

# ROADS to SUCCESS

Grade 11

Taking Tests

Family Newsletter

**Roads to Success** is a new program designed to help middle and high school students prepare for their futures. This newsletter will keep you posted on what we're doing in school, and how families can follow through at home.

For more information about Roads to Success, please visit our website: [www.roadstosuccess.org](http://www.roadstosuccess.org).

## Grade by Grade

Roads to Success introduces all 11th-graders to the ACT, SAT, and a few tests they might encounter after high school. We walk students through the registration process for the ACT or SAT, depending on which test is most often taken by students in your area. Students who register online will need a parent's credit card information. Students who mail in their registrations will need to include a check or money order (or fee waiver).

## Test Prep

Is your student thinking about applying to college? The application process varies from school to school. Some community colleges require only a high school diploma or GED. More competitive colleges require more.

Many colleges will want to know your son or daughter's GPA (grade point average) or class rank (how her grades compare to her classmates). Many colleges also require a score from a standardized test that helps them compare students from different schools.

Your student can take one of two tests used to compare students applying to college – the ACT or the SAT. Most schools accept either test. Visit test websites for more info.

- ACT: [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)
- SAT: [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

### When and where are these tests given?

Students can take the ACT or SAT in 11th or 12th grade, starting in the fall of junior year. Experts recommend taking either test during the 11th grade, when subjects like algebra and geometry will be fresh in students' minds. This option also gives students a chance to re-take the test in 12th grade, if needed.

Test dates and locations are available from your school counselor, or on the ACT and SAT websites listed below.



### How does my student sign up?

Both the ACT and SAT offer two ways to register. Online registration requires a credit card and an e-mail address. It's easier for students to update and confirm information if they register online.

Students may also register by mail, where they can pay by check or money order. The school counselor can provide mail-in registration forms.

**How much does the test cost?** As of 2012-2013, the ACT costs \$35, plus an extra \$15.50 for students taking the writing test. The SAT costs \$50. (SAT Subject Tests cost extra.) Check the websites for yearly updates. Students who cannot afford to pay may be excused from these fees. They should see their school counselor for details.

### How do scores get reported to colleges?

While registering, students can choose up to four colleges to receive their test scores. Later on, they may request more score reports. Extra reports cost \$11.00 per college for the ACT, and \$11.00 per college for the SAT (as of 2012-2013).

### How can my student prepare for these tests?

The ACT and the SAT aren't the kind of tests students can cram for, but it helps to understand the rules and know what kinds of questions will be asked. Practice tests are available on the websites below. It's well worth your student's time to try at least one practice test – start to finish – before the actual test day.

### Where can I go for more information?

RUReadyND.com offers an online test prep service for all North Dakota students.

[RUReadyND.com](http://RUReadyND.com)