

Colleges, universities, and scholarship agencies use scores on the ACT® test to make decisions about admission, scholarship awards, and course placement.

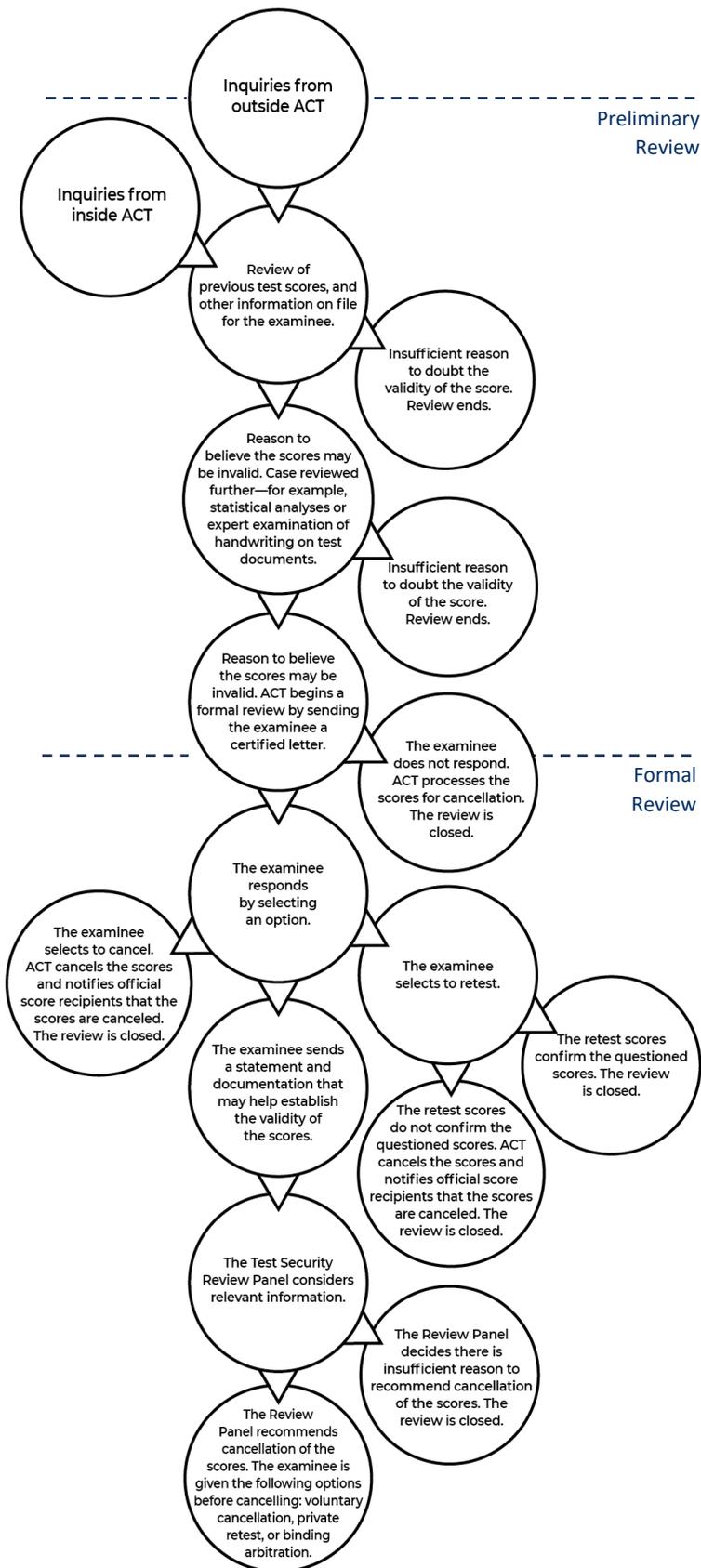
ACT takes very seriously its responsibility to report valid test scores that accurately reflect examinees' educational achievement and independent work. As a way of helping to maintain the integrity of test scores, ACT conducts reviews to respond to testing irregularities and situations where score validity may have been compromised. These reviews, known as Individual Score Reviews, are designed to fairly address concerns associated with an individual's ACT scores and to balance the interests of ACT, examinees, and score recipients in reaching a resolution. The purpose of this document is to summarize ACT's procedures related to Individual Score Reviews. Please consult the Terms and Conditions: Testing Rules and Policies for the ACT® Test for more specific information.

When registering to take the ACT, examinees agree to abide by the Terms and Conditions, including those concerning ACT's Individual Score Review process. The following excerpt is from the Terms and Conditions, available at www.act.org/the-act/terms:

"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 an examinee's test scores. For example, ACT may find unusual similarities in an examinee's answers and the answers of another examinee, indicators that an examinee may have falsified his or her identity or impersonated someone else, indicators of possible advance access to test questions or answers, or other indicators that an examinee's test scores may not be valid.

In these cases, ACT may choose to conduct an Individual Score Review. . . If your ACT scores become the subject of an Individual Score Review, ACT will send you a letter that gives you three options: (1) submit written information to ACT in support of your scores; (2) take a private retest at ACT's expense to confirm the validity of your scores; or (3) voluntarily cancel your scores. Additional details regarding these options will be provided in ACT's correspondence to you. . . If you choose to submit written information to ACT in support of your scores, this information is provided to a Test Security Review Panel, which will consider the totality of the evidence from you and ACT and will determine whether to recommend cancellation of the scores."

Figure 1. Steps in the Review of Test Scores



Identification and Review of Testing Irregularities

ACT does not engage in random reviews of test scores. Rather, in every case, some specific situation or instigating factor leads to the Individual Score Review.

Information external to ACT: ACT frequently receives requests to verify test scores from persons outside ACT. For example, a school counselor or a college admissions officer who has received a score report from an examinee may contact ACT because the examinee’s record of academic performance seems inconsistent with their test scores, or because the test scores from another or prior test date are substantially lower than the current scores. ACT generally treats all such requests as confidential.

Information within ACT: ACT staff may be alerted to irregularities in the scoring patterns of an examinee or in the answers of examinees at the same test center.

Individual Score Reviews are generally handled the same way regardless of the source or situation that initiates the review. ACT will first review information on file related to an examinee’s scores and any other available information. If there is not sufficient evidence to question the validity the scores, the review will be terminated without involving the examinee. Figure 1 shows the steps in the preliminary review of test scores.

If further review of the scores is warranted—for example, if there are unusual similarities in the answers of examinees at the same test center—ACT staff may conduct additional statistical analyses that provide further information about the validity of the scores. In other cases, an examinee’s test materials may be referred to a forensic document examiner for a handwriting analysis.

After careful consideration of all the available information, if ACT still has reason to believe a score may be invalid, ACT will send the examinee a letter stating the reasons for ACT’s concern and asking for the examinee’s assistance in answering questions about the scores. Figure 1 shows the steps in the formal review of test scores.

Confidentiality

ACT is sensitive to the privacy rights of examinees. The following describes ACT's typical practices regarding the confidentiality of Individual Score Reviews. ACT may make exceptions to these practices, but any such exception will be in accordance with the Terms and Conditions (www.act.org/the-act/terms), and ACT's Privacy Policy (www.act.org/content/act/en/privacy-policy.html).

In the typical case, only the examinee is advised of a pending Individual Score Review, and correspondence with the examinee is treated as confidential. If the examinee is a minor, ACT may release information regarding the Individual Score Review to a parent or guardian. In addition, ACT may communicate with a third party about an Individual Score Review if the examinee has provided written authorization for ACT to do so, or if the Individual Score Review becomes the subject of an arbitration or lawsuit. ACT encourages an examinee whose scores are reviewed to seek advice and counsel from parents, teachers, school counselors, and other trusted individuals. However, whether an examinee does so remains their decision.

ACT generally reports scores pending the completion of the Individual Score Review process, treats the questioned scores as valid throughout the Individual Score Review process, and does not inform official score recipients that an examinee's scores are being reviewed. If an examinee does not respond in a timely manner, does not participate in or unreasonably delays the Individual Score Review process, ACT may cancel those scores if it has a good faith reason to believe that the scores are invalid.

If the scores are cancelled at the conclusion of the Individual Score Review, ACT will inform official score recipients that the scores have been cancelled. ACT generally does not inform official score recipients of the reason for the cancellation, and the standard cancellation letter explains that ACT cancels scores for a variety of reasons, including examinee illness, mistiming of the test, disturbances or irregularities at a test center or at the election of the examinee. If a score is cancelled as a result of an Individual Score Review and that examinee has chosen to send those scores as part of Super Score, that Super Score will be updated to reflect the cancellation of a score.

Options Available in an Individual Score Review

The letter ACT sends to examinees when it begins an Individual Score Review offers the following options:

1. ***Voluntarily cancel the questioned test scores.*** At the examinee's request, ACT will cancel the questioned scores. ACT will notify official score recipients that the scores have been cancelled but generally will not give a reason for the cancellation unless the examinee has authorized ACT to do so.
2. ***Take a free, private retest to resolve the Individual Score Review.*** At the examinee's request, ACT staff will arrange a private retest at a location acceptable to ACT. The retest will be administered under secure conditions by testing staff selected by ACT. Additional identification procedures apply to examinees whose scores are being reviewed. Examinees may report their retest scores to official score recipients.

If an examinee retests and achieves a Confirming score, and the retest is a valid administration, both the questioned and the retest scores will remain in ACT's records, and the Individual Score Review will be closed. If the examinee does not achieve a Confirming score, the questioned scores will be cancelled and removed from ACT's records, and official score recipients will be informed that the scores have been cancelled.

3. ***Provide a statement and supporting documentation that may help establish the validity of the questioned test scores.*** An examinee who selects this option may submit a school transcript, a statement in their own words supporting the validity of their questioned scores, and any other supporting documentation to the Test Security Review Panel.

The Test Security Review Panel, an impartial group of professional ACT staff who make recommendations about challenged test scores, reviews the information provided by an examinee who selected this option.

The Review Panel considers the examinee's statement and documentation, the academic preparation in the subject areas measured by the ACT, the consistency of the questioned scores with the results of any other available college admissions test scores, the results of ACT's review, and other relevant information. The Review Panel recommends, based on the totality of the evidence, whether there is substantial evidence that the scores are not valid. ACT will notify the examinee of the Review Panel's decision. If the Review Panel recommends that the questioned scores be cancelled, ACT will notify the examinee, and the notification will also explain that the examinee has the option to challenge the Review Panel's recommendation.

Section 14 of the Terms and Conditions describes the options available to examinees for challenging ACT's decision.

ACT's arbitrations with examinees are generally conducted by the American Arbitration Association ("AAA") in accordance with its Consumer Arbitration Rules. The AAA is a public service, not-for-profit organization dedicated to helping resolve disputes.

ACT is not related to or affiliated with the AAA in any way. The arbitrations are conducted through written submissions unless the arbitrator decides that a hearing is necessary. For Disputes related to score cancellation decisions made as part of an Individual Score Review, the issue for arbitration is whether ACT has a good faith reason to believe that the questioned scores are invalid. Proof of misconduct is not required to cancel scores. Most of the filing fee for arbitration will be paid by ACT, but the examinee will pay a portion of the fee, as permitted by the AAA's rules. Under the September 1, 2018 AAA Consumer Arbitration Rules, if an examinee arbitrates a decision by ACT to cancel their test scores, the examinee will pay a filing fee of \$200 to the AAA as the examinee's share of the filing fee. This fee is payable in full when a claim is filed. ACT will pay a \$1,700 filing fee and a \$1,500 arbitrator compensation fee.

Fairness

ACT encourages and appreciates examinees' participation in resolving concerns about their ACT scores. ACT's procedures give examinees an opportunity to participate in the Individual Score Review process before a final decision is made regarding the validity of their scores, thereby respecting the interests of examinees while maintaining the fairness and integrity of the ACT testing program for all examinees.



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