

PREPARING FOR LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL: WHAT EXAMS DO YOU NEED?

Whether you are planning to attend a four-year college, a two-year community college, a trade school program, join the military, or start working right after high school, you will need to take at least one exam before you graduate from high school... and possibly many more. What are these exams? When should you take them? How do you sign up? And how can you prepare? Here's a handy guide to the exams students must take to graduate from high school and prepare for life after high school.

TEST NAME	WHAT IS IT?	WHO SHOULD TAKE IT?	WHEN TO TAKE IT?	HOW DO I REGISTER?	HOW CAN I PREPARE?
TO GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL					
High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) Web info	State-required exams in reading, writing, math and science	All students must pass the HSPE (or have already passed the WASL) to graduate from high school	Spring of sophomore year (test dates are set by State of Washington; all are on school days)	RHS will organize the test schedule – all sophomores will take the HSPE; juniors and seniors can re-take if they have not passed	Do well in your classes at school
TO ATTEND A FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE					
Preliminary SAT (PSAT) Web info	Test to help students prepare for the SAT and to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship program	Students who want to attend a four-year college	Fall of junior year (<i>3rd Saturday of October or the Wednesday before – RHS usually schedules on the Wednesday date</i>)	RHS will organize registration – students will pay the school bookkeeper to sign up	Many students take the PSAT in the fall of sophomore year to prepare. There are many workbooks and test prep classes too
SAT Web info	College entrance exam in critical reading, math and writing. Max score of 800 points on each section	Most four-year colleges require either the SAT or the ACT. Check with your college choices to find out	Either spring of junior year or fall of senior year; tests are scheduled on Saturdays	Register online at www.collegeboard.com	There are many workbooks and test prep classes. The RHS PTSA is organizing “mock” SATs
ACT Web info	College entrance exam in English, math, reading, and science (optional writing exam). Max score is 36	Most four-year colleges require either the SAT or the ACT. Check with your college choices to find out	Either spring of junior year or fall of senior year; tests are scheduled on Saturdays	Register online at www.actstudent.org	There are many workbooks and test prep classes. The RHS PTSA is organizing “practice” ACTs

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TO ATTEND A FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE					
SAT Subject Tests Web info	Tests to allow students to show colleges their knowledge of specific subjects; students can choose from 20 different subjects	Students who want to attend a four-year college	Either spring of junior year or fall of senior year; tests are scheduled on Saturdays	Register online at www.collegeboard.com	Do well in your classes at school. In addition, there are many workbooks and test prep classes
Advanced Placement (AP) Web info	Tests to allow students to earn college credit for their work in AP classes	Students who are enrolled in an AP class at school	In May of the year of your AP class; tests are scheduled in May during the school day	Your AP teacher will tell you how to register; registration happens in March and April	Do well in your classes. There are many AP workbooks
Academic Placement Testing Program (AFTP) Web info	Math test to place students in appropriate college math class	Students enrolling in a Washington State college or university	Spring of senior year or start of freshman year	Enroll starting in February: Online registration	Review math content from Algebra to Pre Calculus
TO ATTEND A COMMUNITY OR TECHNICAL COLLEGE					
ASSET Placement Exam Web info	Tests in writing, reading, and math	Students enrolling in community college	During junior or senior year	Usually administered by the college	Do well in your classes
COMPASS Exam Web info	Tests in writing, reading, and math	Students enrolling in community college	During senior year or freshman orientation	Usually administered by the college	Do well in your classes
ACCUPLACER Exam Web info	Computerized tests in English, math, and ESL	Students enrolling in community college	During senior year or freshman orientation	Usually administered by the college	Do well in your classes
TO JOIN THE MILITARY					
Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) Web info	Department of Defense test to assess new recruits' abilities	Students who plan to enlist in the military	Prior to enlistment	Administered by recruiting officers (RHS occasionally offers an ASVAB on campus)	Do well in your classes