

## Overview of High School Testing at LCA

*Parents may choose one or more tests for 8-12<sup>th</sup> grade students. This fulfills the annual achievement testing requirement. Listed below are common options for high school students. 12<sup>th</sup> graders may be exempt if they have met graduation requirements.*

**PSAT:** Most useful to 10-11<sup>th</sup> graders. Prep test for SAT. 1/2 day test. Qualifying exam for National Merit Scholarship in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade. Scores around 200-210 usually qualify. More steps in the process after that. Cost generally \$15. Given in mid October at LCA. [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) for more info. Click on college planning, then PSAT. Register at LCA by Aug.10.

**IOWA BASIC:** early spring achievement tests for K-12. Will not qualify for entrance into college. May qualify for LCA graduation requirements. Register at LCA by Aug. 10.

**AP exams:** Available in various subjects. Takes about 4 hours for each test in early May. Taken the same year as course of the same subject. Cost is currently \$89/test. Additional proctor fees may apply. Many colleges accept AP scores for college credit. Amount of credit and scores required vary by institution. See specific college for details. [www.collegeboard.com/testing/ap](http://www.collegeboard.com/testing/ap) for course syllabus, test dates. Does not currently fulfill annual LCA testing requirement. Most useful for 10-12<sup>th</sup> graders.

**ASVAB test:** Exam for military entrance. Also has helpful career interest inventory. Most useful for 10-12<sup>th</sup> grade. Free. Given in Sept. Does not currently qualify for college entrance or graduation requirements. Does not currently fulfill annual LCA testing requirement.

*\*\*To register for any of these tests given at LCA, complete registration form in **August**. For questions about high school testing, email [robyn.schrock@nlbc-harvest.org](mailto:robyn.schrock@nlbc-harvest.org). Registration for students in other cover schools is welcomed as space permits and happens in early Sept. Additional proctor fees apply.*

**ACT:** College entrance exam accepted (and required) at majority of post high school institutions. Given 6 times per year at several area locations. Not given at LCA. Online registration and payment deadline is a month in advance of the test. Cost is currently \$36.50, or \$52.50 for ACT plus writing. [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) for more info. Check individual colleges for scores for college admission. Scores beginning about 22 are in scholarship range. Scholarship early application is Dec. 1 each year at majority of colleges. Use LCA school code **011-649** when registering, LCA will get scores for transcripts. Special note for students on accelerated math; target taking the ACT soon after they complete trigonometry.

**SAT:** College entrance exam widely accepted by colleges. Not given at LCA, but given several times a year at area schools. Online registration and payment deadline about a month ahead of the test. Cost is currently \$50. [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) for more info. Use LCA school **code 011-649** when registering, LCA will get scores for transcripts.

Many advise that students should take both ACT and SAT and see which test fits them better. Students tend to score better on one or the other. Students should plan on taking these tests more than once (with additional study time). Many students begin by taking both tests in summer before or fall of junior year as a baseline so that they have time to see what topics that they might benefit from some additional study.

**What is the difference between the ACT and SAT? ( from ACT.org).** The ACT is an achievement test, measuring what a student has learned in school. The SAT is more of an aptitude test, testing reasoning and verbal abilities. The ACT has up to 5 components: English, Mathematics, Reading, Science, and an optional Writing Test. The SAT has only 3 components: Critical Reasoning, Mathematics, and a required Writing Test. ACT offers its test, plus an **optional** writing test. You take the ACT Writing Test only if required by the college(s) you're applying to. The SAT has a correction for guessing. That is, they take off for wrong answers. The ACT is scored based on the number of correct answers with no penalty for guessing. The ACT has an Interest Inventory that allows students to evaluate their interests in various career options.

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