



SAT / COLLEGE PREP CAMP*

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Mercer Education's *SAT/COLLEGE PREP CAMP*, designed primarily for high school students, meets for five hours per day, Monday through Friday for a total of 100 hours** of intensive instruction and exercises. For this camp, [we typically offer an in-person option and sometimes also a remote option via Zoom](#); please be sure to indicate your preference on the application. There are two 1-month sessions, and students may attend either one. (Note: This year, the verbal curriculum for the two sessions of the camp will be the same.) Students may attend just the SAT Reading & Writing section or just the SAT Math section (either 9:30am-noon or 12:30-3pm). Small classes not exceeding eight (8) students (12 students for classes taught remotely via Zoom) allow teachers to attend more fully to each student's needs. Students are scheduled in groups of approximately the same age and of similar proficiency. Over the course of four weeks, in addition to taking a 3-hour assessment test, students complete multiple (4-6) SAT tests under test-like conditions and additional exercises outside of class, after which they review, analyze, and discuss their errors and weaknesses with their instructors. Spaces are very limited and tend to fill up, so book your space early.

While extensive in its scope and goals, the course is paced in such a way that assignments never seem intimidating or overly time-consuming. Our instructors are experienced professionals who bring standardized test material to life with interesting supplementary materials and proven teaching techniques that lead to quality results. The instruction focuses on developing academic skills (reading, writing, vocabulary, grammar, critical thinking, word problems, algebra I & II, geometry, trigonometry, and some pre-calculus), preparing students not only for several standardized tests but also for the kinds of work they will be doing in school.

In addition to developing test-taking and academic skills, students have a structured opportunity to prepare for the college application process. Working alone and in groups, students learn about higher education options and important considerations to keep in mind. They will read sample application essays and write personal statements of their own, for which teachers will provide substantial critical feedback. With the guidance of their instructors, students will also learn how to write effective academic resumes. At the end of each session, parents receive a progress report and assessment as well as suggestions for additional work to prepare for the SAT.

READING & TEST-TAKING STRATEGIES (approximately 25 hours)

Every student receives focused instruction in the reading comprehension parts of the SAT, which includes test strategies as well as methodical analysis of each student's work on four to six SAT tests. Instructional materials include established texts that clearly present exercises and techniques proven to raise scores and provide the foundation for honing reading and analytic skills and for learning advanced vocabulary (approximately 75-100 words per week).

WRITING & COLLEGE PREPARATION (approximately 25 hours)

The SAT includes two 39-minute "reading and writing" multiple choice "modules" (sections) which tests grammar, punctuation, writing mechanics and the logic of sentence structure. Students receive focused instruction in the reading and writing section of the SAT which includes regular in-class timed practice together with follow-up instruction, a thorough review of grammar and usage, and substantial homework exercises to reinforce concepts and practice techniques learned in class. In addition, students do research and preparation for the college application process by completing step-by-step assignments including a college application essay with revisions and a resume.

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** The camp usually meets for 95 hours in ME's first session because of the school closing for Independence Day (7/4), but the course content and tuition rates are the same.

MATH SECTION (50 hours)

Mercer Education's rigorous program thoroughly prepares students for the SAT. This includes problem solving techniques typical of the SAT and similar standardized tests. We teach common strategies and tools such as distinguishing between exponential and quadratic functions to model data, breaking down a complex problem into simpler parts, and finding ways to organize information presented in a word problem. Course work draws on sample SAT problems and a variety of engaging supplementary materials designed to provide practice with all the commonly encountered questions. In addition, students complete a comprehensive review of all essential skills, ranging from the use of graphing calculators to a review of methods of algebra I & II, geometry, trigonometry, statistics, and some pre-calculus, and all students receive methodical analysis of their work on approximately nine (9) SAT tests. [We recommend students have completed at least half a year of Algebra II prior to enrollment.](#)

A Student's Typical Day (total 5 hours instruction per day; ½ hour lunch break)

On average, students will devote 1 hour per day to reading and test-taking strategies, 1.5 hours per day to writing, grammar and college preparation, and 2.5 hours per day to SAT math. Preparing for the verbal portion of standardized tests involves the integration of multiple language learning areas including reading, writing, vocabulary development, and grammar. Likewise, the math portion of the SAT touches upon multiple skills and problem types to which each group of students brings different strengths and weaknesses. Because of the overlap of skills and student diversity, the information presented above estimates the time reserved for direct instruction in the three main subject areas of the SAT. Times devoted to various verbal components of the program may vary depending on the needs of the class.

CAMP HIGHLIGHTS

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| ▶ Designed primarily for high school students | ▶ Thorough review of grammar and usage |
| ▶ 100 hours** of focused instruction | ▶ Increased vocabulary (75-100 words/week) |
| ▶ Two 4-week sessions available | ▶ Timed practice in class and at home |
| ▶ Small classes not exceeding 8 students
(12 students for classes taught remotely via Zoom) | ▶ Introduction to the college application process |
| ▶ Highly experienced instructors | ▶ Introduction to application essays |
| ▶ Assessment and multiple (4-6) SAT tests | ▶ Essential math skills review |
| ▶ Mock SAT administered under real test conditions in the final week | ▶ Math problem-solving techniques |
| ▶ Additional exercises outside of class | ▶ (Half a year or more of Algebra II prior to camp recommended) |
| ▶ Academic skills & time management skills | ▶ Challenging supplementary materials |
| ▶ Critical reading strategies | ▶ Progress Report & suggestions for parents |