

ACT CURRENT

The ACT is a standardized test designed to measure high school students' general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work. The questions on the ACT test the core subjects that students typically learn throughout high school. Students are tested in four subject areas: English, Reading, Mathematics, and Science. The ACT is not an aptitude test, rather questions are directly related to what students have learned in high school courses. The score range for each of the four multiple-choice tests is 1-36. The Composite score is the average of the four test scores rounded to the nearest whole number.

Breakdown of ACT Testing Modules

Component	Time Allotted	Number of Questions
English	45 minutes	75
Math	60. minutes	60
Reading	35 minutes	40
Science.	35 minutes	40
Writing (optional)	40 minutes	1 prompt
TOTAL	2 hrs, 55 minutes (no writing) 3 hrs, 40 minutes (with writing)	

The current ACT is offered in two formats: online and paper. The digital ACT retains the same content and structure as its paper counterpart but presents questions one by one on a computer screen.

Note: Before choosing the online version of the ACT, students must confirm that they can register for a test site that offers online testing. Unlike the (now digital) SAT which allows students to test on their own device, the online ACT must be administered on computers provided by the host. This mechanical requirement limits the availability of online ACT options at national sites.

[ACT Test Dates & Registration.](#)

[Free ACT Practice Exam](#)

If you have questions about taking the ACT, reach out to the UHS counseling staff.



ACT REVISED - COMING SOON

In July, 2024 ACT announced that it is undergoing two major changes to give students more options and flexibility.

What's changing?

- The science test will soon be optional, just like the writing test.
- The remaining Core ACT test (English, reading, math) will be about 2 hours long, which is almost an hour shorter than the current test. There will be shorter English and reading passages with fewer questions.
- Overall, the test will have 44 fewer questions.

How does this affect scoring?

- Each section score will remain on the same 1-36 scale.
- The new Composite score will be the average of the English, reading, and math scores. The optional science test will be presented as an entirely separate score; students will not receive a second Composite score that would include the science.

When will these changes go into effect?

- The new Core ACT will be available for online national testing only beginning in April of 2025. Paper national testing and international online testing will switch to the Core ACT in September of 2025.
- This means that the April, June, and July 2025 national test dates will offer the new Composite score made of three sections at digital test centers. However, paper testing during those same national dates will include a Composite score of all four classic sections: English, reading, math, and science. In September of 2025, all tests, regardless of format, will offer only a Composite score based on the three core subjects.
- For further detail regarding changes to the ACT, see the following article from the Compass Education Group - [Big Changes to the ACT](#).
- For information regarding how specific colleges are responding to the new ACT and whether the optional science section will be required or advised, see the following article from the Compass Education Group - [Will They or Won't They? Tracking Colleges' New ACT Requirements](#)

