

ACT Helpful Information

www.actstudent.org (register, prep materials, and other helpful information)

achs.usd385.org (click on Counselor's Corner → ACT/SAT)

How do I register for the ACT? Registration is completed online at www.actstudent.org.

Test Basics

- 7 national test dates each year
- 4 sections (English, Reading, Math, Science)
 - There is also a Writing section that is optional
- Total time without writing: 2 hours and 55 minutes
- Total time with writing: 3 hours and 35 minutes
- Cost: \$60 (without writing), \$85 (with writing)
 - Test fee waivers are available to students on free/reduced lunch.

Do I need to take the ACT since some colleges are Test Optional?

- To keep your options open, it is a good idea to go ahead and take a college entrance exam. Some colleges are Test Optional with admissions while some are starting to go Test Optional for scholarships, etc. Our best advice is to research the colleges in which you are interested and follow their recommendations.

Do I need the ACT w/Writing?

- Some colleges require the writing portion of the ACT. Make sure you do your research to know if your potential schools require the writing portion for admission.
- Kansas colleges do not require the writing portion for admission.

Scores

- Overall Composite Score: 1-36 (average of the four test scores)
 - 4 Subject scores (English, Reading, Math, and Science): 1-36 for each subject
 - Writing score (optional): 2-12
- Average ACT scores for Kansas and ACHS from the class of :
 - State—21.6
 - ACHS—24.1
- KS Board of Regents College Admissions Requirement is a 21 with the exception of University of Kansas.
- Scores will be sent to ACHS and will be placed on the back of their student transcripts.
- Students can order scores (through ACT) to be sent to colleges anytime.
- Students can choose up to 4 colleges to send scores to for free each time you take the test.
- Scores are accepted by all U.S. colleges and universities!

Accommodations

- Students may apply for testing accommodations if they are on a 504 plan or have an IEP.
- Documentation will be submitted and ACT will make the final decision as to what accommodations will be approved.

When should I take the ACT?

- Some students begin taking it their sophomore year but most students wait until their junior year to take the ACT.
- Advantages to testing in your junior year (from ACT's website):
 - You've probably completed the coursework corresponding to the test material.
 - You'll have your test scores and other information in time to help you plan your senior year. (For example, you may decide to take an additional class in an area in which your test score was low.)
 - Colleges will know of your interests and have your scores in time to contact you during the summer before your senior year, when many of them are sending information about admissions, course placement, scholarships, and special programs to prospective students.
 - You'll have information about yourself and the schools you're considering prior to your campus visits, making your visits more focused.
 - You'll have the opportunity to retest if you feel your scores don't accurately reflect your abilities in the areas tested.

Test Preparation

- The best way to prepare for the ACT is by taking challenging courses at ACHS. Every day you attend class you're preparing for the ACT.
- There are several test-prep opportunities to help learn test strategies but the test content will be what has been covered in the core courses.
- Test-prep opportunities are listed on our website under ACT/SAT.
http://achs.usd385.org/index.php?pageID=73672_2
- Test Information Release Service (TIR) is available to purchase from ACT for the December, April, and June test dates. The cost is \$30 and students will receive a copy of the test booklet, a list of your answers, and the answer key. This is a great tool to use to help study for future tests because you are able to review the actual test questions from the test. You are able to purchase this when you are registering for the test on the ACT website.

**Most students like taking the ACT once before taking a prep course. Students say that having the testing experience first helps them understand the structure and content of the ACT which then helps them understand the strategies the prep course may suggest to use. Each student learns and prepares in their own way so please do what is best for you!