

ACT

What is the ACT?

The ACT is a national college admissions examination that consists of subject area tests in:

English

Mathematics

Reading

Science

The ACT with writing includes the four subject area tests plus a 40-minute [writing test](#).

ACT results are accepted by all four-year colleges and universities in the US. Some students choose to take the ACT in lieu of or in addition to the SAT.

The ACT includes 215 multiple-choice questions and takes approximately 3 hours and 30 minutes to complete, including a short break (or just over four hours if you are taking the ACT with writing). Actual testing time is 2 hours and 55 minutes (plus 40 minutes if you are taking the ACT with writing).

The ACT is administered on six test dates within the US, US territories, Puerto Rico, and Canada.

The [basic registration fee](#) includes score reports for up to four college choices, if you list valid codes when you register.

Look up an ACT Testing Center near you by clicking [here](#).

When should I test?

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 for the ACT are normally reported within 2–8 weeks after the test date. If you take the ACT with writing, scores will be reported only after all of your scores are available, including writing, normally within 5–8 weeks after the test date.

How Do I Sign Up for the ACT?

Online registration is the fastest method. You will know immediately if your preferred test center has space for you to test, and you also can print your admission ticket from the website. How you sign up depends on where and how you plan to test: please see below for how to register.

Reminder: You need to register by mail only if you are younger than 13 or cannot pay by credit card.

[ACT Test Dates and Registration Deadlines](#)

Also check the detailed list of current [ACT Fees and Services](#).

[Official ACT Website](#)