

## Learn more about the Use of ACT<sup>®</sup> Scores for International Students

Take this opportunity to learn more about how ACT<sup>®</sup> scores relate to college outcomes for international students at your institution and nationally.

### Background

On July 28, 2016, ACT announced plans to move to a Computer Based Testing (CBT) design for ACT tests at all international test centers in the future. In light of these pending changes, your institution may be interested in collecting baseline information on the relationships between ACT scores and first-year college performance for international students at your institution.

ACT can assist your institution with this. In fact, for many years ACT has provided services to postsecondary institutions by using student-level data to assist them with course success research at the institution-level and in aggregate across institutions.

### Other Upcoming Opportunities

Two other potential research collaborations with ACT focusing on international students are currently being planned. To obtain validity data on the new ACT CBT International, we will be recruiting institutions in 2020 to obtain first-year performance data on international students. Prior to the launch of the new ACT CBT international, we are also planning to conduct a pilot study where we will administer the new ACT CBT international to 2018 and 2019 freshmen at the beginning of their first-term and then match their scores to first-year college outcome data. Keep an eye out for more details as we get closer to those dates.

### Data Collection

To receive the research services identified under the Benefits of Participating section, your institution must submit the following data elements for all first-time entering students from your freshman cohorts (both domestic and international students).

Preferably your institution would provide data for multiple cohorts (e.g., 2012-13 cohort through present):

- Student identifiers and characteristics (local student ID, full name, birthdate, gender, ELL indicator, high school attended, home ZIP code, resident country, international indicator, last 4-digits of SSN)
- Course information (title, number, content/subject area)
- Grades earned in courses
- First-term GPA
- Second-term GPA
- CIP major code
- ACT test score and test date (to assist with matching for international students)

Institutions are encouraged to use the standard data file layout ACT has developed to expedite data handling. (Details about the layout are available upon request.) You are encouraged to submit your students' entire first-year course transcripts.

### Benefits of Participating in the ACT International Student Opportunity

When you engage ACT in research services and predictive studies through the ACT International Student College Success Initiative, your institution will have the opportunity to:

- Receive selected free institution-specific reports for ACT-tested first-time entering students enrolled at your institution, including the Class Profile report, Admissions Service report, and Course Placement Service report
- Receive a matched ACT data file for use in your own institutional research projects
- Receive aggregate reports and conference presentation materials from multi-institutional studies
- Participate in free ACT webinars that share multi-institutional study results and explore ways institutions can use other data elements from the ACT (e.g., ACT Interest Inventory scores, intended major) to inform enrollment and retention strategies

### Confidentiality and Data Security

ACT will use student data specifically to provide research services to participating institutions and to conduct studies for or on behalf of the institutions to develop or validate predictive tests, consistent with the Family Education Rights Privacy Act (FERPA) and other FERPA requirements, as applicable. Personal identifiers will be used strictly for matching to ACT data sources.

For research purposes, data will be pooled and reported in aggregate across institutions. Institution-specific reports will be sent only to the primary contact from each participating school. In publications of research, institutions will not be identified without prior consent.

A secure file transfer protocol and site will be used to transfer data between institutions and ACT. All content stored on the site or in transit to/from the site will be password protected and encrypted for data security.

Two reports on our website ([www.act.org/research](http://www.act.org/research)) describe how ACT scores relate to first-year college success—[Updating the ACT College Readiness Benchmarks](#) and [Development of STEM Readiness Benchmarks to Assist Educational and Career Decision Making](#).

### ACT Contact and Next Steps

For more information about this opportunity, please contact Lakisha Bates at [lakisha.bates@act.org](mailto:lakisha.bates@act.org) or call 319.834.6140. Once you confirm your commitment to participate in this free research service, your institution and ACT will enter into the ACT Use of Data and Research Services Agreement.



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