

# Frequently Asked Questions on NSF SAT/ACT (English and Math/Science) Coaching

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## NSF SAT/ACT Coaching Program

NSF SAT/ACT is an online coaching program offered to help students prepare for the SAT and ACT tests. Below are answers to some of the frequently asked questions.

### General

#### 1) What is SAT?

SAT is a standardized test for college admissions in the United States. It is an acronym for Scholastic aptitude test or Scholastic assessment test, but more generally now known as SAT. It is a benchmark to assess students in the areas of critical reading, mathematical reasoning and writing skills. It is one of the most recognized test scores for college admission process and an entry ticket to the various institutions in the US. SAT is administered by the College Board.

#### 2) What is ACT?

ACT or American College Testing, is another standardized test for college admission in the United States. It is used interchangeably with the SAT, and is accepted by all colleges as a method for measuring student aptitude. The ACT has been growing in popularity, with 59% of all High School graduates in 2016 taking and submitting the exam. ACT is administered by ACT, inc.

#### 3) What is NSF SAT/ACT Program?

The NSF SAT/ACT program is an online coaching program with an objective to augment NSF students in performing at a high level at these standardized tests. There is extensive coaching provided on all three sections of SAT and ACT namely critical reading, writing and mathematics. The coaches will review the necessary concepts and guide the students on the strategies & techniques to take the SAT or ACT test.

The College Board introduced the New SAT in March 2016. While there are subtle differences, the New SAT test is much closer to ACT. The topics that are covered the data interpretation module of SAT are similar to problems covered in ACT Science. Better outcomes are guaranteed if the students follow the program with due diligence and practice. NSF started SAT coaching in 2012 and beginning in 2016 the

program has been expanded to include ACT and is being offered as a combined SAT/ACT program.

**4) What are the different levels of SAT/ACT coaching that is offered.**

The course is offered at two levels: Junior (Grades 7-8), and Senior (Grades 9-11).

For the Junior level students, coaches will spend time covering subject concepts covered in SAT/ACT tests. Junior SAT coaching will mostly draw on PSAT level problems and will adequately prepare them for any advanced testing they may take at that level.

Most senior students are expected to be familiar with concepts already. For the Senior level students, the emphasis will be mainly on strategies for taking these tests to improve speed, minimize errors, eliminate wrong answer choices etc.. Senior students will primarily work with SAT/ACT problems.

**5) How many weeks is the program?**

The classes will cover 16 weeks. There will be breaks for holidays such as Thanksgiving and Christmas.

## Classes

**6) Are the sessions recorded or are they live interactive sessions?**

As a policy, NSF does not record sessions. The sessions are all live interactive sessions with chat windows and voice connectivity using the telephone lines or with internal or external speakers attached to the computer. The students can chat or talk with the coaches as needed. We encourage the students to be as interactive as needed and focus on the sessions and avoid any distracting chat.

**7) What do I do if my child is going to miss a class?**

NSF coaching program is an interactive live class. The coaching material cannot be shared and there is no recording. If you miss a class, you can still access the homework. You can work them out at home. If you have any question in it, you can forward them to your coach and get it clarified.

**8) How does class participation work in the online class?**

Parents are requested to ensure that their child participates in every class and is respectful of other students. Students should be discouraged from disruptive behavior such as writing on the board or chat window while the coach is teaching. Their phone should be set to mute setting unless they are called upon to speak.

Different students are at different levels so don't let your child get overwhelmed or discouraged if some concepts are new to them.

**9) Will students get access to class materials?**

All class materials are proprietary to the NSF SAT/ACT program and due to copyright issues, cannot be given to students. The materials that can be shared are discussed with the students during their respective sessions. Relevant handouts are made available to students through the NSF site.

**10) How will students access the homework and handouts?**

Students can use student logins or parents can use their primary logins (secondary login does not allow homework access). After logging into [www.northsouth.org](http://www.northsouth.org), click on Download Papers under Reports in Coaching section. Users can then select the appropriate documents to download. Homework, answers and handouts will be available for students to download.

**11) Will there be Homework assigned to students?**

There is homework given every week to reinforce learning of concepts covered in class. It is very important for students to complete homework on time. Please encourage students to try the homework even if they do not get the right answer. Students are expected to complete all homework and submit their work online.

**12) How will students answer the homework?**

Students login using their student login email address. Click on Enter Answers in the Coaching section. On the next page, select PaperType as Homework and click Submit. In the list that is generated, select the appropriate homework and click on Start Exam. Click on the appropriate Section to answer the questions.

**13) How is the Homework graded and will I get my grades on a weekly basis?**

NSF tools will automatically grade the homework. The answering tool is similar to a bubble sheet that the students will use to answer while taking SAT/ACT. The answers entered are graded and scores given.

**14) What are the consequences of students not doing/submitting their Homework?**

Students receive the biggest benefit from the NSF program when they attend all classes and complete the homework before the due date. If homework is not submitted as assigned, students will not be able to complete it after the due date.

Homework solutions are covered in the class after the homework due date. So, doing the homework after the fact is not useful.

**15) Is it okay if I help my child with the homework?**

Yes and No. No, do not jump right in and do the work for your child. This will not give a chance for your child to do some deep thinking and be challenged. Yes, when a child is stuck, you can give some hints for the child to do more research and arrive at the answer.

**16) I am too busy with my work. Can I rely on the coach to take care of my child?**

No. NSF Coaching is a good starting point in the right direction to prepare your child for the SAT/ACT tests. As we said earlier, coaches are volunteers and each coach has about 20 children to handle. So don't rely solely on the NSF coaching for your child to excel in the tests.

**17) As a parent, how can I help my child?**

You can provide a quiet environment for your child to work every day especially during the online coaching session. Kids will be on the phone and on online session during the class. So a quiet, undisturbed place will help your child a lot.

## Program Fees and Structure

**18) How do I register my child for the coaching classes?**

Go to our website [www.northsouth.org](http://www.northsouth.org) and login as a Parent. Click on "Register for Coaching". Please follow the step by step process. You can pick a coach based on your child's level and the time that best suits you.

**19) How do I choose the coach for my classes?**

There may be more than one coach available for your child's level. You can pick a coach who offers the most convenient time that will work for you.

**20) What is the cost of NSF SAT/ACT coaching?**

The cost of registration for NSF SAT/ACT coaching program is (SAT English / SAT Math): \$300 for 16 classes with 1.5 hours per week for SAT/ACT English and 1.5 hours per week for SAT/ACT Math/Science. *You must choose the classes for both English and Math/Science programs separately but pay a single total fee of \$300. No choice for English only or Math/Science only.*

**21) Can we just take one session (SAT/ACT English or SAT/ACT Math/Science) and not do the other?**

NSF SAT/ACT is a block program (English and Math/Science) that follows the syllabus by the Collegeboard and ACT. We expect students to take both English and Math/Science sessions. As it is a block program you pay for both at the same time.

**22) The classes have already started. Can I still register?**

No, once the registration is closed, you cannot register. Registration is first come, first served; register at the earliest to ensure a seat for your child.

**23) If I choose a class for my child but not pay, am I reserving a spot in that class?**

No, your registration is not complete until you pay. You will receive a confirmation email after you pay and complete the registration. Just choosing the appropriate class will not guarantee a spot for your child in that class.

**24) I registered my child, but I haven't yet received any communication?**

NSF and coach will contact you few days before the beginning of the class. If you have to contact us on any important issue, please use the File Support Ticket functionality on NSF site to open a ticket. Someone will contact you.

**25) How can I change class to a more convenient day and time?**

Parents can change the classes themselves from the Parent Functions page, using "Change Coach" option, for up to two weeks after the coaching session starts, provided space is available. If you find another class for the level you want with a convenient day and time, you can go ahead and change yourself.

**26) Change coach is grayed out. How can I change coach?**

You are allowed to change the coach from the Parent Functions page up to two weeks after the coaching starts. Subsequently, this option is grayed out.

**27) Can I get a refund if I cancel my coaching course?**

Coaching is provided by volunteers who give their time and effort for the noble cause of helping economically poor but brilliant students in India. Two-thirds of the registration fee you pay is tax-deductible to you. Registration fees after expenses - every penny of it - are used to provide scholarships to children in India excelling in academics but unable to finance themselves to go to college. If you insist on getting a refund of your registration fee, NSF will do so only before the second coaching

class. You can request a refund on the “Parent Functions” page after you do Parent Login in [www.northsouth.org](http://www.northsouth.org).

**28) What if my card gets charged twice?**

We encourage parents not to click on the “back” button as they are entering their payment information, as there may be chances of credit card errors. In the event the card is charged twice, please go to the parents function page and click on the “request for refund” button to get your money back. If there are any further questions please email to [nsfprogramleads@northsouth.org](mailto:nsfprogramleads@northsouth.org).

**29) Can I donate and have my company match my contributions?**

The NSF appreciates your donations. Please click on the Donations tab under the [www.northsouth.org](http://www.northsouth.org) page and contribute your donations. We are very thankful for all your help that goes to help out an under-privileged child in India. NSF participates in fund matching programs at several companies. If your company offers matching program but NSF is listed as a non-profit organization, please let us know and we will be glad to complete the necessary documentation.

## NSF Login

**30) How do I login into NSF site?**

Visit [www.northsouth.org](http://www.northsouth.org) and login as a parent using your registered email. Please Login using the primary login email address. Secondary login email address does not allow access to homework. Students can use their student logins (see below).

**31) How do parents create student logins on NSF site?**

Parents login using their login credentials using the Parent Login section at [www.northsouth.org](http://www.northsouth.org). Click on “**Create Student Login**” under the Main Option in Coaching section. Select the student and then enter student email address and password and then click add. Students will use these login credentials when they login into [northsouth.org](http://northsouth.org) site to access homework, handouts and complete homework.

## Zoom

**32) What is Zoom?**

Zoom is a conferencing and desktop sharing software that is used for the NSF Online Coaching program. Zoom combines desktop sharing through a web browser with

phone conferencing, so everyone sees the same thing while you hear the audio of the coach and fellow students using phone or computer audio.

**33) Will I need special tools for using Zoom?**

All you need is a computer with a high speed Internet connection for desktop sharing and an audio connection either through phone or Voice over IP (computer audio). If you are using a computer, you will need a microphone and headset for audio. Please ensure you have a mute function on your audio device to silence any background sound around you.

**34) How do I login into Zoom?**

Students will not need a Zoom account. They access their session using the JOIN link they see in their NSF account on the View Status for Coaching page. If students do not have separate NSF login, the JOIN information can be obtained from the Parent Functions page using parent login by clicking on the View Status for Coaching link.

## **Additional Help**

**35) How do students receive communications?**

Students receive communications from their respective coaches via email. Please add your coaches email to the **safe list** so you receive all the emails from the respective coaches.

**36) Whom do I contact if I have general questions regarding the program or technology issues?**

Please open a File Support Ticket on NSF web site. You will get an email response within 1 to 2 days.

**37) What if I have coaching related questions?**

Please contact your respective coaches. After the session starts, coaches are your first point of contact.

## **Check List items**

1. Do I have a parent login (yes)/(No).
2. Do I have a Student login (yes)/( No).
3. Do I know who my coaches are (yes)/(No).
4. Do I have my coaches contact info (Yes/No)

5. Do I see the JOIN button in my coaching status page on NSF website (yes)/(No).
6. Do I know how to use the Zoom sessions (yes)/(No).
7. Do I have headset (audio) for the Zoom sessions (yes)/(No).
8. Do I know how to use the homework tools and submit homework (yes)/(No).

**If you answered “No” to any of the following questions please open a File Support Ticket.**

**Please note we are in the process of constantly updating our FAQ's section. Please do check them periodically. Thank You!!**