



# The Hidden Costs of Applying to College

## Preparing for the SAT / ACT

Test prep can be very expensive, but don't think that the only way to do well on the SAT or ACT is to attend endless workshops or hire private tutors that can cost thousands of dollars. Kahn Academy offers free online SAT prep, and various SAT/ACT prep books are available online for around \$20. Additionally, both the SAT and ACT offer free practice tests online that can be used for studying.

**\$40.00-  
\$2,000**

## Taking the SAT / ACT / AP Exam

A single SAT exam costs \$52.50, and a subject test costs either \$42 or \$52, depending on the test. The ACT costs \$47 per exam and \$54.50 if you take the exam with writing. Most students take the exam twice, and the average student takes two subject tests. The AP exam fee costs \$91. Both the SAT and ACT, however, offer fee waivers to help lower the costs.

**\$200**

## Sending SAT / ACT / AP Scores

The average high school student applies to 12 schools, and given that sending scores to colleges costs \$15 per school, the price adds up. Some ways to lower the costs include using the fee waiver, which requires qualification based on financial need. In addition, score reports to four schools come with SAT registration if you input them up to nine days after taking the SAT. Additionally, if you send a score to one UC, every UC that you apply to will get the same report. The same goes for AP scores. If you apply to have them sent to schools right after you take the exams, then you can send them for free. Otherwise, the score reports cost \$15 per school.

**\$360**

## Application Fees

Most colleges have some sort of application fee to apply to their school, and those fees can range from \$40 to \$80. Students, however, can apply for a fee waiver (you automatically qualify if you got an SAT waiver). Some colleges also waive the fee if students apply before a certain date, so check with the schools to see if they offer other application fee waivers.

**\$850**

## Visiting Colleges

College visits, especially ones that are a good distance away, can get pretty costly. Between flights, hotels and car rentals, college visits quickly add up. Some colleges offer programs for prospective students where they pay the travel fees for a student to visit their school, so check to see if any of your colleges offer that program. A lot of colleges also offer online virtual tours, which can give students a good feel for the campus.

**\$2,000**

**Total**

**\$3,450-\$5,410**