concordance studies and vertical scaling studies for the digital SAT, and our research shows:

- A straight-line concordance between our paper-based and digital assessment scores, meaning scores from the digital SAT can be used in the same manner as paper-based scores.
- The digital exam scores are strongly related to paper and pencil scores, and there’s a strong relationship between students’ digital SAT scores and other educational measures (i.e., HSGPA, PSAT/NMSQT, AP® Exam scores).
- An early digital SAT predictive validity study confirms that digital SAT scores are as predictive of college performance as paper and pencil SAT scores, and they continue to meaningfully improve the prediction of college performance above high school GPA alone.

Survey Feedback:

- 97% of students felt the Bluebook™ digital testing app was easy to use.
- 83% of students who had previously taken a paper and pencil SAT indicated that they had a better experience with the digital SAT than the paper and pencil.
- 98% of coordinators and staff felt their test center was able to provide assistance to students who needed it.
- 97% of coordinators and 98% of staff rated their experience with the digital SAT as good or excellent.

Learn more at sat.org/he-resources

International Digital SAT Launch

The first three international digital SAT® administrations took place on March 11, May 6, and June 3, 2023.

OVER 100,000 STUDENTS
AT 1,600 TEST CENTERS
IN 179 COUNTRIES

The Continuing Value of the SAT

The digital SAT meets students where they are by being easier to take, easier to give, more secure, and more relevant. It will continue to give every student who wants it the opportunity to be recognized, show what they can do, and be connected to scholarships to help them pay for college.

When viewed within the context of where a student lives and learns, SAT scores can confirm a student’s grades or demonstrate their strengths beyond what their high school grades may show. When nearly every college went test optional during the pandemic, millions of students still took the SAT. That trend has continued. Most students want to take the SAT, find out their score, and then decide whether they want to submit their scores to colleges.

When surveyed, more than 80% of students and parents said they want the choice to submit test scores to colleges.

The SAT allows every student regardless of where they go to high school to be seen and to access opportunities that will shape their lives and careers.