

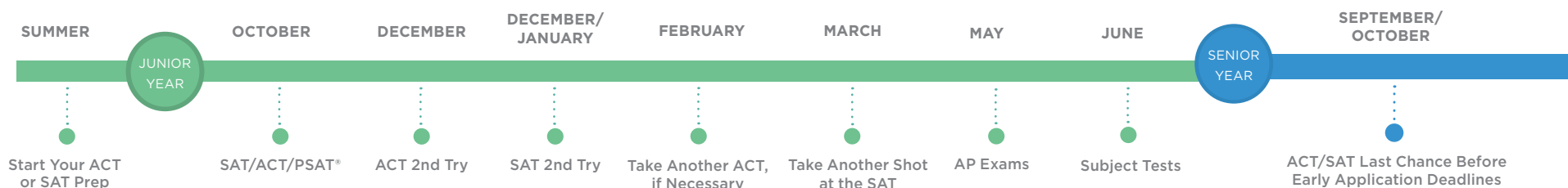
EARLY-START TESTING TIMELINE

START EARLY IF YOU:

- Are aiming for highly competitive colleges
- Have time to prepare over the summer
- Want to achieve National Merit® Scholarship status
- Plan to apply Early Action or Early Decision to universities

Which test is right for you?

Our recommendation—take a practice test for the SAT® and the ACT® and see which one you're most comfortable with.



JUNIOR YEAR

SUMMER

- Begin researching schools
- Take a free ACT or SAT practice exam
- Pick the test that's right for you
- Start your ACT or SAT prep

FALL/WINTER

- Take the PSAT

SAT Strategy

- Sit for the October SAT
- Take the test again in December, January or March, if needed

ACT Strategy

- Take the October ACT
- Sit for the February ACT, if needed

SPRING

SAT Subject Test Strategy

- Take AP® exams in May
- In June, take the corresponding SAT Subject Tests™

SUMMER BEFORE SENIOR YEAR

- Fall tests are your last chance before applications are due
- Prep now if you need to raise your score
- Kick off your college applications

SENIOR YEAR

FALL

- Take the September ACT or October SAT
- Fall tests are your last chance if you're applying Early Decision or Early Action
- Take SAT Subject Tests in October, if needed



EXPERT TIP:

You can apply to multiple schools through Early Action, but only one through Early Decision. If you're accepted to your ED school, you're obligated to matriculate there.

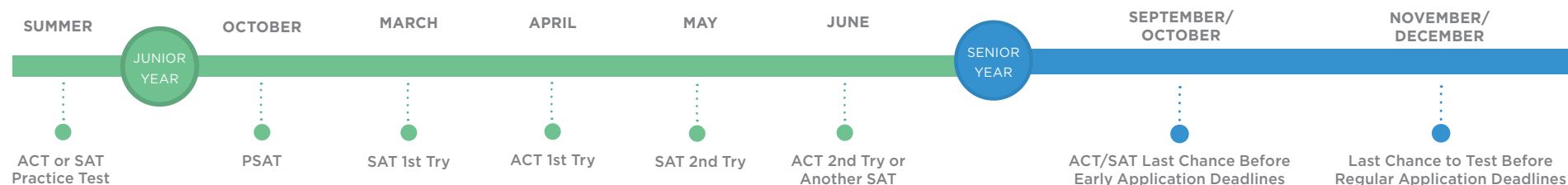
TRADITIONAL TESTING TIMELINE

GO TRADITIONAL IF YOU:

- Will start your prep in your junior year
- Are not required to take SAT Subject Tests
- Want to prep more over the summer
- Will take the tests again during your senior year

How many times should you take the SAT or ACT?

Our recommendation—take each one no more than three times. If you get the score you want, you don't have to take it again.



JUNIOR YEAR

SUMMER

- Take a free ACT or SAT practice test
- Decide which test to focus on

FALL/WINTER

SAT Strategy

- Take the PSAT and start your ACT or SAT prep
- Sit for the March SAT

ACT Strategy

- Take the test in December or February

SPRING

- If needed, take the April or June ACT
- Take SAT Subject Tests in June

SUMMER BEFORE SENIOR YEAR

- Fall tests are your last chance before applications are due

SENIOR YEAR

FALL

- Take the September ACT or October SAT
- Start your college applications

WINTER

- To hit regular admissions deadlines, December tests are your last shot



EXPERT TIP:

Comprehensive prep courses can start as many as 8 to 10 weeks before the test. Plan ahead and find a course near you at [PrincetonReview.com](https://www.PrincetonReview.com).

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