



A loving heart is the truest wisdom. – Charles Dickens

How Many Times Should You Take the SAT?

Study shows students' scores improved by 90 points on average when they retook the SAT; low-scorers tended to see even larger improvements.

A working paper from the National Bureau of Economic Research highlights the importance of retaking the SAT, particularly for those who score low initially, and those belonging to low-income and/or racial minority groups.

While taking the SAT generally costs \$50 - \$60, the benefits of retaking often significantly outweigh the cost of the exam. In summary:

- The study indicates that *retaking the exam led to higher maximum scores for the overwhelming majority of the millions of students studied.*
- Further, *students who retook the SAT were more likely to enroll in a four-year college (as opposed to junior college or no college at all), most likely because most four-year colleges only consider an applicant's highest SAT score.*

STUDENT LIFE NEWSLETTER

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- Since four-year colleges generally have higher graduations rates, *retaking the SAT may not only increase your chances enrolling in college, but increase your chances of earning a degree, period.*
- The investment in taking the SAT multiple times can pay off significantly as *many colleges base their scholarship offerings on SAT score benchmarks.*

The results of this study underscore the importance of starting your college search *early*. Below are some proactive, commonsense steps you can take in order to prepare efficiently and effectively, and avoid last-minute, stress-laden scrambling.

- Schedule your PSAT during your sophomore year or earlier.
- Enroll in an SAT prep course. There are multiple places where you can access free SAT prep courses both online and in person (sayyessyracuse.org at Syracuse University), but even prep courses that necessitate payment (such as the Princeton Review) are a worthwhile investment when you consider the potential college scholarship offerings (thousands of dollars) your increased score can earn you.
- Schedule your first SAT attempt during your junior year.
- After each attempt, reflect upon the sections of the test that were most challenging to you. Use these notes, along with evidence from your scores, to study in a targeted, efficient fashion.
- Approach your teachers and guidance counselors for help. For example, if your math score needs significant improvement, bring it to your math teacher (along with some notes specific sections that you found difficult) and ask if they would be willing to provide you with some extra support.

You can find the most recent version of the paper at

http://conference.iza.org/conference_files/Education_2018/goodman_j21568.pdf

Credit to Usable Knowledge at the Harvard Graduate School of Education for much of the content of this piece: https://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/uk/18/10/double-take?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=&utm_term=&utm_content=

Free College Planning Webinar!

We are proud to offer announce that we will be offering even more help to those families who are thinking about planning for college.

Ian Maxwell, an industry leading college planner at Reviresco College Planning (www.revirescocollegeplanning.com) and personal friend, has offered a free viewing of his "Cracking The College Code" webinar to help educate you on what is actually involved in a comprehensive college planning process.

In this webinar, Ian will share the secrets of sending your child to schools you never thought you could afford... no matter how much money you make, how much you have saved, or how good your student is. He will reveal practical ways to beat the high cost of college and dispel common myths about the financial aid process and the actual cost of public vs. private schools.

The class is strictly informational and nothing is for sale. The link is below:

<https://revirescowealth.webinarninja.com/webinars/67897/register>

Additionally, Ian will be offering free live webinars for Bishop Grimes families interested in learning more. If you are interested, please contact Mr. G. as soon as possible (ccasler-goncalves@syrdiocese.org), as we will be arranging dates based upon the interest and availability of our families.

College Planning Experts



Ian Maxwell

Founder

Ian is passionate about clearly articulating important college planning concerns, giving students and families valuable strategies to improve their college planning and college funding situation. Ian focuses on providing families and students with the type of education, tools, and strategies they really need to improve their quality of life throughout all phases of the college planning process. Ian's ultimate goal is to show families and students how successful college planning outcomes are absolutely dependent on having a comprehensive plan that addresses both near-term college finance concerns as well as long-term retirement planning issues.

Bishop Grimes / LeMoyne College Challenge

The LeMoyne College Challenge is a program co-developed by LeMoyne College and Bishop Grimes Jr. / Sr. High School. The program is exclusively available to Bishop Grimes students.

A student enters into an agreement with Bishop Grimes Jr/Sr High School in their 8th grade and agrees to:

1. Earn a NYS Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation or higher;
2. Maintain an 85% GPA for each year in high school;
3. Achieve an SAT combined score of at least 1100 (critical reasoning and math) or an ACT composite score of at least 23;
4. Enroll in a minimum of three college-level courses (AP or IB) during high school;
5. Enroll in one, on-campus course at LeMoyne College (at significantly reduced tuition).

Students who successfully meet the criteria are guaranteed;

1. Admission into LeMoyne College Liberal Arts program, and may be admitted into other programs if qualified;
2. An individualized financial package based on family financial circumstances, to ensure that enrollment at LeMoyne College is affordable.
3. Preferential consideration for merit-based scholarships awarded by LeMoyne College.

Interested students should see either their Guidance Counselor or Mr. G. as soon as possible.

Students currently in grades higher than grade 8 who meet these qualifications will also be invited to enroll in the program.



LE MOYNE
Greatness meets Goodness

New York Youth Institute @ Cornell University

The New York Youth Institute is a life-changing experience at Cornell University where high school students engage with local leaders and experts on critical global challenges, participate in hands-on activities, and explore exciting ways to make a difference in New York and around the world. Students research issues they care about, and propose their ideas to solve these grand challenges, and **participation opens the door for students to earn recognition as a Borlaug Scholar, as well as to earn Borlaug-Ruan International Internships and USDA Wallace Carver Fellowships!**

At this exciting event, participating high school students have the opportunity to:

- Present research and recommendations on ways to solve key global challenges in a short speech and small group discussions with statewide experts;
- Connect with other student leaders from across New York to share ideas, identify solutions to these problems and build lasting friendships;
- Explore the issues, current research and opportunities to make a difference at Cornell University; and
- Interact with global leaders, innovators and entrepreneurs in New York working to end hunger and poverty and improve food security around the world.

To participate in the New York Youth Institute, students research a global issue and write a three-page paper under the supervision of a teacher or mentor. Guidelines are available at: https://www.worldfoodprize.org/documents/filelibrary/youth_programs/2019_state_youth_institute_paper_instructions/New_York_Challenge_A35891DE77F48.pdf

- Ninth through twelfth grade students are eligible to apply.
- **Registration and paper submission due online by: February 27, 2019.**
- There is no registration cost to participate in the Institute and meals will be provided during the event. However, both student and teacher/mentor participants must organize their own transportation to and from the event in Ithaca, NY.

For more information, contact Francine Jasper at fj10@cornell.edu, or at (607) 255-1907. More information is available at https://www.worldfoodprize.org/en/youth_programs/global_youth_institute/new_york/#Further%20opportunities

Remember: *The well-rounded nature of your educational experience at Bishop Grimes positions you well for acceptance into the college of your choice. While GPA and SAT scores still factor into admissions decisions, they exist now as pixels in a much larger, more complex image.*

Indeed, most modern universities' collages of ideal applicants are representative of a diverse array of individuals, all with their own unique backgrounds, experiences, and talents. Notwithstanding this diversity, however, a commonality in across sought after candidates seems to be those who demonstrably embody character traits and habits that will positively contribute to campus culture, and which are also strongly associated with both personal and professional success after graduation.

Such qualities include leadership, a sense of social responsibility, a commitment to service, initiative, a willingness to take risks, quality (vs. quantity) participation in extracurricular activities, and special talents or abilities. While we don't engage in service or leadership for personal gain, the fact is that your commitment to your community via the service you have performed over the years, your participation in the many activities offered at Bishop Grimes, and your initiative to take on leadership roles within those activities will distinguish you from other applicants - highlighting these experiences in your application, essay, and interview will make you a significantly more competitive applicant, and may even result in some colleges offering you incentives (scholarships, for example) to attend.

As you embark on your college search, Mr. Gray, Mr. Vinciguerra and I are here to support you in helping you to answer all of these questions, and to help you to identify a list of schools that represent the best fit for you.

We are also available to discuss *Bishop Grimes' unique partnership with LeMoyné and how you can enroll in the program (see above for more details!)*. While getting started can seem overwhelming, your college search can also become a fun process, and we are here to help you along the way. Set your goals high, never sell yourself short, and please come see us for guidance!

I hope that you have found the information provided here helpful. I sincerely hope you all enjoyed a Merry Christmas, and I wish you a happy and healthy 2019!

Sincerely,

Mr. G.

College Search Links

Paying for College

FAFSA Tips (FAFSA website): https://www.nasfaa.org/fafsa_tips

FAFSA Tips (US News): https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/paying-for-college/slideshows/10-common-mistakes-made-on-the-fafsa?src=usn_tw

Student Loan Tips: https://www.usnews.com/education/blogs/student-loan-ranger/articles/2018-09-12/what-expenses-you-should-cover-with-student-loans?src=usn_tw

Creative Ways to Finance a College Education: https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/paying-for-college/articles/2018-09-18/18-schools-that-meet-full-financial-need-with-no-loans?src=usn_tw

Application Tips

Application Tips Guide (US News): https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/articles/college-application-process?src=usn_tw

College Essays

https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/articles/2018-09-13/pros-cons-of-writing-about-challenges-in-your-college-application-essay?src=usn_tw

College Rankings

All Universities (US News): https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges/rankings/national-universities?src=usn_tw&src=usn_tw

All Universities (Forbes): <https://www.forbes.com/top-colleges/#19fc5b271987>

Public Universities (US News): https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges/rankings/national-universities/top-public?src=usn_tw&src=usn_tw&src=usn_tw

The Wall Street Journal and The Economist also offer College Rankings, but require subscriptions.

SAT Tips

Algebra: https://www.usnews.com/education/blogs/college-admissions-playbook/articles/2018-07-16/3-tips-to-prepare-for-sat-heart-of-algebra-questions?src=usn_tw

Differences between ACT and SAT writing and language:
https://www.usnews.com/education/blogs/college-admissions-playbook/articles/2018-06-11/3-differences-between-act-english-sat-writing-and-language?src=usn_tw

Tour Tips

https://www.usnews.com/education/blogs/college-admissions-playbook/articles/2018-09-17/2-major-college-tour-mistakes-to-avoid?src=usn_tw