

International Comparative Features of the ACT and SAT 2016–2017¹

	The ACT [®] Test (ACT)	SAT [®] (College Board)
Test Fee	\$93.50 \$109.50 (with writing) Pricing subject to change	• \$78.00-\$107.50, depending on location
Test Purpose	Designed to measure academic achievement in: Reading Mathematics English Writing (optional) Science	Designed to measure: ² • Reading • Mathematics • Writing and Language • The SAT Essay (Optional)
Accepted for Jniversity Admission	The ACT is accepted by all colleges and universities in the United States and more than 225 other universities around the world.	Accepted by all US colleges. ³
JS High School Graduates Tested n 2015⁴	1,924,436	1,548,198
Test Content	ACT Mathematics Test (60 items, 60 minutes) Multiple-Choice 100% • Preparing for higher math - Number & Quantity - Algebra - Functions - Geometry - Statistics & Probability • Integrating essential skills • Modeling	 SAT Mathematics (Total 58 items, 80 minutes) Calculator Portion (38 items, 55 Minutes) Multiple-Choice 79%, Grid-In 21% Heart of Algebra Problem Solving and Data Analysis Passport to Advanced Math Other Topics No-Calculator Portion (20 items with 25 minutes) Multiple-Choice 75%, Grid-In 25% Heart of Algebra Passport to Advanced Math Other Topics
	ACT Reading Test (40 items, 35 minutes) Multiple-Choice 100% • Key ideas and details • Craft and structure • Integration of knowledge and ideas ACT English Test (75 items, 45 minutes) Multiple-Choice 100% • Production of Writing • Topic Development • Organization, Unity, and Cohesion • Knowledge of Language • Conventions of Standard English • Sentence Structure and Formation • Punctuation • Usage	 SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Reading Test (52 items, 65 minutes) US and World Literature History/Social Studies Science Writing and Language Test (44 items, 35 Minutes) Careers History/Social Studies Humanities Science
	ACT Science Test (40 items, 35 minutes) Multiple-Choice 100% Interpretation of data Scientific investigation Evaluation of Models, inferences, and experimental results Passage Formats on the Science Test: Data Representation Research Summaries Conflicting Viewpoints	No Science Test Note: Reading subject test is constructed of 40% science and the Writing and Language subject test is constructed of 25% science.
	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.	SAT Essay (optional) (1 task, 50 minutes) Tests reading, analysis, and writing skills; students produce a written analysis of a provided source text.
Aethod of Scoring	Scores based on number of right answers. No penalty for incorrect answers.	Scores based on number of right answers. No penalty for incorrect answers.

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.

www.collegeboard.org/releases/2014/expand-opportunity-redesign-sat.
 Information from https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/about/benefits
 Figures are from the test publishers' Program Results Reports, and include US students in the 2015 high school graduating class who took the ACT or SAT.



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	The ACT [®] Test	SAT [®] (College Board)
Test Score Scales	ACT Composite Score: 1–36 • Average of four test scores • Does not include writing	SAT Composite Score: 400-1600 Sum of two section scores Does not include essay
	ACT Mathematics Test: 1-36	SAT Mathematics: 200-800
	ACT Reading Test: 1–36	SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing: 200-800
	ACT English Test: 1–36	
	ACT Science Test: 1-36	No Science Test
	ACT Writing Test (optional): 2-12	SAT Essay (optional): 200–800
	Additional Scores and Indicators (New readiness scores and indicators give students, parents, and educators more detailed insights to better plan for future success.) • STEM Score:1–36 • ELA Score:1–36 • Progress Toward Career Readiness Indicator • Text Complexity Progress Indicator	
Student Information	Student Profile Section When students complete the Profile section, ACT connects their unique interests, abilities, and values with potential education and career paths. • 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 Educational and Career Planning • ACT Interest Inventory ⁵ • ACT World-of-Work Map ⁶ • College Majors and Programs	Student Descriptive Questionnaire Background (Demographics) Academic Background High School and Community Activities Sports Student Plans for College
Common Uses ⁷	 Admissions Talent Identification Academic Advising Freshman Course Placement Decisions Awarding Course Credit, Especially in English and Math Courses Awarding Scholarships (not sole criterion) 	 Admissions Talent Identification Academic Advising Awarding Scholarships (not sole criterion)
Research Services ⁸	 Class Profile Service Admissions Service Course Placement Service Retention Research Service ACT Enrollment Information Service (ACT EIS) 	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.

These are common uses by universities to identify and qualify students for admission. These are common uses by research services groups to study demographics and comparative analysis. 7.

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