

Using Your ACT Score Report

A Tool to Shape your Future

ACT®

Introduction

After taking the ACT® test, your biggest question is likely "how did I do?"

The ACT student score report will not only answer that question, but also serve as a powerful tool that can help you with questions like:

1. AM I READY FOR COLLEGE?
2. WILL I GET INTO THE COLLEGE I WANT?
3. DO I QUALIFY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS?
4. SHOULD I TAKE THE ACT TEST AGAIN?
5. HOW CAN I IMPROVE MY SCORE?
6. WHAT MAJORS FIT ME BEST?
7. WHAT CAREER SHOULD I CONSIDER?

This guide will tell you how to use your score report to answer these questions and become more prepared and confident for the next steps in your life.



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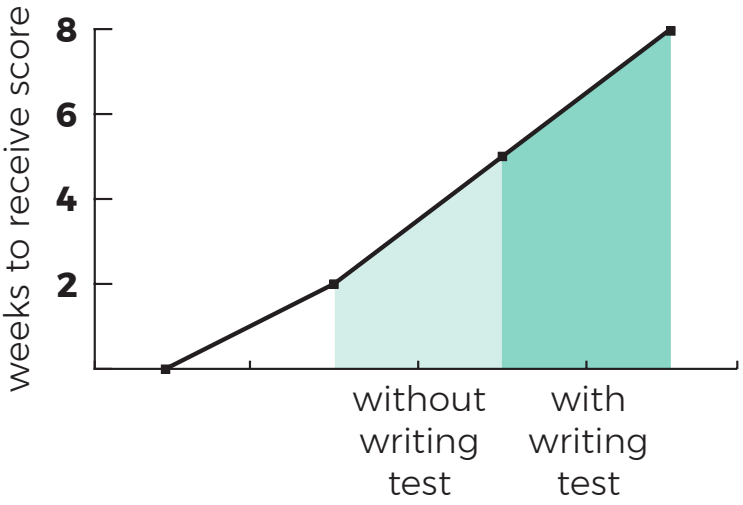
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Your ACT Scores: When to Expect Them

Your ACT score report will be available online **2 to 8 weeks** after each national or international test date.

If you took the writing test, your score report will be ready within **5 to 8 weeks** after the test date.



Sending Your Scores: How to Send Them

When you register to take the ACT test, you can select up to **six colleges and/or scholarship agencies** to receive your scores.

During the registration process, you can select up to 6 colleges or scholarship agencies to receive your scores right when they are available. The first 4 are free! You'll find additional information about updating score recipients and additional score reports **here.**

Many people decide they want to send their scores to more than four schools. If you'd like to do this, you can request to deliver your scores to more colleges or scholarship agencies.

Sending Your Scores

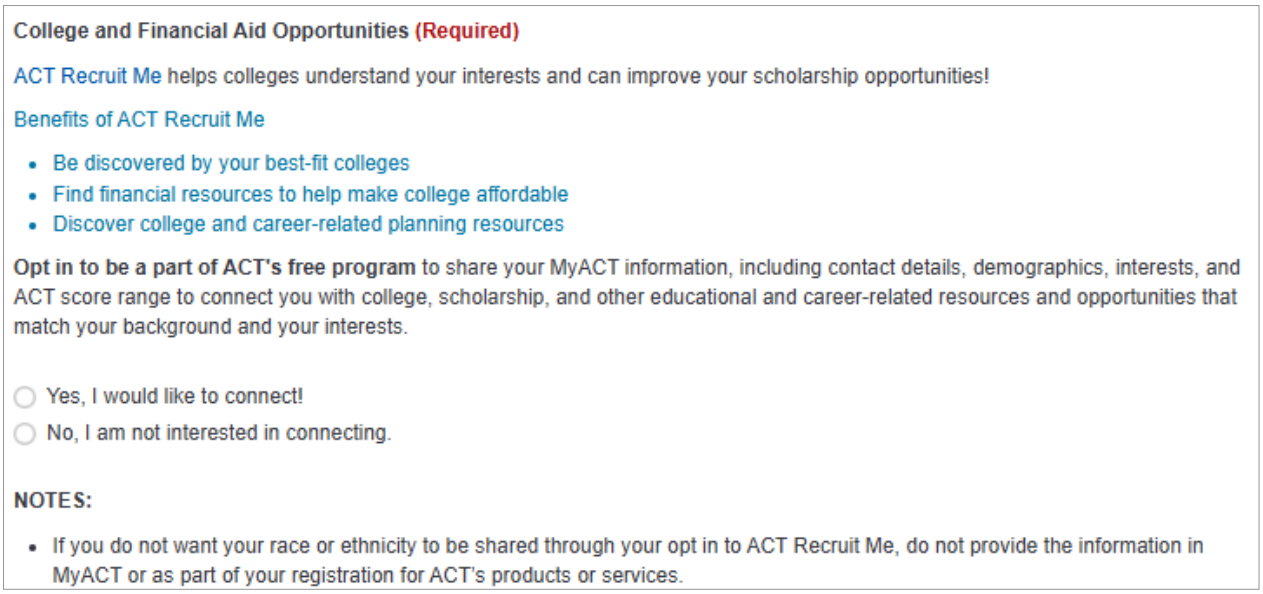


College Opportunity: How to Get Recruited by More Colleges

WHAT IF there's a college that would be a great fit for you but **YOU'RE NOT AWARE OF IT?**

ACT provides a way for colleges and scholarship agencies to reach out to you—called ACT Recruit Me. But to participate in it, you must do so before you take the test.

HOW TO ENROLL IN ACT RECRUIT ME: When you register for the ACT, there will be an option to enroll in ACT Recruit Me.



College and Financial Aid Opportunities (Required)

ACT Recruit Me helps colleges understand your interests and can improve your scholarship opportunities!

Benefits of ACT Recruit Me

- Be discovered by your best-fit colleges
- Find financial resources to help make college affordable
- Discover college and career-related planning resources

Opt in to be a part of ACT's free program to share your MyACT information, including contact details, demographics, interests, and ACT score range to connect you with college, scholarship, and other educational and career-related resources and opportunities that match your background and your interests.

- ○ Yes, I would like to connect!
- ○ No, I am not interested in connecting.

NOTES:

- If you do not want your race or ethnicity to be shared through your opt in to ACT Recruit Me, do not provide the information in MyACT or as part of your registration for ACT's products or services.

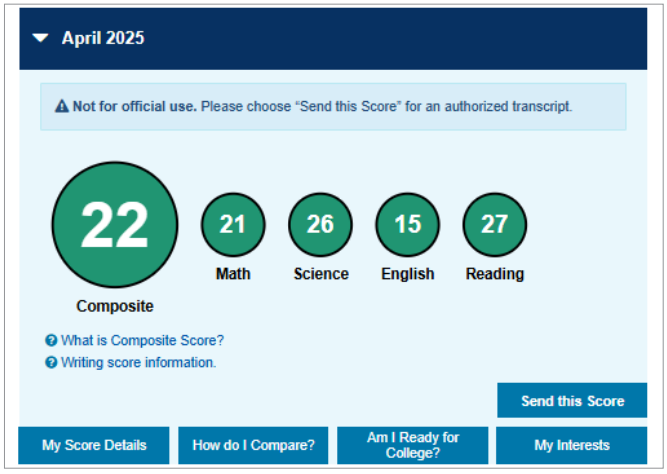
WHEN YOU OPT IN TO ACT RECRUIT ME, IT ALLOWS MORE COLLEGES AND SCHOLARSHIP AGENCIES THE OPPORTUNITY TO FIND YOU AND POSSIBLY REWARD YOU WITH FINANCIAL AID.

College Readiness:
Why It's Important for You

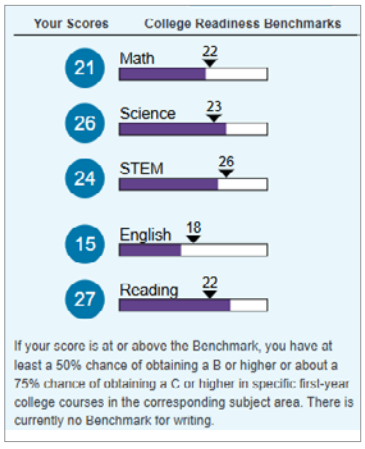
The ACT is a college readiness assessment. That means it was designed to predict an individual's performance in college.

To understand how your scores relate to college readiness, select the **AM I READY FOR COLLEGE** tab below your scores and compare them to the **COLLEGE READINESS BENCHMARKS**...or the scores that indicate college readiness in that subject.

When you receive your scores, the first thing you'll see is this box:



Example scores if testing WITH science.



If your score is at or above the **BENCHMARK**, then you have a good chance of passing an entry-level course in the same subject in college.

If you don't meet some of the benchmarks, these are the subject areas to focus your preparation if you decide to take the test again (see page 9: **RETESTING, IS IT WORTH IT?).**



Getting Into College:
Giving Yourself the Best Chance

Colleges will generally look at your **ACT COMPOSITE SCORE** when making admission decisions.

Your ACT Composite score is an average of all the subject area scores, rounded up to the nearest whole number. You can find your ACT Composite score in the top left area of your score report:

Most college websites will have information about what their incoming classes commonly score on the ACT. You can compare your Composite score to your desired college's range of accepted scores to see how you stack up against students they accept.

There are a lot of factors that go into admission decisions, like your GPA, extracurricular activities, and references, on top of your ACT test scores. **BUT SCORING AT OR ABOVE THE AVERAGE ACT SCORE FOR THAT COLLEGE GIVES YOU A GOOD CHANCE OF BEING ACCEPTED.** It may also present more scholarship opportunities for high-achieving students.

If you need to raise your Composite score to help you get into the college you want, focus on your weakest subject areas, prepare, and try again.

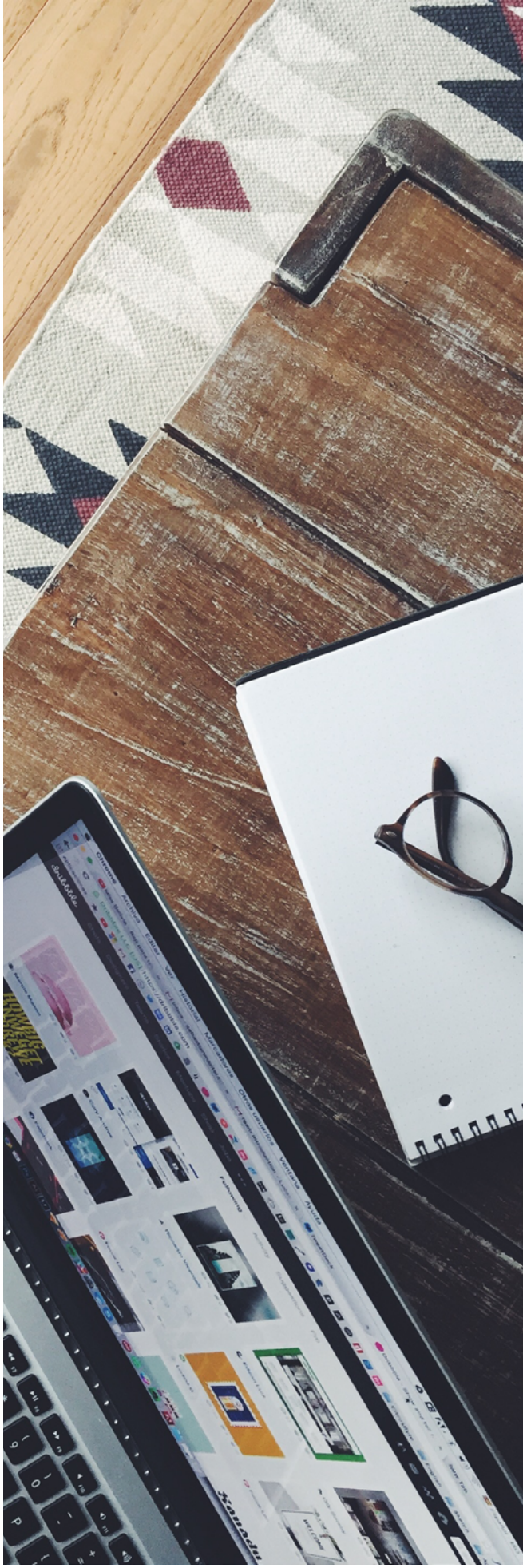
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COMPOSITE

Scholarships: A Single Point on the ACT Can Make the Difference

Many scholarships require a minimum ACT score in order to qualify for consideration...

Your ACT Composite score is generally the score that is considered. Whether the scholarship comes from an agency or your desired college, a single point might make a big financial difference. There have even been cases where students have received full tuition after raising their score by **JUST ONE POINT.**

Research your desired colleges and find out what scholarships can apply to you. You may be only a point or two away from achieving extra support that could get you through college with less, or even no, debt and more financial freedom.



Retesting: Is it Worth it?

We advise taking the ACT for the first time during the **fall of your junior year**, then testing again later, with more schooling and a bit of prep under your belt.

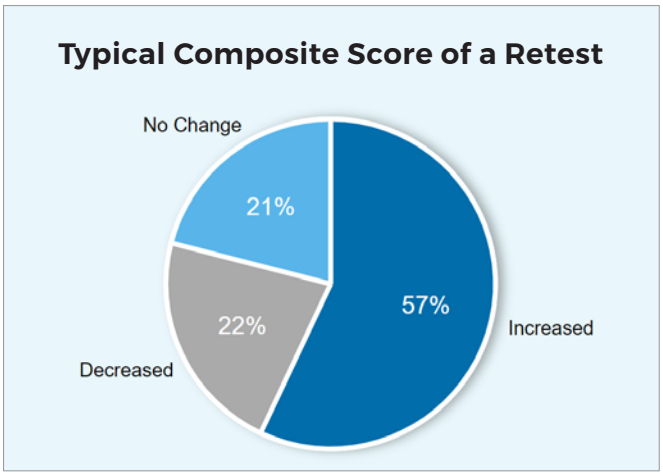
That way, you can use your first score as a benchmark, identify areas for improvement, and then work on those areas.

Why do we suggest this? Taking the test more than once lets you see your improvement over time and identifies if you're on the path to college readiness.

Also, you learn a lot as you progress further through your high school career. So, if you took the ACT for the first time your junior year, your academic knowledge will have increased by your senior year. Since the ACT is an academic achievement test, chances are you will achieve a higher score.

The numbers speak for themselves. Of the students who took the ACT, nearly half retook it and **THE MAJORITY OF STUDENTS INCREASED THEIR SCORE** in a recent class.





Improving Your Score: Knowing What to Study

Preparation can lead to progress! The more you study and prepare the more likely you are to improve your scores. In your score report, click on the "what can I do to improve" button for official ACT resources. You can also check out our Ideas for Progress for some activities that can lead to improvement.

Remember, **every point matters.**

Pinpointing specific areas of improvement and diligently focusing on them can boost your knowledge of that subject—and as a result—your score. A small improvement may be the difference between getting into college or thousands of dollars in scholarships (see page 8: Scholarships: A Single Point on the ACT ***Can*** Make the Difference).

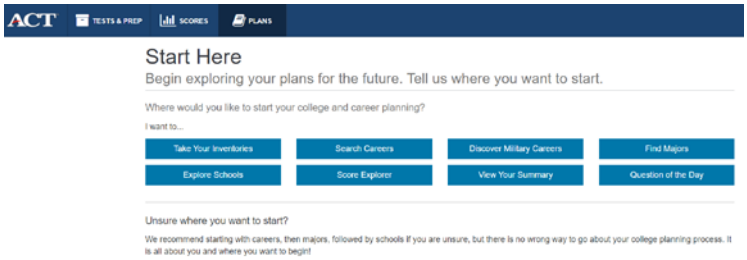


Choosing a Major:
Keep Your Interests in Mind

How do you know if the major you're thinking about is the right one?

THAT'S THE BIG QUESTION.

Part of the answer lies in whether or not your interests align with that major. After completing your registration for the ACT you have the opportunity to complete your Interest Inventory. The analysis of this inventory is displayed under the "plans" tab on the MyACT home screen.



Under the "plans" tab, you will see an interest-major fit section.



Students whose interests match up with their major are more likely to enjoy that major and graduate. That's why it's important to think about how your major and interests line up. If you are shaded in the high quadrant, this level of alignment might support continuing with the expected major you listed.

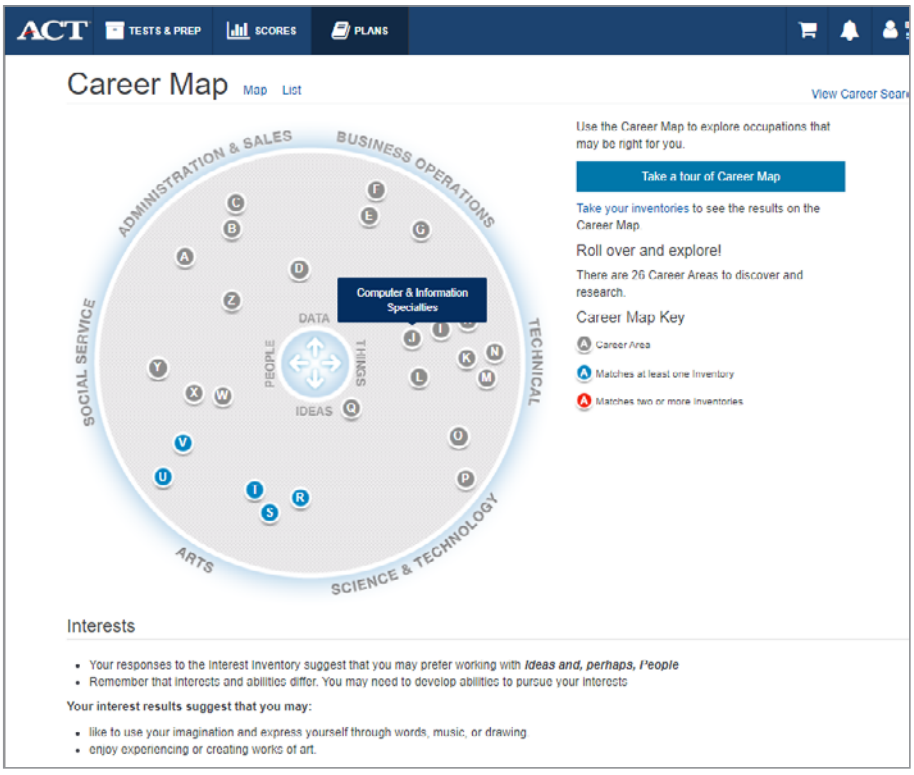
Careers: Which Ones to Consider

While filling out your **INTEREST INVENTORY**, you selected different kinds of basic work tasks you preferred.

Under the **"PLANS" TAB**, you will see a Career Map showing 26 different career areas and highlighting those that are a good fit based on your Interest Inventory.

People whose interests fit their career tend to experience better job performance and greater job satisfaction.

Use this section to explore the careers presented. Could you see yourself doing something like this? If it fits your interests, you might experience a more fulfilling career and, in the end, a happier life.





Careers:
Which Ones to Consider

Using Your Score Report

Think of your score report as more than just a score. Think of it as a tool, a map for tracking your readiness for college and how your interests match up with your career options. Use it to help plan and inform what might come next. For more information about your scores and what they mean, go to act.org/scores.





Connect with us **act.org**

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