

Sammamish High School Parent Teacher Association
ACT/SAT Prep Course
Frequently Asked Questions

The ACT and SAT are standardized tests used by many colleges as part of their admissions determination. To help our high school students prepare for these examinations, the SHS PTSA is delighted to sponsor an ACT/SAT Prep Course. The course is offered twice each school year, once in the Fall (generally in October) and once in the Spring (generally in March).

The course consists of 3 sections; Math, Verbal, and Science. Each section consists of 4 classes taught one week apart. The Math section is taught from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays. The Verbal section is taught from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays. The Science section is taught from 7:45 to 9 p.m. also on Thursdays. Students can register for 1, 2 or all 3 sections.

Q Is this the course that was taught in previous years as SAT Prep?

A Yes. This year the Math and Verbal sections have been adjusted to cover strategies that apply to both the SAT and ACT examinations. The third section, Science, is new for the 2018-19 school year and is specific to the ACT test.

Q What is the benefit of taking the course?

A The primary benefit of taking the course is to gain a structure for ACT and/or SAT examination preparation. While there is some limited topic specific instruction, the primary focus of the course is on study skills, examination strategy, and test taking techniques.

Q What will the course cover?

A The course will cover:

- Exercises and drills;
- Question-reading strategies: How to efficiently determine what is being asked and how to find it in the text;
- Practice-test evaluation: What answers did you not get correct, and why?
- Where to best spend your study, and test-taking time;
- In the case of the math section, exam related general math instruction,
- In the case of the science section, instruction in essential science practices (ex: interpreting data or making a claim from evidence), and
- In the case of the verbal section, essay prompt practice, including sample essay evaluation and scoring rubric analysis, and some score-increasing tips.

Q Who should take the course?

A The course is open to all high school students. However, the course is most beneficial for Juniors preparing to sit for their first ACT or SAT examination and for Seniors taking one more examination before the completion of their college applications.

Q Can Freshmen and Sophomores benefit from taking the course?

A Since the course is primarily an examination skills course, the most benefit comes from taking the course zero to 6 months before you sit for the examination. However, Freshmen and Sophomores have reported benefits from taking the course prior to sitting for the PSAT (pre-SAT), or the PLAN (pre-ACT) examinations.

Q I only plan to take the SAT examination. Should I take the Science section?

A The Science section is only applicable to the ACT examination so if you plan to only take the SAT examination, the Science section is not necessary.

Q When is the course offered?

A The course is offered twice each school year, once in the Fall (generally in October) and once in the Spring (generally in March). Students should plan ahead and consider conflicts with extracurricular activities when deciding when to take the course. Check the SHS PTSA website, www.sammamishtotems.org, for this school year's dates.

Q What is the cost to attend the course?

A The cost to attend is \$50 for one section; \$90 for any two sections; or \$120 for all three sections.

Q Are there scholarships available to help offset the cost of the course?

A Yes! The SHS PTSA is offering partial scholarships to Sammamish students with financial need. The scholarship rate is a flat fee of \$30 regardless of the number of sections selected. Your counselor's signature on a paper registration form is necessary to qualify for the scholarship rate. Paper registration forms can be found in the SHS office or downloaded from www.sammamishtotems.org and printed.

Q How do I register for the course?

A You can register with a credit card by using PayPal. Find the PayPal link under "ACT/SAT Prep Course" on the SHS PTSA website, www.sammamishtotems.org. If you register using PayPal, you do not need to complete a separate registration form unless you are applying for the scholarship rate.

Q Can I register with cash or a check?

A You can register with cash or a check by completing a registration form found in the SHS office or at www.sammamishtotems.org, and returning the completed form along with the cash or check to Andi Tomlinson in the SHS office.

Q Do I need to purchase separate study material for the course?

A All study materials are provided in class by the instructor. There is no requirement to purchase additional materials.

Q Who instructs the sections?

A The sections are instructed by teachers at Sammamish High School. Math is instructed by Lorinda Flikkema, Verbal by Anne Fillmore, and Science by Jessica Youmans.

Q How large are the classes and where are they held?

A The classes are held in the applicable teacher's regular classroom at Sammamish High School, so the total number of students is limited to the number that can be seated in the classroom, generally around 40. Classes could be smaller depending on enrollment.

Q I'm involved in an extracurricular activity and I will be late to or miss at least one class. Is it still worthwhile to take the course?

A Helpful material is provided in each class so any time that you can attend is worthwhile. Also, the instructors are happy to provide you with any material you have missed - just ask! The course fee will not be prorated for a missed class.

Q When does enrollment open and close?

A Enrollment for both the fall and spring courses opens shortly after the beginning of the school year. Enrollment is open until the earlier of the first day of the applicable section or until the applicable section is filled.

Q Is the course open to students that do not attend Sammamish High School?

A Yes, but Sammamish High School students receive priority.

Q How will I know if I'm enrolled in the course?

A Students are enrolled in the order that their payment is received. Enrollment confirmations will be sent to the email address you provide with your registration approximately 1 week prior to the start of the course.

Q Who do I contact if I have questions?

A For questions related to course content, please contact an instructor. For registration or administrative questions please email sat.prep@sammamishtotems.org.

Q How do I register for the actual ACT or SAT examination?

A Register for the ACT examination online at www.act.org. Register for the SAT examination online at www.collegeboard.com.