



Frequently Asked Questions

When is the ACT administered internationally?

The ACT *may* be given five times a year in September, October, December, April, and June. However, which of these days are offered in any given city or country differs. Research the sites and dates near you by going to <http://www.actstudent.org/regist/centers/>.

How do universities view the ACT?

The ACT is equally respected by all American universities. In fact, more American students now take the ACT than the SAT. Universities view standardized tests as an opportunity to compare students to their peers. Since the ACT, like the SAT, is graded on a bell curve, admissions officers are indifferent to which exam a student takes. Some colleges even encourage students to take both to see which exam students perform better on.

What type of student is best suited for the ACT?

The ACT is a great fit for many students. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) students may find ACT Math and Science very manageable. IB students may find the ACT content closely tied to what they are learning in school. ESL/EAL students may appreciate the straightforward nature of the Math and Reading questions as well as the absence of challenging vocabulary in the Reading section.

Does the ACT offer special accommodations for students with learning differences?

Yes. Students with a recognized LD can apply for extended time or other accommodation. ACT's extended time policy is also very favorable: students are allowed to allocate their time however they see fit. For example, if a student struggles most with Math and Science, s/he can use the regular amount of time on English and Reading and use all of his/her extra time (approximately an extra 88 minutes for 1.5 time accommodations) on Math and Science.



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How are ACT scores reported?

Students may choose which ACT test scores to send to a university and can hide undesirable scores. But in some cases, colleges may require students to disclose all existing ACT and SAT scores. The ACT does allow students to delete low test scores from their testing records by submitting a written request to:

ACT Institutional Services
P.O. Box 168
Iowa City, IA 52243-0168

Do colleges superscore the ACT?

More colleges superscore the SAT than the ACT. Students and counselors should check a college's admissions policies before making a decision based on superscoring.

Is the ACT Writing test optional?

Technically, the ACT Writing test is optional. However, a growing number of colleges require it. It's always best to sit for the essay unless a student is certain that every college s/he plans to apply to does not require a Writing score.

Are there any disadvantages to taking the ACT?

There are fewer international ACT testing sites and international testing dates, so it's important that students register early to reserve a seat.