

Effects of Repeating the SAT

Average Scores for Students Who Took the SAT from One to Five Times During Their Junior and Senior Years

	Number of Testings	Number of Test-Takers	1st Testing	2nd Testing	3rd Testing	4th Testing	5th Testing
Verbal	1	636,420	485				
	2	542,636	511	526			
	3	195,360	502	517	528		
	4	35,483	482	500	511	520	
	5	6,833	461	481	494	503	512
Math	1	636,420	490				
	2	542,636	522	536			
	3	195,360	524	541	551		
	4	35,483	509	531	543	552	
	5	6,833	499	523	538	547	554

Points to Note

- The table shows average scores for students who tested one to five times as either juniors or seniors. Many (45%) tested once and about 83% tested once or twice. The most common pattern was a combination of junior- and senior-year testing. However, some students only tested in either their junior or senior year.
- Scores do not always improve when students take the SAT more than once. Students with lower initial scores were more likely to show higher gains from first to last testing. These students also tended to test more often.
- Data are based on 1,416,732 students in the 2004 graduating cohort who tested one to five times during their junior or senior years. Some students included in the Senior Year Score Gain or Loss table are included in this table.