

Are My SAT Scores Good Enough?

– Data compiled by Ken Lynn (www.txsoe.com)

I would like give you some guidance on this particule subject, but cannot answer the question completely for all students. I have researched several sources and have attached some data for your review. It is important that you check with the college (and program) to see what their particular entrance requirements are. If you don't know what college you desire to attend yet, a good place to start would be with the "big" Texas schools. Please note that on a year to year basis, requirements may change as much as 20 points in either direction.

SAT Test Average (Data 2008) - Source Collegeboard.com

	Texas Average			National Average		
	Critical			Critical		
Percentile	Reading	Mathematics	Writing	Reading	Mathematics	Writing
75th	560	580	550	580	590	570
50th	480	500	470	500	510	490
25th	410	430	410	420	430	420

Another source gave the average in this simple format, but with a longer explanation that I feel is worth passing along:

SAT Test Average (Data 2008) – Source Ask.com

	National Average		
	Critical		
Percentile	Reading	Mathematics	Writing
50 th	502	515	494
		Total	1511

Question: Are My SAT Scores Good Enough?

What are good SAT scores? Do you have the SAT scores you need to get into your top choice schools? This article explains the relationship between college admissions and SAT scores. You can also check out these SAT links (or [ACT links](#)):

Answer: SAT scores are just one of many criteria used by colleges to make admissions decisions. Nevertheless, their importance shouldn't be underestimated. As much as admissions officers say they take an open-minded and holistic approach to their decisions, SAT scores can make or break an application. And let's face it -- it's easier to compare numerical data than it is to decide whether a semester in France should be ranked higher than a state soccer championship.

Also, schools usually make their SAT data public, and they know that their reputations depend upon high numbers. A college won't be considered "highly selective" or "elite" if its students have an average SAT math score of 470.

So what is a good SAT score? The exam consists of three parts: Critical Reading, Mathematics and Writing. The scores from each section can range from 200 to 800, so the best possible total score is 2400. The average score for each section is roughly 500, so the average total score is about 1500.

Very few students get a perfect SAT score, even those at the country's top colleges. The list below shows the middle range of SAT scores for different schools. The middle 50% of admitted students fell within these numbers. Keep in mind that 25% of students who were admitted scored *below* the lower numbers listed here.

Finally, you'll see that some of the school profiles include the critical reading and math scores, but not the writing scores. This is because the writing part of the exam is still new, and many schools do not yet use it in their admissions decisions. We're likely to see that change in the next couple years as colleges figure out the relationship between the writing score and academic success.

Click on the school names to see the full profiles.

Auburn (Main Campus)

- Critical Reading: 520 - 640
- Mathematics: 540 - 660
- Writing: 510 - 620

Carleton

- Critical Reading: 660 - 760
- Mathematics: 660 - 740
- Writing: 670 - 750

Duke

- Critical Reading: 660 - 760
- Mathematics: 680 - 780
- Writing: 660 - 760

Harvard

- Critical Reading: 690 - 780
- Mathematics: 690 - 790
- Writing: 690 - 780

MIT, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

- Critical Reading: 650 - 760
- Mathematics: 720 - 800
- Writing: 660 - 760

Middlebury

- Critical Reading: 640 - 730
- Mathematics: 650 - 740
- Writing: 650 - 740

Pomona

- Critical Reading: 710 - 780
- Mathematics: 690 - 770
- Writing: 690 - 770

Stanford

- Critical Reading: 660 - 760
- Mathematics: 680 - 780
- Writing: 670 - 760

UCLA

- Critical Reading: 560 - 680
- Mathematics: 590 - 720
- Writing: 580 - 700