

WHAT SHOULD A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT DO TO PREPARE FOR COLLEGE?

BE INFORMED. Students should know what colleges expect of them in terms of achievement. Grades, extra-curricular activities, class rank, and admission tests such as ACT and SAT I are all factors considered by colleges. Students should find out what qualifications are needed for admissions and scholarships.

BE FOCUSED. High school students should set their goals now for their educational future and seek information on how to reach their goals. Students begin with the established goals in mind and take steps to accomplish them.

BE PREPARED. High school students should study hard, make good grades, and become involved in school activities. Students should pay attention to all deadlines and dates for standardized tests, scholarships, and applications for admission. Students should register and prepare for college admission tests, such as SAT I or ACT. Juniors and seniors should research, choose, visit, and apply to the colleges of their choice.

WHERE CAN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION BE OBTAINED?

1. Check with your Guidance Department.
2. Visit the following websites:

HSAP and EOCEP <http://ed.sc.gov>

Preparing for College:

<http://studentaid.ed.gov/>

www.college.gov

www.che400.state.sc.us/

www.state.sc.us/edu/univcoll.html

www.scicu.org/

www.sctuitiongrants.com/

www.sctechsystem.com/

A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT'S GUIDE

TO

**TerraNova, InView, MAP,
EOCEP, HSAP, PSAT, SAT,
PLAN, and ACT**



**Dr. Jennifer Coleman, Executive Director
Sonya Henley, Coordinator of Testing
Office of Accountability, Assessment,
Research and Evaluation**

1616 Richland Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201
<http://www.richlandone.org>

What is TerraNova?

The TerraNova is a set of achievement tests that assesses student achievement in science and social studies. The TerraNova tests are norm-referenced tests. This means that students' scores are reported in comparison to a norm group, which is a sample of students chosen from around the country. The test results are reported in terms of a student's national percentile rank (NPR), a number that ranges from 1 to 99 and is used to indicate a student's standing relative to other students in the same grade who took the tests within the same window of time.

The TerraNova is administered each fall to all nominated students in grades 9 and 10 as an achievement test to meet part of the state requirements for screening students who qualify for Academically Advanced Programs.

What is InView?

The InView is a cognitive abilities test that measure student skills and abilities that are important for academic success. The test measures three critical cognitive factors: verbal, nonverbal, and memory. The InView is given to all nominated students in grades 9 and 10 as an aptitude test to meet part of the state requirements for screening students who qualify for the Academically Advanced Programs.

What is MAP?

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) is a state-aligned computerized adaptive assessment system, which adjusts the difficulty of the assessment based on the student's performance. MAP tests have the ability to identify skills and concepts that individual students have learned, monitor academic growth over time independent of grade level, and provide teachers with information they can use to enhance teaching and learning. MAP is administered in the fall and spring to all students in grades 2 through 9 in the content areas of reading and mathematics. A Language Usage test is optional. A winter administration is also optional.

What is EOCEP?

The End-of-Course Examination Program (EOCEP) is a set of examinations administered to students in grades 7 through 12 who are also enrolled in gateway or benchmark courses. The courses are Algebra 1/Algebra 1 Part B, English 1, Physical Science, Biology, and U.S. History and Constitution. All secondary school students enrolled in any of the courses must participate in the examination program. Each examination will be administered to the students at the end of the semester in which they are scheduled to complete the course. The results from all examinations, except Biology 1, will count as 20% of the students' final grades in the courses.

What is HSAP?

The High School Assessment Program (HSAP) is a criterion-referenced test administered in mathematics and English language arts. The HSAP assesses selected South Carolina academic standards in English language arts and mathematics that students have had opportunity to learn by the end of the tenth grade. The test is administered to all public school students in the second spring after their initial enrollment in the ninth grade. The math and the English language arts tests each have four achievement levels: 1, 2, 3, and 4. A student must score level 2 or higher on each test to pass. Meeting the state standard is a requirement for receiving a South Carolina high school diploma. HSAP must be offered to non-passing students during each fall and spring administration. Graduating seniors have the opportunity to test in the summer after their senior year. For students with severe disabilities, the South Carolina Alternate Assessment (SC-Alt) is administered instead.

What is the PSAT/NMSQT?

The Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT)/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMSQT) is a two-hour and ten minute multiple-choice test that measures critical reading and mathematical reasoning abilities important for academic performance in college. For eleventh grade students, the PSAT is also the qualifying test for entry into competitions for National Merit Scholarships. It consists of two 25-minute Critical Reading sections, two 25-minute Math sections, and a 30-minute Writing section. PSAT scores can be used to estimate performance on the Scholastic Aptitude Test, SAT.

What is SAT?

The Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT I) is a three-hour and forty-five minute, multiple-choice aptitude test. It consists of three Critical Reading sections (two 25-minute sections and one 20-minute section), three Math sections (two 25-minute sections and one 20-minute section), and two Writing sections (one 35-minute multiple-choice section and one 25-minute essay). The critical reading portion assesses vocabulary acquisition, critical reading strategies, and reading comprehension. The math portion assesses problem solving including arithmetic reasoning, algebra, and geometry. The writing portion assesses effective writing abilities, including understanding of the English sentence structure and defining, as well as supporting, a viewpoint. Scores for each section are reported on a scale ranging from 200 to 800 with a composite score range of 600 to 2400.

Similar to the PSAT, educated guessing, whereby students can rule out one or more answers for multiple-choice questions, is encouraged. However, students are penalized for incorrect answers, therefore wild guessing is discouraged.

What is the PLAN?

As a "pre-ACT" test, PLAN is a curriculum-based achievement test that covers skills and knowledge commonly taught in high schools that are also judged important for success in both high school and college. The test consists of English (30 minutes), mathematics (40 minutes), reading (20 minutes), and science reasoning (25 minutes). The content of PLAN tests is closely tied to the achievement tests in the ACT Assessment. Your performance on the PLAN test can be used to predict your success on the ACT Assessment.

What is the ACT?

The American College Testing Assessment (ACT) is a comprehensive, guidance-oriented service that assists colleges, high schools, and students in the transition from high school to college. You participate in the program by completing an educational/biographical questionnaire, an interest inventory, and four tests of educational development in English, mathematics, social studies, and natural sciences. After analyzing the information submitted, ACT prepares reports for use by you, your high school, and colleges in career and college planning, admissions, placement, and academic advisement.