

2019|2020

# ACT<sup>®</sup>

## Using Your ACT Results

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For more information, see [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)

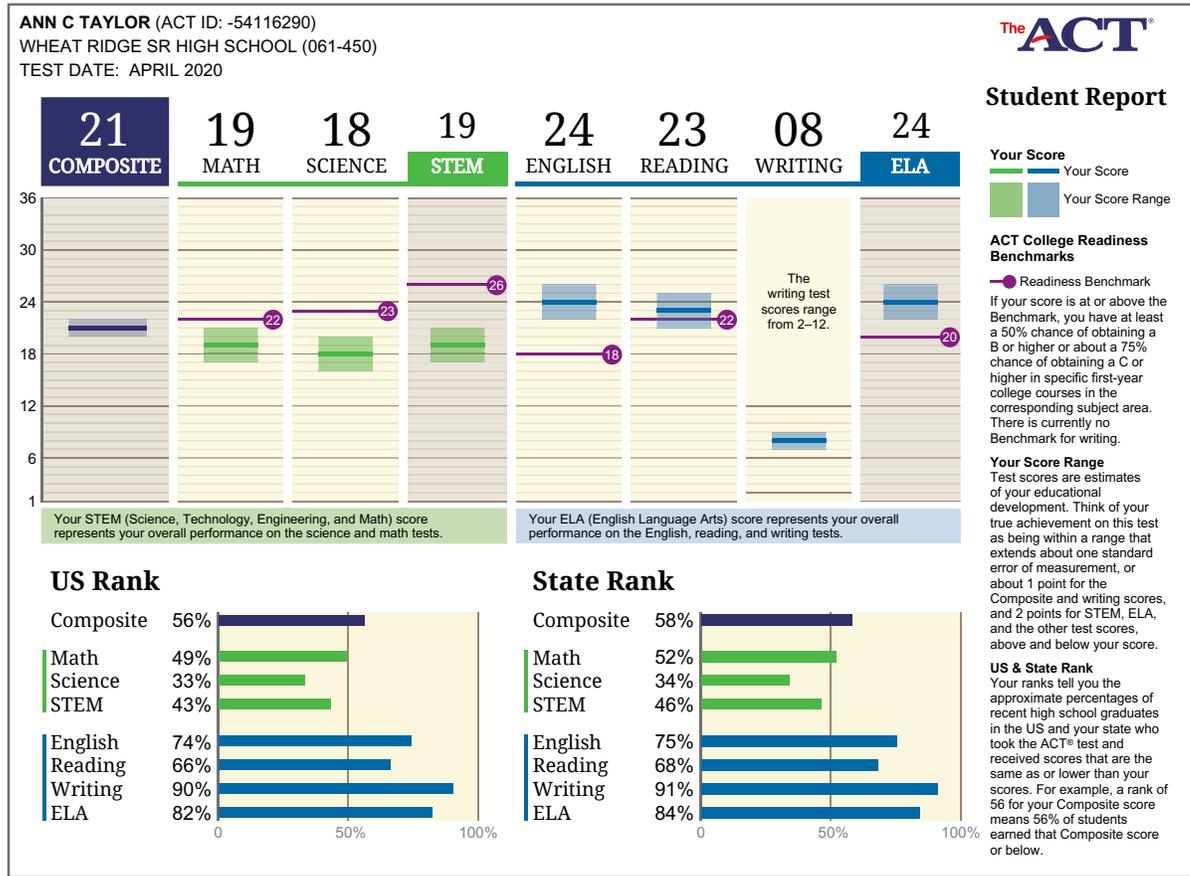
Esta publicación también se puede ver o descargar en español.

While the information in *Using Your ACT Results* is also provided on the *Student Score Report*, this document provides a convenient reference for your score report on the following topics:

- Your Composite score and scores for each subject, including the writing test if you took it.
- Your scores on the combined STEM and ELA indicators.
- Your scores in relation to the ACT College Readiness Benchmark and the Readiness Range for each subject test.
- Your scores in comparison to scores of other students who took the ACT in the US and in your state.
- Detailed results for each reporting category within each subject you took.
- Your Progress Toward the ACT National Career Readiness Certificate® indicator.
- Sending your scores to colleges.
- Using your scores for college and career planning.
- Whether you should retest based on your current ACT scores.
- ACT services and policies related to taking the test and how we scored your test.

# Understanding Your Scores

Here's some information about the main graphic on your score report.



We counted your correct answers on each subject test. We didn't take off points for wrong answers. Then, we converted your number of correct answers into a score that ranges from 1 to 36. We call these **subject test scores**. Your **Composite score** is the average of your four multiple-choice subject test scores, rounded to the nearest whole number. If you left any test completely blank, that score is reported as two dashes and no Composite score is computed.

For the subject test, Composite, writing, STEM, and ELA scores, you'll notice that your score report shows the specific line (thicker on the graphic) of your score, and it also shows a shaded area around this line. This is your **Score Range**. Test scores are estimates of your educational development. Think of your achievement on these tests as being within a range that extends about 1 point for the Composite score and the writing test and 2 points for STEM, ELA, and the subject test scores. The shaded areas represent this range for each score.

The writing test is graded by two raters who score your essay on a scale of 1 to 6 in each of the four writing domains. Each of these domains represents essential skills and abilities that are necessary to meet the writing demands of college and career. Your domain scores (shown below the main graphic), ranging from 2 to 12, are a sum of the two raters' scores. Your writing score is the average of your four domain scores rounded to the nearest whole number.

<b>WRITING</b>	<b>08</b>
Ideas & Analysis	8
Development & Support	8
Organization	9
Language Use & Conventions	8

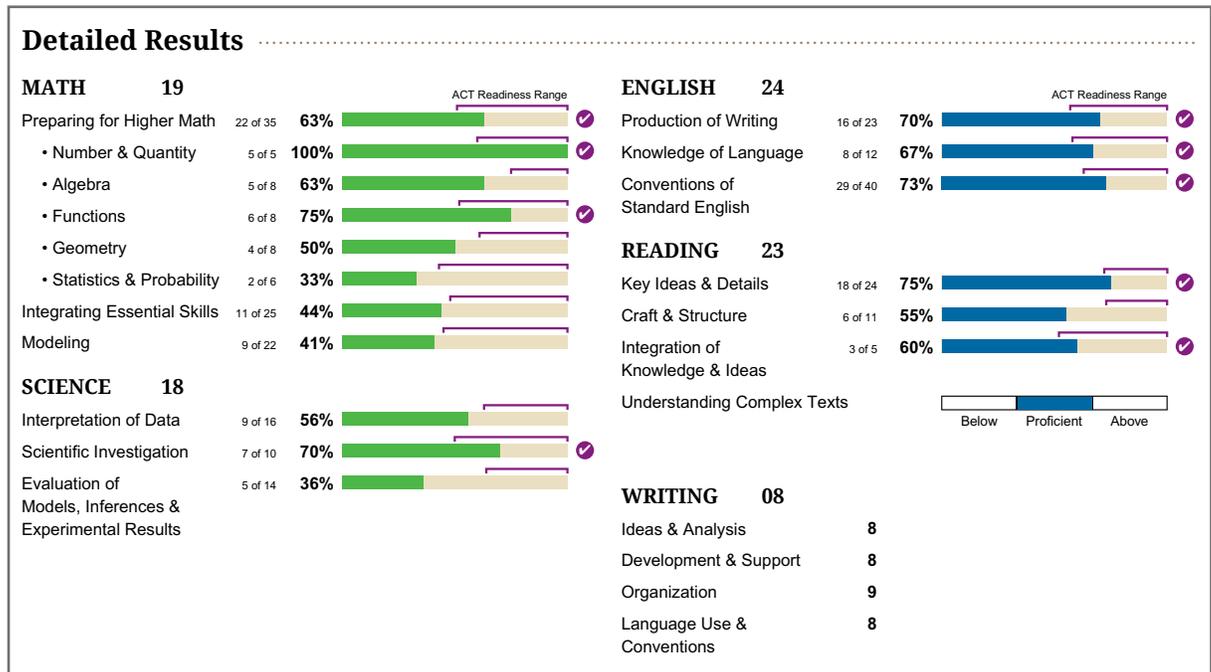
To learn more about what your writing scores mean, visit [www.act.org/the-act/writing-scores](http://www.act.org/the-act/writing-scores).

Your **STEM** and **ELA** scores represent your overall performance on the specific subject tests you took. The STEM score looks at the science and mathematics tests to produce a combined score, and the ELA does the same for the English, reading, and writing tests. If you didn't receive a score for one of the subject areas, no STEM or ELA score will be produced.

The main graphic on your score report also shows how your scores relate to the **ACT College Readiness Benchmarks** for each multiple-choice subject (and also for the STEM and ELA scores). If your score for a test was above or equal to the Benchmark, it means you have a 50% chance of obtaining a B or higher, or about a 75% chance of obtaining a C or higher in specific first-year college courses in the corresponding subject area. There is currently no Benchmark for writing.

Finally, you'll see a section about your **US and State ranks** for the different subject tests, as well as the Composite, ELA, and STEM scores. Your ranks tell you the approximate percentages of recent high school graduates in the US and your state who took the ACT and received scores that are the same as or lower than your scores. In the example of the Composite score on the previous page, a rank of 56 for your Composite score means 56% of students earned a Composite score of 21 or below.

Further down on the first page of your score report, you'll notice a breakdown of each subject test by the different reporting categories that are included.



This graphic shows how many questions were included for each reporting category, and your percentage of correct answers. There are also indicators of whether or not you fell within the **ACT Readiness Range** for each subject. The ACT Readiness Range shows where a student who has met the ACT College Readiness Benchmark on this subject test would typically perform.

For the reading test, you'll see an additional indicator measuring how well you did in **Understanding Complex Texts**. This indicator lets you know if you are understanding the central meaning of complex texts at a level that is needed to succeed in college courses with higher reading demand.



# Sending Your Scores

A score report (including your photo) was automatically sent to the high school you reported when registration was completed for the test. Your school will use this information for counseling, evaluating the effectiveness of instruction, and planning changes and improvements in the curriculum.

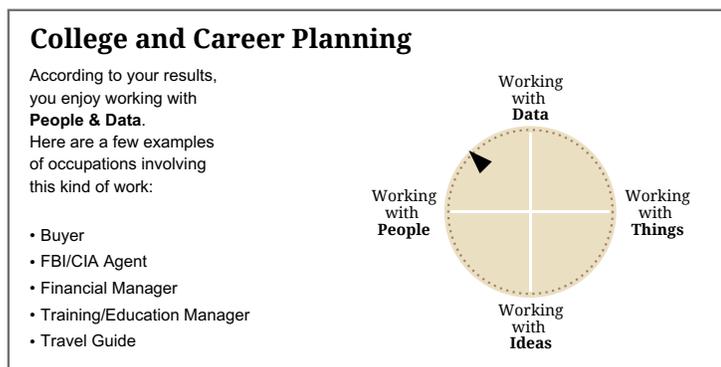
At your direction, your scores from this test date are also being reported to the colleges shown. (Be aware that when you send a report to a college that is part of a school system, the college may share your score with other colleges in that system.) Institutions use your test scores along with high school grades, academic preparation, out-of-class accomplishments, future plans, and other factors to help identify applicants who can benefit most from their programs. In addition, colleges can use results on the ACT to assist scholarship/loan agencies in identifying qualified candidates, place students in first-year courses, and help students develop an appropriate program of study.

If you listed a college code incorrectly or forgot to include one, don't worry! You can still send scores to other colleges. Visit [www.act.org/the-act/scores](http://www.act.org/the-act/scores) to explore student resources or to order additional score reports.

# Planning Your Education and Career

Where are you going? Knowing your interests can help you find the kinds of majors and occupations that may be right for you. Before you took the ACT, you had the opportunity to complete an interest inventory. Your inventory results can suggest occupations that involve the kinds of activities you prefer.

Occupations differ widely in how much they involve working with four basic work tasks: Data, Ideas, People, and Things. These four tasks are reflected in the **College and Career Planning** graphic on your score report. If you completed the interest inventory, the graphic visually summarizes your work-relevant interests by pointing toward occupations that involve the kinds of basic work tasks you prefer.





# Retesting with the ACT

If, after getting your scores, you're thinking of retaking the ACT, consider if one or more of the following applies to you:

- Do you feel that your scores should be higher than those received?
- Did you have any problems during the tests, like misunderstanding the directions or feeling ill?
- Have you taken more coursework or an intensive review in the areas covered?
- Do you want to apply to a college that requires or recommends the writing test?

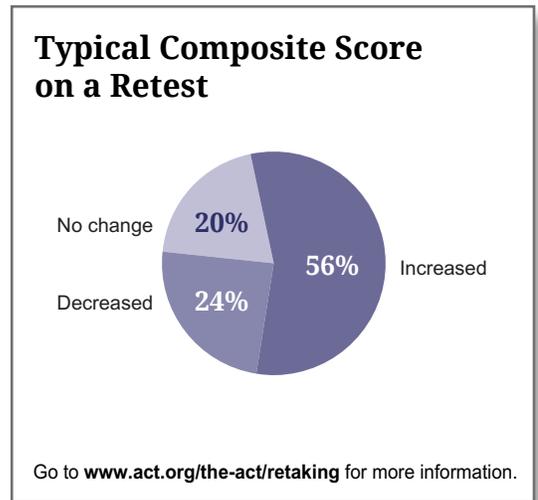
The graphic below shows how the Composite score is typically affected by a retest. Go to [www.act.org/the-act/retaking](http://www.act.org/the-act/retaking) for more information.

Certain restrictions apply to retesting:

- You can test only once on a given ACT test date (National, International, or through State testing or District testing).
- ACT has a policy regarding the number of times you can retake the ACT. Visit [www.act.org/the-act/retestlimit](http://www.act.org/the-act/retestlimit) for more information.

There are also guidelines for which scores get reported by ACT if you retest:

- If you test more than once, you choose which test date or set of scores to send to colleges.
- All scores from a test date are reported as a set. ACT does not create new records by combining scores from different test dates.
- If you want to report your writing score, all scores from that test date will be reported. You can't choose to send a score for the writing test by itself.



# ACT Services and Policies

## ACT Services

### REQUESTING A COPY OF YOUR TEST QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

If you tested on one of the test dates below, you can order a Test Information Release (TIR) for an additional fee. Fee information is located at [www.act.org/the-act/fees](http://www.act.org/the-act/fees). Through TIR, you receive a copy of the multiple-choice test questions used to determine your scores, a list of your answers, and the answer key. If you took the writing test, you also receive a copy of the writing prompt, scoring guidelines, and the scores assigned to your essay. Approved accommodated formats are available upon request for examinees taking Special testing. Information about ordering a photocopy of your answer document (including your essay if you took writing) for an additional fee will be included with your materials.

#### National Test Dates

- ~ Saturday, December 14, 2019 (June 15, 2020)
- ~ Thursday, April 2 through Monday, April 6, 2020 (October 5, 2020)
- ~ Saturday, June 13, 2020 (December 14, 2020)

#### Special Testing Window

- ~ Saturday, April 4 through Sunday, April 19, 2020 (October 5, 2020)

Materials are mailed about four to seven weeks **after** scores are reported. You can also order a TIR for six months after the applicable test date. Postmarked deadlines are in parentheses above. You can download the order form at [www.act.org/the-act/tir](http://www.act.org/the-act/tir).

This service is not offered on any other test dates or through other testing programs (e.g., International, State and District). If for any reason ACT has to replace the test form scheduled for use at your test center, this offer becomes void, and ACT will refund your fee for this service.

## SCORE VERIFICATION SERVICE

You can ask ACT to verify your multiple-choice and/or your writing test scores up to twelve months after your test date. A verification request form is available at [www.act.org/the-act/scores](http://www.act.org/the-act/scores). You will need to complete the form and mail to:

ACT Customer Care  
PO Box 414  
Iowa City, IA 52243-0414, USA

Enclose a check payable to ACT Customer Care for the applicable fee.

For multiple-choice tests, ACT will verify that your responses were checked against the correct score key.

For writing tests, ACT will verify that your essay was scored by at least two independent, qualified readers and by a third reader in the event that the two scores differed by more than one point in any domain. ACT will also verify that your essay was properly captured and displayed to readers. If errors are discovered during score verification, ACT will rescore your essay.

ACT will inform you by letter of the results of the score verification about three to five weeks after receiving your request. If a scoring error is discovered, your scores will be changed and corrected reports will be released to you and all previous score report recipients at no charge. In addition, your score verification fee will be refunded. You may also request to be present for verification of your multiple-choice responses—without access to the test questions—at an ACT-designated location. **Additional fees will apply.**

## CORRECTING ERRORS ON YOUR REPORT

If you think there is an error in information other than your scores or you want to change information (e.g., address change) **within three months** of receiving your scores, write to:

ACT Customer Care  
PO Box 414  
Iowa City, IA 52243-0414, USA

If an error is found to have been made by ACT and requires you to retest, it will be at the expense of ACT. If an error is found to have been made by ACT and does not involve retesting, corrected score reports will be sent to you and all previous score recipients at no charge. If an error is not found to be made by ACT and you wish to send corrected reports, you must request and pay for Additional Score Reports.

We regularly prepare reports on the technical characteristics of the ACT tests. A PDF copy of the *ACT Technical Manual* can be found at [www.act.org/the-act/resources](http://www.act.org/the-act/resources).

**For more information on using your ACT results, visit [www.act.org/the-act/scores](http://www.act.org/the-act/scores).**

## ACT Policies

*The following is a brief selection from ACT's Terms and Conditions: Testing Rules and Policies for the ACT® Test ("Terms"). A full copy of these Terms is available at [www.act.org/the-act/terms](http://www.act.org/the-act/terms). For complete information about any ACT policies, see [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org).*

### Section 1: Privacy Policy and Notice of Collection of Personally Identifying Information

ACT collects personally identifying information from you when you register for or take one of our tests. Our processing of such information, including collection, use, transfer, and disclosure, is described in the ACT Privacy Policy found at: [www.act.org/privacy](http://www.act.org/privacy). When you register for or take an ACT test, you consent to the collection of your personally identifying information and its use and disclosure as provided in the ACT Privacy Policy.

## Section 9: Individual Score Reviews

In some cases, testing staff do not suspect, observe or report prohibited behavior in the testing process, but other information comes to the attention of ACT that raises questions about the validity of your test scores. In these cases, ACT may choose to conduct an Individual Score Review.

**Notifying You of an Individual Score Review:** It is extremely important that you maintain accurate and up-to-date contact information with ACT and that you respond to ACT's correspondence in a timely manner. Failure to respond in a timely manner can result in the cancellation of your scores under review. You can update your mailing address by contacting ACT Customer Service at 319-337-1270 or updating your ACT Student web account.

**Timing of Individual Score Reviews:** You agree that your scores may become the subject of an Individual Score Review at any time they are on file with ACT as valid and reportable ACT scores. While Individual Score Reviews are typically initiated within a year after the applicable test date, this is not always the case. Information may come to ACT's attention at any time that causes a review of your scores. For example, investigations into recently reported scores or activities may cause ACT to reevaluate older scores; ACT may receive inquiries at any time from high schools, colleges, and other score recipients questioning scores they believe to be inconsistent with their observations of academic performance; or ACT may receive information through its Test Security hotline or from external investigations causing ACT to reexamine past scores. You acknowledge that your ACT scores have ongoing value even after they have been reported and agree that ACT has the right to review them at any time.

**Score Cancellation Notices:** If scores are cancelled for any reason, ACT sends a letter to everyone who received the scores directly from ACT informing them that the scores have been cancelled. ACT generally does not inform official score recipients of the reason for cancellation but may do so in exceptional circumstances (including but not limited to instances in which there is a Misconduct Finding).

## Section 10: Compromises in the Registration, Testing, Scoring, or Score Reporting Processes, and Group Irregularities

ACT takes steps that are intended to provide you a fair, standardized testing process. However, circumstances may prevent this from occurring in some cases.

In the unlikely event such a circumstance occurs, ACT will examine the situation and determine whether it needs to take any action, including but not limited to not scoring tests or cancelling scores. If ACT determines that it needs to take action, ACT will in its sole discretion: (a) correct the error (if an error occurred and ACT believes correction is feasible), (b) not score tests or cancel scores and offer each affected person the option to retest at no additional fee (normally on a future National test date), or (c) not score tests or cancel scores and offer a refund. If the impacted test event is a State Testing event (i.e., one where a state or district has paid for your exam), ACT may offer the option to retest you at no additional fee or it may cancel the test event without an option for retest.

**The remedies listed in this Section 10 are the exclusive remedies available to examinees for the circumstances described in this Section 10.**

ACT shall not be required to conduct Individual Score Reviews for each impacted group member or demonstrate the invalidity of specific scores in the circumstances described in this Section 10. Decisions made by ACT pursuant to this section are final. If ACT offers a retest and you select that option (or it is selected for you in State and District testing), you must retake all four multiple-choice tests to produce a valid Composite score. If you took the writing test on the original test date, you may also need to retake the writing test in addition to the four multiple-choice tests to produce a valid English Language Arts score.

### Section 16: LIMITATION OF LIABILITY AND DAMAGES

To the extent permitted by applicable law, ACT's total liability to you, or anyone claiming by or through you or on your behalf, for any claims, losses, costs, or damages arising out of, resulting from or in any way related to the ACT test, from any cause, shall not exceed the test registration fees you paid to ACT, or \$100, whichever is greater. To the extent permitted by applicable law, in no event shall ACT be liable to you, or anyone claiming by or through you or on your behalf, for any indirect, special, consequential, speculative, incidental, loss of opportunity (regardless of whether or how these are classified as damages), exemplary, or punitive damages, or for attorneys' fees, expenses, expert witness fees, or costs, whether arising out of breach of contract, tort (including negligence), strict liability, product liability, or otherwise and regardless of whether such loss or damage was foreseeable or you have been advised of the possibility of such loss or damage.

**Esta información también se puede ver o descargar en español a [www.act.org/the-act/resources](http://www.act.org/the-act/resources) en *Using Your ACT Results (Spanish) 2019–20*.**

