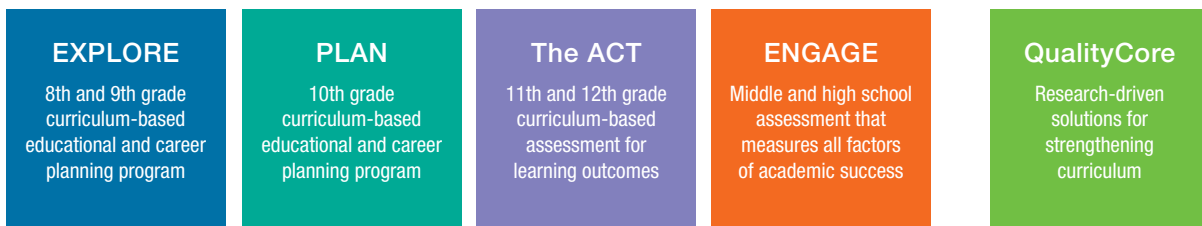


# ACT's College and Career Readiness At a Glance

ACT's College and Career Readiness System provides a longitudinal approach to educational and career planning through student assessment, curriculum support, and school improvement. Our research-based solutions help schools, districts, and states improve academic measurement, student readiness, and instructional designs.

## MEASURING STUDENT PROGRESS TOWARD READINESS



## IMPROVING COURSE RIGOR

### Measuring Student Progress Toward Readiness

#### EXPLORE®

Designed to help 8th and 9th graders explore a broad range of options for their future, EXPLORE is a curriculum-based educational and career planning program that measures achievement in English, math, reading, and science. As an early indicator of college readiness, EXPLORE gives educators the means to structure high school planning and career exploration for students and parents.

#### PLAN®

PLAN helps 10th graders build a solid foundation for future academic and career success. PLAN is a curriculum-based educational and career planning program that measures achievement in English, math, reading, and science. PLAN is designed to help 10th graders build rigorous high school course plans and identify areas of academic need so they can stay on track for college and work success.

#### The ACT®

The ACT is designed to assess 11th and 12th graders' general learning outcomes. The ACT is a curriculum-based educational and career planning tool that assesses mastery of state and college readiness standards. Accepted by all four-year colleges and universities, it is the college entrance test most preferred nationwide.

#### ENGAGE™

Suitable for middle and high school students and educators, ENGAGE is an ACT assessment that measures behaviors that affect academic success. ENGAGE captures students' perceptions of themselves, their families' commitment to education, school-related factors, and important biographical information.

### Improving Course Rigor

#### QualityCore®

Compatible with all high school core subjects, QualityCore is a research-driven solution used to raise the quality and intensity of high school core courses. QualityCore supports your current curriculum through rigorous ACT Course Standards, instructional resources, a formative item pool, end-of-course assessments, progress monitoring, and professional development.

### Supporting Solutions

#### Core Practice Audit

The Core Practice Audit is an objective evaluation of your district's current core practices, those practices most connected to teaching and learning, and it provides a blueprint for future school improvement strategies. The Core Practice Audit can help district leaders validate their current initiatives or realign their efforts to get all students college and career ready.

#### CoreWork® Diagnostics

CoreWork Diagnostics is a research-based school improvement program designed to help district, school, and core content leaders prioritize their initiatives and create concrete strategies to increase student learning. The online program brings together more than 10 years of research on higher-performing schools and provides leaders with actionable steps and a map for systemwide improvement.

## ACT's College Readiness Standards™

Our solutions are aligned with the ACT Career Readiness Standards, detailed, research-based descriptions of the skills and knowledge associated with what students are likely to know and to be able to do as they progress through school. The standards were developed in response to the need for better information about student achievement and to answer the often-asked question: What do scores really mean?

[www.act.org/standard](http://www.act.org/standard)

## ACT's College Readiness Benchmarks

While the College Readiness Standards describe the skills students likely have, ACT's College Readiness Benchmarks empirically establish college readiness as measured by performance on EXPLORE, PLAN, or the ACT. Benchmarks are the minimum English, math, reading, and science assessment scores required for students to have a 50% chance of obtaining a B or higher or about a 75% chance of obtaining a C or higher in the corresponding credit-bearing college course.

[www.act.org/research/policymakers/pdf/benchmarks.pdf](http://www.act.org/research/policymakers/pdf/benchmarks.pdf)

### ACT's Longitudinal Assessments

Score Scales	EXPLORE 8th and 9th Grade 1–25	PLAN 10th Grade 1–32	The ACT 11th and 12th Grade 1–36
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#### English Test Content and Number of Items

Punctuation	6	7	10
Grammar and Usage	8	9	12
Sentence Structure	11	14	18
Strategy	5	6	12
Organization	5	7	11
Style	5	7	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>75</b>
	<b>30 minutes</b>	<b>30 minutes</b>	<b>45 minutes</b>

#### Mathematics Test Content and Number of Items

Pre-Algebra	10	14	14
Elementary Algebra	9	8	10
Intermediate Algebra	—	—	9
Geometry	7	—	—
Coordinate Geometry	—	7	9
Plane Geometry	—	11	14
Statistics/Probability	4	—	—
Trigonometry	—	—	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>60</b>
	<b>30 minutes</b>	<b>40 minutes</b>	<b>60 minutes</b>

#### Reading Test Content and Number of Items

Prose Fiction	10	8	10
Humanities	10	9	10
Social Sciences	10	8	10
Natural Sciences	—	—	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>40</b>
	<b>30 minutes</b>	<b>20 minutes</b>	<b>35 minutes</b>

#### Science Test Content and Number of Items

Data Representation	12	10	15
Research Summaries	10	14	18
Conflicting Viewpoints	6	6	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>40</b>
	<b>30 minutes</b>	<b>25 minutes</b>	<b>35 minutes</b>

Optional Writing Test (the ACT only)—30 minutes

### Regional Contacts

#### ACT National Office

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Iowa City, Iowa 52243-0168  
319/337-1000

#### West Region

(AK, AZ, CA, HI, ID, NV, OR, WA)

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#### Mountain/Plains Region

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#### Denver, CO

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denver@act.org

#### Southeast Region

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KY, MD, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA)

#### Atlanta, GA

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#### Tallahassee, FL

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#### Midwest Region

(IA, IL, IN, MI, MN, MO, OH, WI, WV)

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#### Columbus, OH

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#### Southwest Region

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#### Austin, TX

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#### Northeast Region

(CT, MA, ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT)

#### Boston, MA

508/229-0111  
boston@act.org

### Important Contacts

#### The ACT

800/553-6244  
www.act.org

#### The ACT Student Website

www.actstudent.org

#### PLAN

877/789-2925  
www.act.org/plan

#### EXPLORE

877/789-2925  
www.act.org/explore

#### ENGAGE

800/553-6244, ext. 1893

#### QualityCore

866/764-0228  
www.qualitycore.org

#### Core Practice Audit and CoreWork Diagnostics

800/762-4645  
http://nc4ea.org

