

# Fall 2025 Updates to the ACT® Progress Toward Career Readiness Indicator

This document is intended to help ACT® score report users understand how the ACT Progress Toward Career Readiness indicator was derived and how it was updated for the 2025–2026 ACT testing year.

The **ACT® WorkKeys® National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC®)** is a portable, evidence-based credential earned by completing three assessments: Applied Math, Graphic Literacy, and Workplace Documents. The WorkKeys NCRC certifies foundational workplace skills required for success across a wide range of industries and occupations. It is awarded at four levels: Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum. More details on the WorkKeys NCRC are provided [here](#).

Students who take the ACT test receive the **Progress Toward the WorkKeys NCRC indicator**, which predicts their likely NCRC level based on their ACT Composite score. This indicator was updated before the 2025–2026 ACT testing year, using the most recent data from students who completed both the ACT and the three WorkKeys Assessments. The update reflects a change in the ACT Composite score calculation, which now averages the English, math, and reading scores—excluding science.

The updated indicator estimates the WorkKeys NCRC level students are likely to earn if they were to take the WorkKeys Assessments at approximately the same time as the ACT test. The table below shows how the ACT Composite score ranges align with predicted WorkKeys NCRC levels, highlighting changes effective in fall 2025:

**ACT Composite Score Ranges Corresponding to Predicted WorkKeys NCRC Levels**

Predicted NCRC Level	Prior to Fall 2025	Updated for Fall 2025
Non-Qualifier	1–12	1–12
Bronze	13–16	13–15
Silver	17–21	16–20
Gold	22–26	21–26
Platinum	27–36	27–36

To inform this update, ACT analyzed data from a sample of 338,832 students who took both the ACT and WorkKeys Assessments within one academic year of one another, between fall 2022 and summer 2025. The sample was 51% female and 49% male, with the following racial/ethnic composition: 49% White, 29% Black, 14% Hispanic, 5% two or more races, 2% Asian, and 1% Native American. The data was weighted to balance the share of students who took the ACT before taking the WorkKeys Assessments with the share of students who took the WorkKeys Assessments before taking the ACT. The average ACT Composite score in the sample

was 18.5. Among these students, 11% earned a Platinum NCRC, 17% earned a Gold NCRC, 29% earned a Silver NCRC, 29% earned a Bronze NCRC, and 15% did not qualify for an NCRC.

The table below presents the percentage of students earning each NCRC level and the predicted NCRC, by ACT Composite score. (Scores below 8 are excluded due to small sample sizes.) For each ACT Composite score, the predicted NCRC was the most frequent NCRC level for which at least 50% of the students had scored at that level or higher.

ACT Composite	N	Percentage Earning NCRC Level					Predicted NCRC
		Non-Qualifier	Bronze	Silver	Gold	Platinum	
8	631	64.5%	29.3%	4.7%	0.5%	1.0%	Non-qualifier
9	1,561	62.2%	31.7%	5.2%	0.4%	0.5%	Non-qualifier
10	4,733	58.6%	35.6%	5.4%	0.4%	0.0%	Non-qualifier
11	14,508	58.9%	33.9%	6.3%	0.7%	0.1%	Non-qualifier
12	29,480	49.2%	40.7%	9.1%	1.0%	0.1%	Non-qualifier
13	34,303	33.3%	48.7%	16.2%	1.7%	0.1%	Bronze
14	32,319	20.5%	50.9%	25.4%	2.9%	0.2%	Bronze
15	29,651	12.1%	46.6%	35.2%	5.8%	0.3%	Bronze
16	26,445	8.1%	38.0%	43.8%	9.4%	0.6%	Silver
17	23,699	5.4%	29.7%	48.6%	14.9%	1.4%	Silver
18	21,483	4.1%	22.1%	49.6%	21.5%	2.7%	Silver
19	18,840	2.8%	16.1%	48.0%	28.6%	4.6%	Silver
20	16,823	2.1%	11.5%	43.4%	35.1%	7.8%	Silver
21	14,322	1.9%	7.8%	37.9%	40.0%	12.4%	Gold
22	12,398	1.7%	5.6%	30.3%	44.3%	18.0%	Gold
23	10,562	1.6%	4.3%	25.0%	45.0%	24.1%	Gold
24	8,990	1.3%	3.1%	19.7%	44.1%	31.8%	Gold
25	7,391	1.1%	2.2%	15.1%	41.2%	40.3%	Gold
26	6,184	1.0%	1.9%	11.4%	38.6%	47.1%	Gold
27	4,991	0.9%	1.3%	9.6%	33.2%	55.1%	Platinum
28	4,204	1.0%	0.9%	6.8%	31.0%	60.2%	Platinum
29	3,563	0.8%	0.7%	5.2%	26.3%	67.1%	Platinum
30	2,927	0.7%	0.7%	3.8%	20.7%	74.1%	Platinum
31	2,550	0.5%	0.7%	4.1%	18.2%	76.4%	Platinum
32	2,036	0.5%	0.4%	2.3%	12.4%	84.3%	Platinum
33	1,530	0.7%	0.8%	2.2%	9.7%	86.6%	Platinum
34	1,105	0.9%	0.5%	0.9%	8.2%	89.5%	Platinum
35	735	0.7%	0.1%	0.4%	4.9%	93.9%	Platinum
36	201	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	5.5%	94.0%	Platinum