



School Nurse Certificate Entrance Examinations

For admission Illinois applicants must present passing scores from one of the following exams*:

- **TAP** (Test of Academic Proficiency) <http://www.il.nesinc.com/>
- **ACT plus Writing** (ACT test for students) <http://www.actstudent.org>
- **SAT** (Scholastic Aptitude Test) <http://sat.collegeboard.org/home>

Note: the writing portion may now be taken separately, thereby allowing you to take “writing only” to meet the requirement. Contact UIC school nurse program for more information @sncert@uic.edu.

*The entrance exam is an Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) requirement. Passing scores are set by ISBE, there are no longer “*valid*” dates on the scores. If you have taken one of the exams in the past and achieved passing scores you may use those test scores for admission.

What are the differences between the TAP, ACT, and SAT?

Test Name	# of Questions	Allotted Time for test	Cost	Test Sections/ Subjects	Paper or Computer Based	How long before retake?	When are results Available?	Pass Rate%	Can I pass one Sub-test at a time?	Passing Score **Superscoring of ACT & SAT is now allowed	When are test available
ACT* (ACT test for Students)	215 1 Writing Section	3 Hours-30 Minutes	\$56.50	English, Math, Reading, Science Writing	Paper	Strongly recommend waiting to receive official results before scheduling next date.	5-8 Weeks after test	Score better the first time	No	22 Composite <u>Writing taken:</u> Before Sept 2015: English/writing score of 19 Sept 2015- Aug. 2016 score of 16 Sept 2016 & later: Score of 6	6 times per year (Sept-June)
TAP	170 1 Writing Section	5 Hours	\$113	Reading Lang Arts, Math and Writing	Computer	30 Days after test date	2-4 Weeks after test	25%	Yes	240 in <u>each</u> subtest including Writing	Year Round
SAT	170 1 Writing Section	3 Hours-45 Minutes	\$52.50	Reading, Math, Writing	Paper	Strongly recommend waiting to receive official results before scheduling next date.	3-4 Weeks after test	Score better the 2nd time	No	Composite 1110 & 26 in writing & language <u>Tests before March 5, 2016</u> 1030 Composite & 450 in Writing	7 times per year (Oct-June)

*At this time the UIC School Nurse Certificate program is strongly encouraging students to sit for the ACT plus writing rather than one of the other two test options. Our experience in working with students indicates that you are more likely to achieve the needed passing score with the ACT plus writing. However, it is always the up to the test taker to decide what is right for them.

** Superscoring of ACT & SAT is now allowed; Superscoring refers to taking highest subtest scores from different tests, and using that average to achieve a composite score.