



GET INTO COLLEGE

Useful Advice From



IECA⁺ Counselor's Corner



This is a topic that routinely comes up every year, primarily with my students who are juniors in high school. Parents will remember these as what they called Achievement Tests!

Find out if any of the schools on your college list are schools that require the SAT II Subject Tests. Only a handful of colleges require these, (less than 100 out of the approximately 2,500 college/universities) and they are usually identified as those in the highly selective category. You can check on the college's website under "Admissions" and/or "Prospective Students" for test requirements.

Some schools that require the Subject Tests now accept the ACT with Writing in lieu of Subject Tests. That information is found on the website as well. Score Choice (offered by the College Board) allows students to choose which Subject Test scores to send, unless the college's own policy overrides this new policy, which colleges have the right to do. As a student, to pick and choose which scores to send, you need to have taken more than two Subject Tests!

The most frequent question I encounter is "Which Subject Tests should I take?" Take the tests in courses that are your strongest subjects, unless the school specifies choosing English or a History and a Math or a Science. If you are applying to an engineering school, they may require a Math Subject test as one of the two. However, most schools accept the two tests in subjects where you feel you know the most. These should be taken in June right after you finish the course, so the material is still fresh in your mind. You can take more than two if you like, and some students do demonstrate they are strong in a wide variety of subjects. Consider taking a test in a subject in which you've completed the highest level course by the end of your junior year, i.e. an AP level course, if possible.

There are books available that you can purchase at many bookstores or online in order to review the material. While some students do hire a tutor for a few review sessions, the best way to prepare is to do well during the course of the school year, as these tests are designed to test classroom learned material!

Finally, wait to see what your results are before releasing them to any schools!

Judy Zodda

Educational Consultant

"Guiding Your College Search"

www.zoddacollegeservices.com

judy@zoddacollegeservices.com