

THE ACT

Information & Tips

While many four-year colleges require ACT or SAT scores as part of the application process, some colleges now have test-optional policies. Unless you are certain you will not need to submit test scores, plan to take the ACT and/or SAT.

ABOUT THE TEST

The ACT consists of four multiple-choice tests: English, Reading, Math, and Science. There is also an optional Writing Test. The ACT is given in September, October, December, February, April, June, and July.

WHEN TO TAKE THE ACT

You should take the ACT in the spring of your junior year. If you want to improve your scores, you then have time to retake the ACT in the summer or fall.

HOW TO REGISTER

To register for the ACT, go to act.org. Registration deadlines are about 4–5 before each test date. After you're registered, you'll receive instructions and a ticket to get into the test.

HOW THE ACT IS SCORED

Students receive a score (1–36) for each of the four sections, along with a composite score (an average of the four scores).

Questions? Visit act.org or see your counselor.

HOW TO PREPARE

In order to become familiar with the types of questions and the test format, take advantage of the free test prep resources and practice tests at act.org.



Download *Preparing for the ACT Test* at act.org. This free booklet provides valuable information, strategies, and a practice test.



Visit act.org for information and recommendations on ways to prepare for the ACT, including the free guide *The ACT Test* and the free *ACT Official Online Practice Test*.



Be sure to take at least one full-length practice test. Time yourself and go over the questions you got wrong.

Following a strong college prep program in high school is the best preparation for the ACT!

TIPS FOR TEST DAY

These tips will help ensure that you are able to perform your best on the ACT.

Be well-rested.

Cramming the night before the test won't do any good. Get a good night's sleep.

Dress in layers.

Testing centers can be too hot or too cold. Dress in layers so that you'll be comfortable no matter what the temperature of the room is.

Arrive early.

Give yourself plenty of time to get to the testing center so that you're not rushed. Bring your ticket, a photo ID, two #2 pencils, a permitted calculator, and a high-energy snack for the break.

Relax, be confident, and do your best!