**ACT Information**

**What is the ACT and why is it important?** - ACT.ORG

Created by ACT Inc., the ACT is an entrance exam used by most colleges and universities to make admissions decisions. The idea (in theory, at least) is to provide colleges with one common criterion that can be used to compare all applicants. The weight placed on ACT scores varies from school to school. The ACT has four sections: English, Reading, Math and Science, as well as an optional 40-minute writing test. Some schools may require the writing test, so be sure to ask before you take it.

You'll earn one ACT score (1 to 36) on each test (English, Math, Reading and Science) and a composite ACT score, which is an average of these four tests. Usually, when people ask about your score, they're referring to your composite ACT score. The composite score falls between 1 and 36. The national average is about 21. If, for example, you scored 31 on the English, 30 on the Math, 29 on the Reading and 30 on the Science, your composite ACT score would be 30.

Each college/university requires a different ACT score for admission.  It’s important to inform yourself about school’s admission requirements so you can give yourself the best chance to be admitted to a specific school.  Admission requirements can be found on each school’s website.

***New starting beginning in 2020.***  ACT is allowing students to re-take individual sections of the ACT once they’ve taken the entire exam.  Now you can focus on improving one portion of the exam that you may not have performed as well on.  ACT now allows “super scores” as well which combines your best scores from each exam you’ve taken.

***Format:*** English – 45 minutes, 75 questions; Math – 60 minutes, 60 questions; Reading – 35 minutes; 40 questions; Science – 35 minutes, 40 questions.

**Free ACT Prep**

**ACT (**[**Practice Tests**](https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation/english-practice-test-questions.html?page=0&chapter=0)**)**

The ACT website has a variety of free resources including practice questions for each section of the exam. This is a great starting point before purchasing expensive books and software.

**Prep Factory (prepfactory.com)**

Prep Factory is a free tool for all students to use to prepare for the ACT.  By simply creating an account, students have access to tutorials, modules, and practice tests that are applicable to the ACT test.  Practice tests cover the four subjects that will be included in the ACT; English, math, science, and reading. Go to [www.prepfactory.com](http://www.prepfactory.com) to create an account.

**CHEGG (**[**www.chegg.com/test-prep/act**](http://www.chegg.com/test-prep/act)**)**

Like Prep Factory, CHEGG offers tutorials, lessons, and practice tests to help students prepare for the ACT.  However, CHEGG only allows users to access their services for a 7-day trial.   Once those 7 days are up you would have to pay for further services.  This is still a great tool to help prepare for the ACT.

**Free Practice Booklets**

The counseling department has free practice test booklets in the career center.  Booklets provide information on test format while also providing practice questions.  Stop by the career center to pick up a copy. (<http://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/Preparing-for-the-ACT.pdf>)

**Other Resources:**

<https://march2success.com/> Need to create own account to access practice tests

<https://mncis.intocareers.org/>  Need to create own account, don’t use generic school login/password, in order to access test prep under “My Portfolio”

<https://www.khanacademy.org/college-admissions/making-high-school-count/standardized-tests/a/preparing-yourself-for-success-on-the-tests>

**ACT Classes (with fees)**

**Sylvan**

<http://locations.sylvanlearning.com/us/rochester-mn/program/act-prep>

**College Nannies and Tutors**

<https://www.collegenanniesandtutors.com/rochestermn/blog/title/Free-Practice-ACT-tests>

**Huntington**

<https://huntingtonhelps.com/testprep/college-entrance/act>

**ACT Requirements for Incoming Freshman**

1. **University of Minnesota**: 28 Composite Score (average)
2. **University of Wisconsin – Madison:** 28 Composite Score (average)
3. **Winona State University:** 21+ (with 2.75 GPA) or 18, 19, 20 (with 3.0 GPA)
4. **University of Wisconsin – La Crosse:** 23-27 Composite Score
5. **Minnesota State University – Mankato**: 21+ (with 3.0 GPA)
6. **St. Cloud State University:** 21+ Composite Score
7. **North Dakota State University:** 22+ Composite Score (with 2.75 GPA)
8. **University of North Dakota:** 18 (GPA 3.5-4.0), 20 (3.0-3.49), 22 (2.75-2.99)
9. **South Dakota State University:** 18+ (with 2.6 GPA)