

### New SAT university reporting options: what does this mean for you?

College Board has recently announced a significant change in its SAT Reasoning Test and SAT Subject Test score reporting policy. Students will now have the option to choose which test scores to send to universities, at no additional cost. Thus, students will be able to choose to send one set of scores from a single test date, or all of their SAT scores if they choose not to use the new score reporting option. However, students can only send complete SAT Reasoning Test scores from a single test date, and not the individual reading, writing, or math section scores from different test dates. This change will occur in early 2009, and will first be available on the March 14, 2009 SAT for students in the USA, and on the May 2, 2009 SAT for students outside the USA. Once the new score-reporting policy is in place, students can elect to send individual SAT test date scores from tests that were taken before the change.

College Board states that this change will be implemented to “reduce student stress and improve the test-day experience.” College Board also states “This new policy will give students the freedom to send the scores by the sitting (test date) that they feel best represents their ability...” However, there may be other reasons for College Board’s change in policy. The main competitor to the SAT, the ACT, has had a score-reporting policy that allows students to choose which score to send in place for many years. Thus, the College Board’s change may have been implemented in order to keep up with the ACT’s policy. Another reason may also be to allow for students to feel they have the option to take the SAT more often, and thus pay more test fees to College Board.

Whatever the reasons for the change in the SAT score-reporting policy, students, parents, and educators need to be prepared for the potential impact on university admissions policies. Universities have always preferred applicants who have been able to score high on the SAT without having to take too many tests. Thus, in the past it was unwise for most students to take the SAT more than a few times. With the new scoring reporting policy, students should be able to take the SAT as many times as they want, and only send universities their best score. This may seem to be an advantage for students, but some admissions offices may decide to request all SAT scores. Universities may also prefer students who choose to send all scores, instead of just sending in their best score. To best prepare for any changes in university admission policy, students should check for any changes on the admissions information page of their desired university’s website.

For more information regarding the College Board’s change in policy:  
<http://professionals.collegeboard.com/testing/sat-reasoning/scores/policy>