



Forging Ahead

Forgione Tutoring Newsletter
April-May 2022



Hello Families,

It is great to see our current students thriving, and we are happy to welcome many new students to Forgione Tutoring! Spring activities and sports are in full swing, proms are happening, graduations are nearing, learning is going on at a fast pace, and summer doesn't feel far away. Congratulations to the graduating seniors! We have seen your hard work and commitment, and we are proud of you!

Summer Season

We are excited that many current students will be continuing, and many new students will be joining us this summer. Families of current students, keep an eye on your email and lesson summaries for information about your tutor's summer availability coming soon. We begin the process of summer scheduling with CURRENT students in early May. In the second half of May, we will contact new students to schedule summer tutoring.

Current Students and Families – what we need from you:

Current students should discuss with their families and tutor(s) whether to prepare through the summer for the July ACT, August SAT, or September ACT. There are many factors that could influence this decision: desired score gain, summer availability, continued motivation for the process, etc.

Current students and rising seniors get priority scheduling, which we will coordinate May 1-15. If you know that your child will not continue his or her preparation this summer, please let your tutor or a director know.

If your child will continue tutoring this summer, let your tutor or a director know the following information no later than **May 10 but preferably by May 1:**

- 1) If your child would like to continue in his or her current time slot. We may be able to accommodate.
- 2) Days and times that your child is available this summer (or days & times to avoid) including any travel and unavailability dates.
- 3) Requested number of hours per week (1-3 hrs/week) and the test subjects your child would like to focus on
- 4) Any questions you have about summer scheduling and how to help your child achieve his or her score goals.

New Students

Welcome! Summer is a great time for rising juniors to begin preparing for the ACT or SAT. In the second half of May, we will be contacting families of new students who are on the list for summer tutoring.

- April or May is a good time for students to take diagnostic tests (more information below).
- Many parents ask us how long students should plan to spend preparing for their test. For coverage of all test subjects, we recommend a minimum of 24 hours to prepare for the SAT and 30 hours for the ACT and at least two hours per week. Some students come one hour per week to cover one subject.

Summer Scheduling Tips and Reminders

Many of our students will be waiting on the results of the May SAT, June SAT, or June ACT before deciding whether to continue. Contact us as soon as scores are available.

- We *highly* recommend that students resume as early in the summer as possible if planning to prep this summer. Slots will continue to be filled as the summer goes on, so there will be less and less open as we reach July.
- Students cannot begin or resume in August. August is our busiest month, and the only students who will be tutoring in August are those who have been tutoring through June and July.
- New students who desire to start in August will be asked to postpone their start date to after the August SAT or September ACT.
- Plan to be as consistent as possible from June through the August SAT or September ACT. We know that summer is a busy time and can involve travel. However, whenever possible, it is good to avoid long breaks from test preparation. Consistent review and practice lead to the best results.
- We can provide virtual tutoring while students are in other locations this summer.

College Application Essay Writing

In addition to tutoring, we help many students with college application essay writing. The talented and experienced writers on our staff can help in person and virtually. We recommend that students begin the writing process for the main personal statement in June or after school exams and standardized tests. If you are interested, contact a director or our administrative assistant, and we will put your student's name on the to-call list. We will contact you in late May about scheduling. (Contact information can be found at the end of the newsletter).

Wait-Listed Students

To all who are on the waitlist: thank you for your patience. We have not forgotten you! We will be in touch periodically to let you know the status of the waitlist, but don't hesitate to reach out to Cherie Warren, our administrative assistant, if you have a question: cherie@forgionetutoring.com. You can find general information and answers to FAQs on our [Parents & Students FAQ Page](#).

North Carolina Public Universities and Standardized Tests & Test Optional Admissions

Students applying for admission to NC state schools for Fall 2023 and Fall 2024 are not required to submit SAT or ACT scores. This is a reversal of a decision made by the UNC Board of Governors in late February. This means our state schools are Test Optional, which can create confusion about whether a student should send test scores.

- The general rule is that if your child's scores are at or above the 50% percentile of scores of those who were accepted to that college in the past few years, you are advised to send scores. To find this information, search in each college's website for "Freshman Profile" or look for the "Common Data Set" for that college. I was told that the website, Prep Scholar, is a reliable source of data about average GPA and test scores of admitted students.
- I've heard from guidance counselors and local educational consultants that in many cases students who don't submit test scores are not getting accepted at the rate of those who are submitting test scores. This is true of South Carolina state universities, especially Clemson—students who are not submitting test scores there are not readily being admitted.
- Georgia and Florida state schools are test-required
- Virginia state schools are test-optional through 2023
- Permanently test-optional: The University of Oregon system, The Washington State system, The Illinois system, The Colorado system, The City University of New York, The Montana system, The Iowa system; U Minnesota Twin Cities
- Permanently test-blind: UC system and the Cal State system
- Alabama is test optional through fall of '23.
- TN hasn't announced its policy for Fall '23 as far as I know.

Upcoming SAT/ACT Dates

- For SAT dates and deadlines, go to www.collegeboard.org
- For ACT dates and deadlines, go to www.act.org

SAT (Order the Question and Answer Service when available)

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline	Score Release Date
May 7	April 8	April 26	May 21
June 4	May 5	May 25	June 18
August 27*	Not available	Not available	Not available
October 1*	Not available	Not available	Not available
November 5*	Not available	Not available	Not available
December 3*	Not available	Not available	Not available

*anticipated test dates provided by College Board

ACT (Order the Test Information Release (TIR) when available)

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline	Score Release Date
June 11	May 6	May 20	June 25
July 16	June 17	June 24	July 30
September 10	August 5	August 19	Not available
October 22	September 16	September 30	Not available
December 10	November 4	November 11	Not available

SAT & ACT Mock and Diagnostic Testing

Mock and diagnostic tests are offered at no additional cost. Students can test at our midtown Raleigh and Cary locations on Sunday mornings. To sign up, contact your tutor or a director.

New students: If you're undecided about SAT vs. ACT, we recommend you take both an SAT and ACT diagnostic, especially if you did not take the PSAT or pre-ACT. April, May, and early June is a good time to take these diagnostics—we will need this information before new students start their prep this summer to help determine whether the student should pursue SAT or ACT prep.

Current students: Mocks help us gauge a student's progress. Students taking an upcoming exam should take a mock test as a simulation 2-3 weeks before the real test.

Extended Time Mock/Diagnostics: We can offer simulations for those students approved for extended time. Email a director to schedule! These are scheduled on a case-by-case basis.

Looking for other options? If the dates below do not work, let us know if your child has a day off, and we can try to line up a proctor.

Upcoming Mock/Diagnostic Dates

Regular timed tests are offered from 9am-1pm on Sundays during the school year.

To Sign Up: email heather@forgionetutoring.com or charles@forgionetutoring.com. Seats are limited, so we need to confirm there is space for you.

Date	Midtown Raleigh	Cary
April 15, Friday	----	Extended time SAT: 9am-2:30pm
April 23, Saturday	---	Extended time SAT: 9am-2:30pm
April 24	Open for either	Open for either
May 1	ACT	Open for either
May 8	SAT	Open for either
May 15, May 22, and May 29	Open for either	Open for either

Program Details

The SAT and ACT cover a lot of material. It's not uncommon for students to underestimate the time and practice required to see gains. Students typically require at least 8 hours of instruction *per subject* in order to see growth of 3-4 points on the ACT or 100-150 points on the SAT.

Comprehensive Program: Covers all test subjects and requires 2-3 hours/week over 12-20 weeks. Many students stretch these hours throughout a 4 to 9 month period, often taking the test more than once.

- Comprehensive ACT (4 subjects): 30 hours recommended
- Comprehensive SAT (3 subjects): 24 hours recommended

Subject Area Focus: Concentrates on 1-2 test subjects at a time, limiting the number of tutoring hours and homework load per week but lengthening the total number of weeks required to cover all subjects.

- 1 test subject: 8-10 hours and 1 hour per week (8-10 weeks)
- 2 test subjects: 16-20 hours and 1.5 - 2 hours per week (10 weeks)

Understanding Gains

- A gain of 3 points on the ACT is similar to a gain of 100 points on the SAT
- A gain of 4 ACT points is the equivalent of gaining 150 SAT points

For more details on our test prep program, see our [SAT and ACT Prep](#) page.

Content Review

Recent disruptions to student learning have meant that more students who are starting test prep need extensive subject review. Our tutors must first strengthen fundamentals, which means that strategy instruction and full test prep happen more gradually and take longer. In the past, 2 hours/week of tutoring for 12 weeks was the norm for comprehensive test prep, but many students find that they need more time to be able to review concepts, rules and formulas as well as practice strategies.

Attendance Policy Reminder

Regular attendance is necessary to achieve significant score gains. If attendance drops below 50% for a specific time slot in any 4-week period, we may offer the slot to someone else. **Let your tutor know if you anticipate any schedule conflicts.**

Invoice Questions?

Please view your itemized invoice by clicking on the invoice number. If you have questions, you can contact our bookkeeper: cherie@forgionetutoring.com.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram

We post fun and informative articles and posts related to testing, learning, and the college application process. Check us out on the [Forgione Tutoring Facebook Page](#) or [Forgione Tutoring on Instagram](#).



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