

# ACT Exam & ACT Summer Institute FAQ

## Basic Information:

The ACT is a standardized assessment that helps admissions departments assess the qualifications of applicants for advanced study in college. Schools use the test as one predictor of academic performance in a college program. The ACT measures critical reasoning skills by testing math and verbal concepts that students have developed over time. It does not measure specific content from high school.

## What is tested on the ACT?

The ACT is comprised of four main sections: English, Reading, Mathematics, and Science. There is also an optional Writing section.

**English** – 75 multiple-choice questions based on 5 passages tested in 45 minutes. This section tests knowledge of standard written English including grammar, sentence structure, and organization of writing.

**Mathematics** – 60 multiple-choice questions in 60 minutes. This section emphasizes math content prerequisite to most college courses, focusing on algebra, geometry, coordinate geometry, and basic trigonometry.

**Science** – 40 multiple-choice questions in 35 minutes. This section tests interpretation of scientific information and data presented in graphs, tables, experimental descriptions, or collections of differing hypotheses. This section does **not** require extensive background scientific knowledge. Rather, it tests your reasoning and analysis skills when presented with information in various formats.

**Reading** – 40 passage-based, multiple-choice questions tested in 35 minutes. This section measures reading comprehension.

**Writing** – One 40-minute essay. This section is **optional**, and it must be registered for ahead of time. The prompt presents an issue and three different perspectives on that issue. Students are asked to evaluate the presented perspectives and to formulate their own.

## What ACT test changes take place this year?

Starting with the September 2020 test administration, there will be several changes to the ACT test.

- ❖ Online Testing on National Test Dates-- Students will be able to take the ACT online and get scores back in a few days. Students will still be able to choose a paper/pencil test.
- ❖ Section Retesting-- Students will be able to retake 1-3 sections of the ACT without retaking sections on which they are happy with their scores.
- ❖ Superscoring-- Students will have the option of creating a "Superscore," which uses their best scores on each section to create a composite score.

### **How is the ACT scored?**

The number of correctly answered questions is summed to obtain a raw score, which is then converted to a standardized scale. There is no penalty for incorrect answers.

- ❖ Each of the 4 subject tests is scored on a scale from 1-36.
- ❖ The scores of the 4 subtests are then averaged to give an overall composite score ranging from 1-36.
- ❖ Score reports also contain rankings which indicate the percentile in which you scored. (For example, a ranking of 50% indicates you scored higher than 50% of test takers.)

### **What is a good score?**

It depends. A good score should not be defined by a particular number. Rather, it should be defined as one that gets you into the college you want. Check with the programs you are considering, and ask them if they have a minimum and/or an average for everyone in the program to get a better idea of your target score.

### **How much does it cost to take the ACT?**

ACT Registration \$52\* Includes score reports for student, student's school, and up to four colleges (must be designated at time of registration)

ACT with Writing Registration \$68\* The \$16.50 writing test fee is refundable if the student switches registration to ACT without writing before the test date.

Re-register by Phone \$15\* This is available only if student has previously registered; fee is assessed only if re-registering by phone. There is no convenience fee added to online registrations.

Test Date or Location Change Fee \$32\*

Late Registration Fee \$32\*

Standby Testing \$55\* Refunded if not admitted to the testing center on test day.

\*Current as of 01/22/2020. These figures do change. Encourage students to check the following website:

<http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration/fees.html>

### **How do I contact ACT?**

[www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)

### **Can I take a practice test?**

ACT offers a free study guide that contains a complete practice test. It is available for download at the following website:

<http://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/Preparing-for-the-ACT.pdf>

You can also create a free ACT Profile account at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) to gain access to their Question of the Day program with hundreds of free practice questions from all subjects.

How do I register for the ACT?

Register online at:

<http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration-information.html>

## ACT Summer Institute Preparation Class

### Class Details

❖ **20 hours of classroom instruction**

❖ **Course covers the Reading, Math, English, Science, and optional Writing sections.**

### What makes our class different?

❖ Our instructors – We hire and train instructors who know the test and care about helping your student succeed.

❖ Our curriculum – Our curriculum is specifically designed by test preparation experts, uses actual ACT questions, and provides an easy-to-follow preparation plan.

❖ We are a University program – We are here to provide valuable skills and knowledge. You know and trust the University and can be sure we will provide a high quality program.

❖ Value – Our classes are competitively priced

### What are the advantages of taking a class in the Summer Institute format?

The format is very convenient for students looking to get started on their ACT preparations in the summer when they have fewer school obligations. We will help students develop long-term study plans to help them stay prepared for their fall test dates.

Students will also have access to online review sessions, video recordings of class material, and online office hours after the classroom meetings conclude, so they will continue to be supported into the fall testing period.

### How will students stay prepared for a fall test?

In addition to 20 hours of intensive classroom instruction, students will be taught how to develop a long-term study plan and will receive extended access to:

- Online video modules reviewing class material, homework, and practice questions
- Online office hours
- 4 scheduled online review sessions leading up to the fall test dates

### Are materials included?

The course fee includes all class materials.

### **What books do you use and why?**

The Real ACT Prep Guide

- ❖ We use this book because it is composed of actual ACT questions that are written by the same people who write and select the questions in the exam question pool. This ensures that students are preparing for the test with material that closely matches questions they are likely to see on the exam.

ACT Student Workbook

- ❖ Our student workbook was written by professional test preparation experts who have years of experience writing exam questions, teaching test prep courses, and developing test prep courses.
- ❖ The student workbook makes it easy to follow the instructor's lessons and outlines a specifically designed, targeted practice program.

### **Are practice tests included?**

Yes. The course textbook includes 5 official practice tests published by ACT, the official authors of the ACT. Students are assigned practice tests as homework at appropriate times during the class.

- ❖ We do not take up valuable classroom time with practice tests because we want to focus on targeted skill review and development of test-taking strategies in the time we have together. Our classes are designed to most efficiently allocate the time spent with an instructor.
- ❖ Our instructors will be happy to review students' practice test results with them.

### **Who teaches the ACT Test Prep class?**

All classes are taught by highly qualified and trained professionals. Most teachers have taught the class for at least a year and have additional teaching or training experience.

Our instructors are required to:

- ❖ Show proficiency on the exam,
- ❖ Complete program-specific training
  - Approximately 20 hours of training and classroom observation are logged before they ever teach a class.
- ❖ Maintain high scores from class evaluations and instructor observations.

### **How much does the class cost?**

The course fee is \$499

### **Are there any discounts?**

For WKU faculty/staff, alumni, and students the course fee is \$419

### **How can I register?**

- ❖ On-line at <https://www.wku.edu/cpd/test-prep/index.php>
- ❖ By Phone: 270-745-1912

### **Do you offer a guarantee?**

We don't offer a guarantee that your student's score will increase by a certain percentage or exceed a certain minimum, and here is why:

Guarantees cost test-takers time and money, but don't provide them with more value or help them get the results they need.

● **Your student doesn't want a Guarantee – He/she wants to get the score needed to get into his/her program of choice.** We are committed to helping your student achieve that goal.

● Our instructors are available before, during, and after class to offer extra help, if needed.

● Access to online resources continues after the class concludes until the end of the calendar year so students have ongoing support with their preparation.

● Guarantees come with fine print, usually outlining what one needs to do to qualify for a refund, etc. The burden of proof is always on the student.

● Students can retake our class for **any** reason, for a nominal fee, if they decide they need to.

### **How can a student retake the class if he/she wants to?**

First, very few people find that they need to retake the class. Our program includes a study plan and homework that are designed to help students achieve the results they desire. If a student completes the class assignments, studies, and utilizes the testing tools we provide, we are confident he/she will achieve the desired results. Most people who do retake the class do so because they find they can't prepare properly for personal reasons. We understand that sometimes things come up and students may need to postpone their preparation, and we are here to help!

### **What is your refund policy?**

<https://www.wku.edu/cpd/refund-policy.php>

### **Who can answer more detailed questions about the ACT or our course?**

Our instructors are happy to help! Contact our team of expert ACT instructors at: [testguru@etctestprep.com](mailto:testguru@etctestprep.com) .