

“We have found a high correlation between a student’s performance on the Subject Tests and first year grades and success ... in those areas. With so many differences in curriculum, courses [and] grading scales ... the Subject Tests give us additional academic information to consider....”

— Greg Roberts, Dean of Admission, University of Virginia

How colleges use SAT Subject Tests

- ▶ The tests fulfill admission recommendations or requirements and are especially helpful if students are interested in specific programs or majors.
- ▶ They give context to other admission factors, such as grades and course choices.
- ▶ They provide greater insight into the academic achievement of students whose best language is not English, or who are home-schooled or taking courses online.
- ▶ They allow students to satisfy basic requirements for certain majors or programs of study.
- ▶ More than 140 colleges and universities nationwide utilize the tests to place students into specific courses. Some may also offer course credit based on Subject Test performance.

SAT Subject Tests are aligned with Common Core State Standards in math and English. Based on a College Board alignment study,

- ▶ About 90% of the skills and content tested on the SAT Subject Tests in Math are covered on the Common Core State Standards in math; and
- ▶ Nearly 100% of the skills and content tested on the SAT Subject Test in Literature are covered on the Common Core State Standards in English language arts.

SAT Subject Tests and other national, standardized college admission tests

Colleges that require or recommend SAT Subject Tests often do so in conjunction with other standardized college admission tests, like the SAT.

- ▶ Nearly 80 percent of institutions that require or recommend SAT Subject Tests do not allow other national standardized admission tests as a substitute. By taking SAT Subject Tests, students can broaden the set of colleges and universities that they can apply to.
- ▶ SAT Subject Tests assess students’ grasp of fundamental concepts in specific subjects and their ability to apply that knowledge. For example, to properly prepare for a science Subject Test (i.e., Biology, Chemistry, Physics), students should take a high school-level course in the corresponding subject. In contrast, other national standardized admission tests in science assess reading comprehension of science topics rather than more in-depth content knowledge.

Important to colleges, SAT Subject Tests can indicate interest in specific majors

In a recent College Board study (in press), students who took any SAT Subject Test in mathematics or science were nearly five times more likely to declare a major in a STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) subject area than students who did not take math or science Subject Tests.