

Taking the ACT

What is the ACT?

- It is a National college admissions examination that consists of subject area tests in English, Math, Reading, & Science. In other words, it is a curriculum-based achievement test, measuring what you've learned in school.
- Total testing time is 3 hours and 15 mins., plus 40 mins if you do the optional writing portion.
- ACT results are accepted by all four-year colleges and universities in the US.
- The ACT also includes a profile and education/career planning section to help you plan for life after high school. You will receive personalized career information and develop a comprehensive profile that tells colleges about your work in high school and future plans. You can also see your strengths and weaknesses in the subject areas tested to help direct your future education.
- Juniors are encouraged to test. If you feel that your scores don't accurately reflect your abilities in the areas tested, you can take a class or complete an online program to increase your skills before taking the test again early in your senior year.

Registering For The Test

- Create an ACT web account so you can register online. <https://goo.gl/D7MLbq> You can view your scores and score report, and make changes to your registration.
- Pick a test date that is at least two months ahead of the application deadlines of all the colleges and scholarship agencies you might want to apply to. Scores are normally reported within 2-8 weeks after the test date. If you take the ACT writing, scores will be reported only after all your scores are available. Writing is normally ready within 5-8 weeks after the test date.
- Decide if you are taking the writing test.
- You will need:
 - Credit card or another form of online payment
 - If you qualify for free/reduced lunch, see your SSC about a fee waiver. The fee waiver covers the basic registration fee and reports for up to four college choices.
 - ACT cost is \$50.50; or \$67.50 if you add the writing
 - High school code: **CAHPS = 380154; CRA = 380152; BIS = 380153**
 - Recent photo of yourself
 - If you are on an IEP or 504, talk to your counselor about accommodations.
- When you register, you can opt-in to ACT's Educational Opportunity Service (EOS). EOS will connect you with colleges, universities, and financial aid institutions based on your plans and interests. The Interest Inventory helps students evaluate their interests in various career options.

Preparing for the Test

- Take the complete practice tests in the free booklet, Preparing for the ACT. <http://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/Preparing-for-the-ACT.pdf>
- You can also see online sample test questions at <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation.html#practicequestions>

Taking the Test

- There are four sections to the test with 215 total questions. There is one optional writing prompt.
- Testing will begin after all examinees present at 8am are checked in and seated.
- A short break is scheduled after the first two tests. A brief break is also scheduled before the writing section, for students taking the writing test.
- Students taking the ACT are usually dismissed at 12:15 pm, or 1:15 pm, if you complete the writing portion.
- You are not penalized for guessing. You are scored on the questions you answer correctly.

Test Day

- Dress comfortably in layers.

- **DO NOT BE LATE!** Arrive between 7:45 am and 8 am. Make sure you know where you are going and maybe do a test run to see how long it takes to get there before test day. You will not be admitted late.
- **What to Bring**
 - A printed copy of your admissions ticket
 - Your ticket also includes a box of Matching Information that you must copy exactly as it appears, even if incorrect, into the corresponding blocks on your answer document.
 - If you forget your ticket you may still be able to test, however it will delay your score time.
 - Acceptable Photo Identification
 - Must be original, current valid ID (not a photocopy)
 - It can be a student body card but cannot be a paper printout or copy of a card.
 - You can bring a city/state/federal government agency issued ID (driver's license or state id). You can use a paper driver's permit IF it has a clear photo of you.
 - Your first and last names must match the ticket.
 - The photo must be clearly recognizable as you.
 - If your appearance has changed and you do not have acceptable photo ID that matches your current appearance, you may use the ACT Student Identification Form (with a current photo).
 - Sharpened, soft lead No. 2 pencils with good erasers. No mechanical pencils, ink pens, highlighters, or markers.
 - Even the essay must be completed in pencil.
 - A watch to pace yourself. DO NOT bring a watch with an alarm or a smartwatch. If your watch makes a sound during the test you will be dismissed and your answer document will not be scored.
 - The test administrator will announce when there are five minutes left on the test.
 - Calculators
 - You may use any 4-function, scientific, or graphing calculator, as long as it is not on the prohibited list. Visit <http://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/ACT-calculator-policy.pdf> for more information.
 - Calculators can be used during the mathematics test.
 - Sharing calculators is not permitted.
 - Snacks and drinks for outside the test room, during breaks.

- **Do NOT Bring**

- Electronic Devices
 - **Your cell phone--you may not handle** or access a cell phone or electronic devices, like handheld tablets or laptop computers, **AT ANY TIME while in the testing room or during break times.** This includes smartwatches, fitness bands, and any other devices with recording, internet, or communication capabilities.
 - All devices, including cell phones and wearable devices, must be turned off and placed out of sight.
 - **If you access your device or if your device activates while in the testing room or during break times, you will be dismissed, your test will not be scored, and your phone or device may be taken away.**
- Textbooks, dictionaries, scratch paper, notes, or other aides.
- Whiteout, pens, highlighters, markers, colored pencils.
- Tobacco in any form
- Food or beverages, including water (inside the testing room)
- Avoid disturbances in the testing room, and protect the security of the test materials.

Scores

- You can view your scores online through your student web account. Most parts of the test are posted within two weeks after each test date. Writing scores are normally added about two weeks after your multiple-choice scores. Your score report will also be delivered as a PDF through your student web account.
- 36 is the highest possible score
- Visit <http://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/UsingYourACTResults2018-19.pdf> to learn what your scores mean.