

# ACT information (2017-2018)

## What is the ACT?

The ACT Assessment is a national college admissions exam that consists of tests in English, Math, Reading, and Science. The questions on the test are directly related to what students have learned in high school.

## Who should take the ACT?

All high school students who are considering attending a four-year college should take the ACT. A standardized test score such as the ACT is required for admissions consideration by most four-year colleges. An ACT score, together with high school grades, indicates how prepared a student is for college.

## Who should take the optional Writing Test?

The ACT website [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) lists all colleges that require the optional Writing Test. Students who are considering a college that requires the optional Writing Test should take that portion of the ACT. (MLC requires it and U of Minnesota highly recommends it.) UW Madison does NOT require it anymore.

## When (and where) should a student take the ACT?

Most students take the ACT for the first time during the spring of their junior year (February, April or June). It is good to be farther along in Algebra II and Chemistry before taking the test. These dates also provide flexibility in scheduling retests to meet college and scholarship deadlines. Retaking the ACT in September or October of senior year is also ok. Some area high schools, Western, and UW-L offer the test most of the sessions. See the ACT website for a location and date that works best for you.

## What is a good score on the ACT?

A perfect score is 36. The national average score is 21. Many colleges use 21 or 22 as their baseline.

## How often can a student take the ACT?

Students may take the ACT up to 12 times if they wish. It is not uncommon for a student to retake the test in an attempt to improve his/her score. However, not many students improve their score by more than 1 point. Most students score the same the 2<sup>nd</sup> time, and some go down. Most colleges utilize the best score they receive from a student. Plan to study/prepare the first time ..... and you shouldn't need to do it again.

## How do students register for the ACT?

The method of registration is on-line at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org). The registration deadlines are about a month ahead. The cost of the ACT (no writing) is \$46.00 The ACT with writing is \$62.50. A photo upload is required with registration. You will also be able to indicate up to four colleges you want your results sent to for free. Having your results sent at a later date will cost you \$12 per college. Preparing for the ACT is a free booklet that provides test taking strategies and a complete practice test. This booklet is available from Mr. Loersch or on ACT's website at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org). YES, you should study for the ACT!

## When are the upcoming ACT testing dates?

October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017

December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017

February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018

April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018

June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018

July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018