



How Many SAT Subject Tests Should You Take?

Author: Success Pathway

Email: info@successpathwayconsulting.com

When considering the amount of [SAT Subject Tests](#) to take there are a multitude of factors to consider. Although the SAT Subject Test is not required for all colleges/universities, most recommend them. At Success Pathway, we suggest that you take the SAT Subject Tests whether the school requires them or not. The test will prove to schools that you will go above the basic requirements and also allows you to display your prowess in one or more subject areas.

Know The School

Look into your prospective college/university for how many, if any, subject tests they require. Look online for the recommended number of tests and if there are any specific subject areas you should take. Although you may think submitting more than the recommended amount of tests will boost your application, you should stick to the recommended amount and submit your highest score. The SAT Subject Tests allow you to retake the test but, taking the test too many times may hurt your chances for admission to the school.

For example, here are some prestigious school recommendations:

School	How Many Subject Tests They Recommend	Additional Statements
Brown	2 recommended	"If you are applying to the Program in Liberal Medical Education, we strongly recommend one subject test in either Biology, Chemistry or Physics."
Columbia	None	"SAT Subject Test and other proficiency exam scores are not required by Columbia, but we will accept your results if you choose to submit them ... You will not be at a disadvantage should you choose not to take these optional tests or submit the scores to Columbia."

Cornell	Varies by program	No statement
Dartmouth	2 recommended	"We recommend that you submit 2 SAT Subject Test scores to help us better understand your academic strengths...We encourage you take tests in the two subjects you like the most."
Duke	2 recommended	"Applicants to the Pratt School of Engineering who take the SAT are strongly recommended to take one SAT Subject Test in Mathematics (level 1 or level 2). Applicants to the Trinity College of Arts & Sciences who take the SAT may take any two SAT Subject Tests."
Georgetown	3 recommended	"In addition, it is strongly recommended that candidates submit results of three SAT Subject Tests. Those tests may be any three of the applicant's choosings, although it is recommended that applicants to the Faculty of Languages and Linguistics submit a modern language score."
Harvard	2 recommended	"While we recommend that you submit two SAT Subject Tests, you may apply without them if the cost of the tests represents a financial hardship or if you prefer to have your application considered without them. ... International students generally benefit from submitting Subject Tests and should take them if possible."
MIT	2 required	All applicants must take one Subject Test in math (level 1 or 2) and one in science (biology e/m, chemistry, or physics).
Princeton	2 recommended	Engineering candidates are advised to take a math (level 1 or 2) Subject Test and the chemistry or physics test.

Stanford	2 recommended	"SAT Subject Tests are optional. Because SAT Subject Test scores can highlight your areas of strength, we welcome the self-reporting of these results in your application."
University of Chicago	None	"Subject Tests are truly optional, and not sending us Subject Test scores will not hurt your application."
University of Pennsylvania	2 recommended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences: Any two Subject Tests ● Nursing: Science, preferably Chemistry ● STEM: Math Level 2 and a science test (preferably Physics for Engineering Applicants) ● Business: Math Level 2
Yale	Recommended, but no specified number	"SAT Subject Tests are recommended but not required. Applicants who do not take SAT Subject Tests will not be disadvantaged in the application process. We will consider your application on the basis of the other testing, and all the other information that we receive with your application."

What Subjects Are You Proficient In?

When choosing the SAT Subject Test to take, you should choose a subject that you excel in. This is an opportunity to showcase your knowledge in a particular topic. If you want to take more than one SAT Subject Test, remember that you can take up to three in one day!

Time Dedication

Preparing for the SAT Subject Test requires a lot of time and effort. If taking an AP course, it is beneficial to take a subject test in that subject area. This would decrease your amount of study time. We suggest creating a study schedule with your guidance counselor to successfully manage studying for the SAT Subject Tests in your already busy schedule.

Our Recommendation

A majority of schools require or recommend a student to take SAT Subject Tests. We recommend students take at least three subject tests, if your schedule permits. You can then choose your two highest scores and submit them to the college/university.

It's important to plan ahead. Success Pathway advises students take the SAT Subject Test in June. If enrolled in an AP course, this will be right after taking the final AP exam. We highly recommend that all SAT Subject Tests are taken by June following Junior year despite November deadlines.