

ACT Frequently Asked Questions

The ACT Assessment-What is it?

The ACT is not an aptitude or IQ test. The questions on the ACT are directly related to what students have learned in high school courses in English, mathematics, and science.

Why Should Students take the ACT?

Many colleges require or recommend that students submit test results as part of the admissions application process. The ACT is accepted by virtually all colleges and universities in the U.S. including all Ivy League schools.

The ACT Assessment results are often considered as part of scholarship and grant awards for colleges and scholarship agencies.

The ACT also provides students with a unique interest inventory that provides valuable information for career and educational planning.

Who Should Take the ACT?

Any student who is planning to attend college needs to have an entrance exam score, but students who have not yet made a decision should also consider taking the ACT. Having a test score keeps the option open to go to college.

When should a student take the ACT?

In most cases, students should take the ACT for the first time in the spring (April or June) of their junior year of high school.

Most students benefit from taking the ACT more than once. ACT research shows that of the students who took the ACT more than once:

- *55% increased their composite score*
- *22% had no change to their composite score*

How Often Can a Student Take the ACT?

There are no limitations on how many times students can retest.

How Do Colleges View a Student With Multiple Scores?

Most colleges utilize the best score that they receive from a student.

Can Students with Disabilities Take the ACT?

Students with disabilities can take the ACT by receiving accommodations during national test dates or in a school environment based on professionally diagnosed and documented disabilities.

How Can Students Prepare for the ACT?

ACT's Website is located at www.act.org

- **Preparing for the ACT** - a free booklet that provides test taking tips and strategies along with a complete practice test.
- **ACTive Prep** - test prep software
- **Getting into the ACT** - a comprehensive test preparation resource, which contains two practice tests and preparation suggestions.
- **PLAN** - A pre-ACT given at the tenth grade level.



What are the Differences and Similarities Between ACT and SAT?

	ACT	SAT
Test Purpose	Designed to measure academic achievement in the areas of English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science Reasoning.	Designed to measure academic aptitude in terms of verbal and numerical reasoning.
Method of Scoring	Scores based on number of correct answers; no penalty for guessing	Scores adjusted for guessing or wrong answers.
Student Information	ACT offers a comprehensive student profile section, which consists of an educational and career planning component ACT Interest Inventory, and World-of-Work Map.	SAT offers a student descriptive questionnaire.
Common Uses	Admissions (accepted by most, but not all, colleges and universities), freshman course placement decisions, academic advising, talent identification to awarding course credit, and awarding scholarships.	Admissions (accepted by most, but not all, colleges and universities), academic advising, talent identification.