

	The ACT® Test (ACT)	SAT (College Board)
Test Fee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$79.50 ▪ \$96.50 (with Writing)* <p>* The Writing Essay test is optional. Many colleges and universities in the United States do not require it. Go to www.actstudent.org to determine which institutions require the writing test.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$89.50 (Americas and Sub-Saharan Africa) ▪ \$92.50 (Europe and Eurasia) ▪ \$101.50 (Middle East and N. Africa) ▪ \$103.50 (South and Central Asia) ▪ \$107.50 (East Asia/Pacific)
Test Purpose	Designed to measure academic achievement in the areas of English, mathematics, reading, and science.	Designed to measure critical reading, writing, and mathematical reasoning skills.
Accepted for University Admission	The ACT is accepted for admissions by all four-year universities in the United States and more than 200 other universities around the world.	Accepted by virtually all colleges and universities in the United States ³
US High School Graduates Tested in 2014⁴	1,845,787	1,530,846
Test Content	<p>ACT English Test (75 items, 45 minutes) Usage/Mechanics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Punctuation (10–15%) ▪ Basic Grammar and Usage (15–20%) ▪ Sentence Structure (20–25%) <p>Rhetorical Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strategy (15–20%) ▪ Style (15–20%) ▪ Organization (10–15%) <p>ACT Mathematics Test (60 items, 60 minutes) Pre-Algebra/Elementary Algebra (35–45%) Intermediate Algebra and Coord. Geometry (30–40%) Plane Geometry and Trigonometry (25–35%)</p> <p>ACT Reading Test (40 items, 35 minutes) Arts and Literature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Literary Narrative or Prose Fiction (25%) ▪ Humanities (25%) (art history, art, music, philosophy, theater, architecture, dance, religion/ethics, literary criticism) <p>Social Studies and Natural Sciences (25%, 25%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ History, Political Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physical Sciences <p>ACT Science Test (40 items, 35 minutes) Interpretation analysis, evaluation, reasoning, and problem-solving skills in Biology, Earth/Space Sciences, Chemistry, and Physics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Data Representation (30–40%) ▪ Research Summaries (45–55%) ▪ Conflicting Viewpoints (15–20%) <p>ACT Writing Test (Optional) (1 prompt, 40 minutes) Measures writing skills emphasized in high school English classes and in entry-level college composition courses. Consists of one 40-minute essay.</p>	<p>SAT Writing Test Essay (Mandatory) (1 prompt, 25 minutes) Students take a position on a presented issue Required and given at the beginning of the SAT</p> <p>Multiple-Choice (49 items, 60 minutes) Improving Sentences Identifying Sentence Errors Improving Paragraphs</p> <p>SAT Mathematics (54 items, 70 minutes) Number and Operations (21–26%) Algebra and Functions (36–41%) Geometry and Measurement (26–30%) Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability (10–15%)</p> <p>SAT Critical Reading (67 items, 70 minutes) Extended Reasoning (52–60%) Literal Comprehension (6–9%) Vocabulary in Context (6–9%) Sentence Completions (29%)</p> <p>No Science Test</p>
Method of Scoring	Scores based on number of right answers. No penalty for incorrect answers.	Scores adjusted for wrong answers. Correct answers carry full weight while a penalty is applied for each incorrect answer.

1. Every effort has been made to represent the ACT and SAT information accurately and concisely. All information has been drawn from official publications and websites of the organizations.

2. This information refers to the current SAT and is in effect through the January 2016 test date.

3. Information from <https://sat.collegeboard.org/about-tests/sat/why-take-the-test>

4. Figures are from the test publishers' Program Results Reports, and include US students in the 2014 high school graduating class who took the ACT or SAT.

	The ACT Test (ACT)	SAT (College Board)
Test Score Scales	<p>ACT Composite Score: 1–36</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Average of four test scores Does not include writing <p>ACT English Test: 1–36</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Usage/Mechanics: 1–18 Rhetorical Skills: 1–18 <p>ACT Reading Test: 1–36</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arts and Literature: 1–18 Social Studies and Sciences: 1–18 <p>ACT Mathematics Test: 1–36</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-Algebra and Elementary Algebra: 1–18 Inter. Algebra and Coordinate Geometry: 1–18 Plane Geometry and Trigonometry: 1–18 <p>ACT Science Test: 1–36</p> <p>Optional Writing Test: 1–36</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ideas and Analysis: 2–12 Development and Support: 2–12 Organization: 2–12 Language Use and Conventions: 2–12 <p>Additional Scores and Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> STEM Score—1–36 ELA Score—1–36 Progress Toward Career Readiness Indicator Text Complexity Progress Indicator 	<p>SAT Total: 600–2400</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sum of SAT Critical Reading, Math, and Writing scores <p>SAT Critical Reading: 200–800</p> <p>SAT Mathematics: 200–800</p> <p>No Science Test</p> <p>SAT Writing: 200–800</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple Choice: 20–80 Essay: 2–12
Student Information	<p>Student Profile Section</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Admission/Enrollment Information Educational Plans, Interests, and Goals College Extracurricular Plans Financial Aid Background Information (Demographics) High School Courses, Grades, and Extracurricular Activities Out of Class Accomplishments <p>Educational and Career Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACT Interest Inventory⁵ ACT World-of-Work Map⁶ College Majors and Programs 	<p>Student Descriptive Questionnaire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Background (Demographics) Academic Background High School and Community Activities Sports Student Plans for College
Common Uses⁷	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Admissions Talent Identification Academic Advising Freshman Course Placement Decisions Awarding Course Credit, Especially in English and Math Courses Awarding Scholarships (not sole criterion) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Admissions Talent Identification Academic Advising Awarding Scholarships (not sole criterion)
Research Services⁸	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class Profile Service Admissions Service Course Placement Service Retention Research Service ACT Enrollment Information Service (ACT EIS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class Profile Service Validity Research Service

5. ACT Interest Inventory matches your interests and skills to job descriptions. One of the most difficult tasks faced by students is to find occupations appropriate to their goals and personal characteristics. The ACT Interest Inventory provides a focus to career exploration by pointing to world-of-work regions individuals may wish to explore. Through exploration, people can find occupations they might otherwise have missed.

6. The ACT World-of-Work Map organizes occupations into six clusters (occupational types), 12 regions, and 26 career areas (groups of similar jobs). It shows how occupations relate to each other according to primary work tasks.

7. These are common uses by universities to identify and qualify students for admission.

8. These are common uses by research services groups to study demographics and comparative analysis.

