The ACT®
International Comparative Features of the ACT and SAT 2016–2017 for Canada[1]

	The ACT® Test (ACT)	SAT® (College Board)
Test Fee	• $42.50 • $58.50 (with writing) *Pricing subject to change*	• $80.00 • $92.00 (with writing)
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 University 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]
US High School Graduates Tested in 2015[4]	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
	
	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
	
	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
	
	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 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
		
		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
		
		No Science Test
		Note: Reading subject test is constructed of 40% science and the Writing and Language subject test is constructed of 25% science.
		
		SAT Essay (optional) (1 task, 50 minutes)
		Tests reading, analysis, and writing skills; students produce a written analysis of a provided source text.

Method 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.

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Test Score Scales	**ACT Composite Score: 1–36** • Average of four test scores • Does not include writing **ACT Mathematics Test: 1–36** **ACT Reading Test: 1–36** **ACT English Test: 1–36** **ACT Science Test: 1–36** **ACT Writing Test (optional): 2–12** **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	**SAT Composite Score: 400-1600** • Sum of two section scores • Does not include essay **SAT Mathematics: 200–800** **SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing: 200-800** **No Science Test** **SAT Essay (optional): 200–800**
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.

7.   These are common uses by universities to identify and qualify students for admission.

8.   These are common uses by research services groups to study demographics and comparative analysis.