



2025 | 2026

Using Your ACT Results

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For more information, see

[Esta publicación también se puede ver o descargar en español.](#)

www.act.org

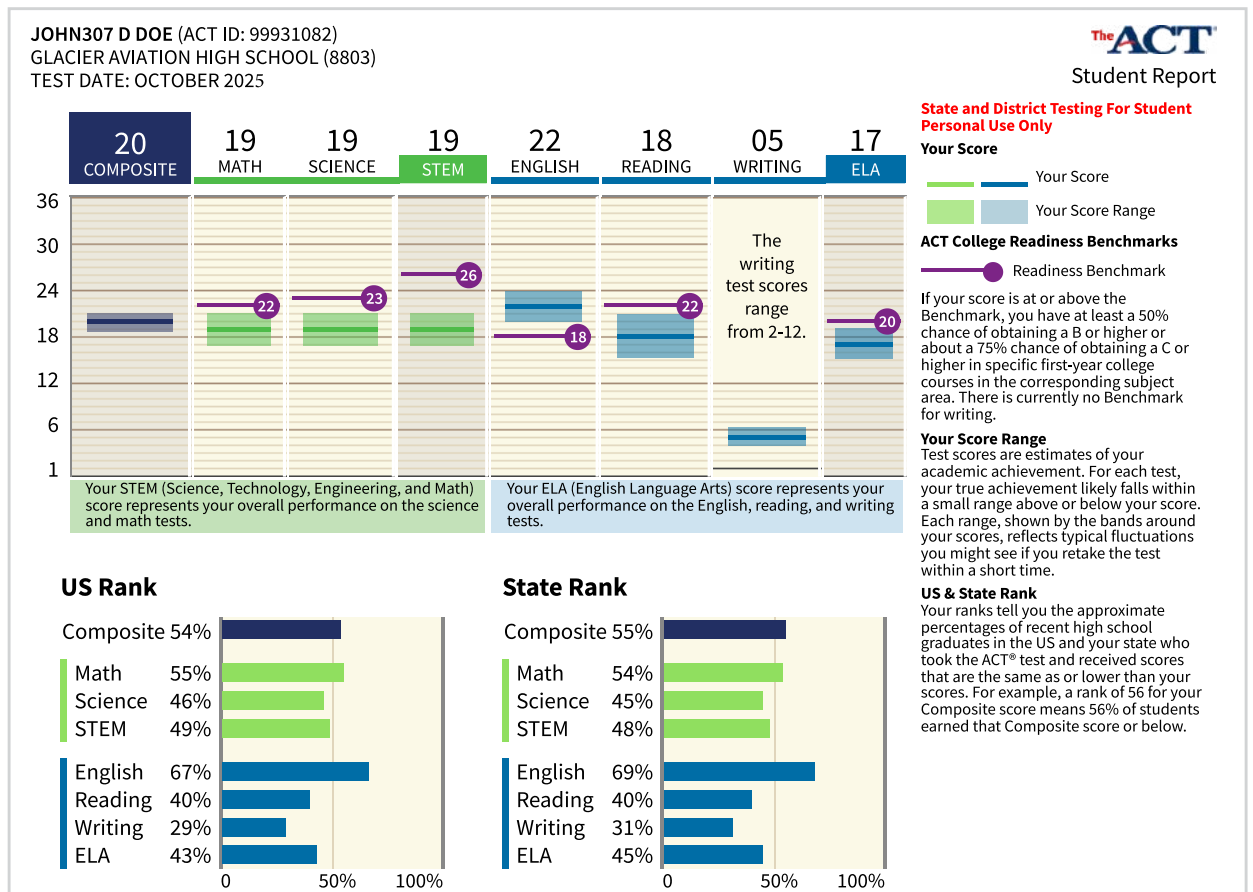
The **ACT**®

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 math, English, and reading 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 academic achievement. For each test, your true achievement likely falls within a small range above or below your score. Each range, shown by the bands around your scores, reflects typical fluctuations you might see if you retake the test within a short time.

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.

WRITING	05	If you took the writing test, your essay was scored on a scale of 1 to 6 by two raters in each of the four writing domains. These domains represent essential skills and abilities that are necessary to meet the writing demands of college and career. Your domain scores, 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. To learn more about your writing score, visit www.act.org/the-act/writing-scores  .
Ideas & Analysis	4	
Development & Support	4	
Organization	4	
Language Use & Conventions	6	

Dashes (-) indicate information was not provided or could not be calculated.

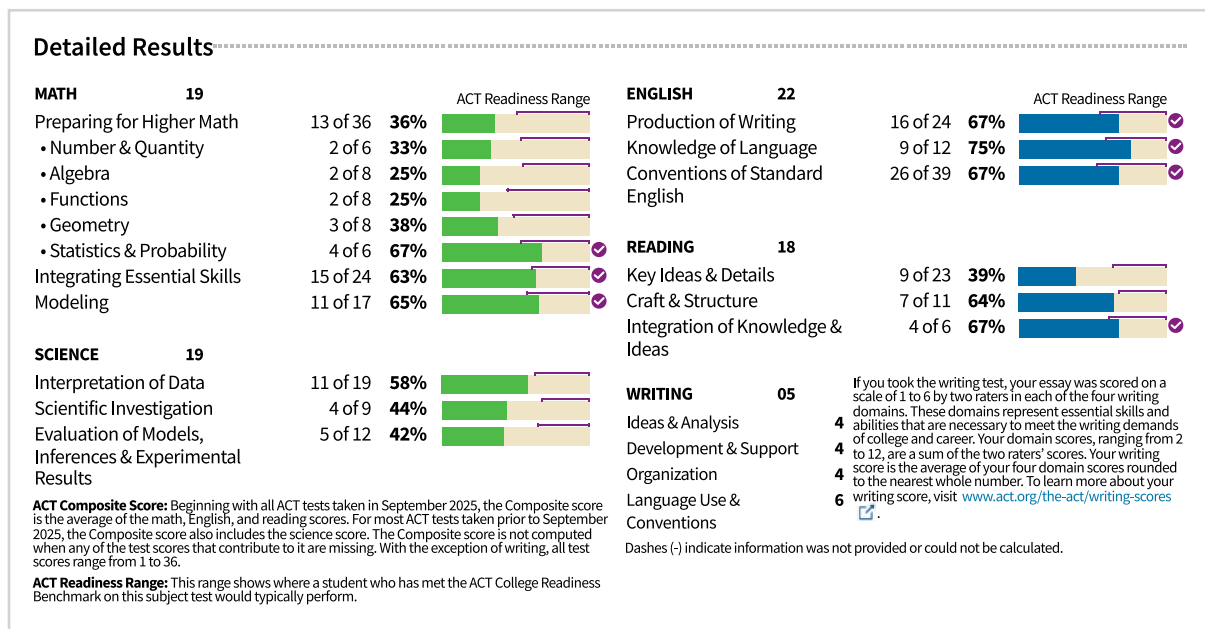
To learn more about what your writing scores mean, visit www.act.org/the-act/writing-scores.

Your **STEM** and **ELA** scores represent your overall performance on the specific subject tests you took. The STEM score looks at the science and math 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.

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 to explore student resources or to order additional score reports.

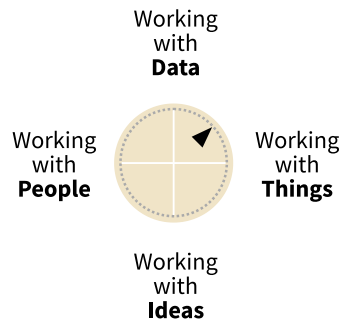
Planning Your Education and Career

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.

According to your results, you enjoy working with **Data and Things**. Here are a few examples of occupations involving this kind of work:

- Aircraft Pilot
- Database Administrator
- Detective (Police)
- Fish and Game Warden
- Soil Conservationist



In the graphic you'll also see sample occupations that align with these interests. Go to www.act.org/collegeplanning to learn more about yourself and find out about careers, majors, and colleges that may be right for you. It's free!

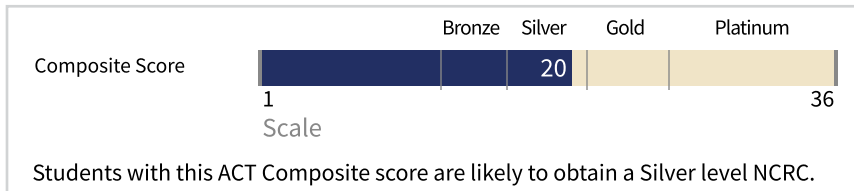
Interest-Major Fit

Do your interests fit the college major you plan to enter? Based on information you provided, you plan to enter **Business Admin & Mgmt, Gen.**



Your interests are fairly similar to the interests of college students in the major you plan to enter. Students in majors that fit their interests are often more satisfied with their major.

The **Progress Toward the ACT National Career Readiness Certificate®** indicator provides an estimate of the ACT National Career Readiness Certificate (ACT NCRC®) that students with your ACT Composite score are likely to obtain. The ACT NCRC is an assessment-based credential that documents foundational work skills important for job success across industries and occupations. Visit www.act.org/NCRC-Indicator to learn more.



In this example, a Composite score of 20 indicates that you or students with the same Composite score are likely to obtain a Silver level on the ACT NCRC.

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:

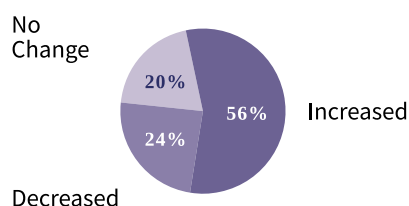
- Do you feel that your scores should be higher than those received?
- Did you have any problems during the tests, like misunderstanding the directions or feeling ill?
- Have you taken more coursework or an intensive review in the areas covered?
- Do you want to apply to a college that requires or recommends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

Certain restrictions apply to retesting:

- You may not receive scores from more than one test date during a scheduled national (Saturday, non-Saturday, or rescheduled test date arranged by ACT). If you are admitted and allowed to test a second time, we will report only the scores from the first test. The second or third set of scores will be canceled without refund.
- You may not receive scores from more than one test date per administration (initial or makeup) if your school participates in ACT State and District Testing. If you are allowed to test more than once, we will report only the scores from the first test. The second set of scores will be canceled.

Typical Composite Score on a Retest



Go to www.act.org/the-act/retaking for more information.

ACT Services and Policies

ACT Services

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. 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. **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.

For more information on using your ACT results, visit www.act.org/the-act/scores.

ACT Policies

Please note that you agreed to the ACT Terms Conditions: Testing Rules and Policies for the ACT® Test applicable at the time you took the test. The ACT Examinee Terms and Conditions include terms regarding the score review process and arbitration of disputes. ACT reserves the right to cancel the scores shown on this report. Scores may be canceled at any time and for a variety of reasons. For more complete information, please see the “Terms and Conditions Testing Rules and Policies for the ACT® Test” applicable to your test.

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. 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.

Esta información también se puede ver o descargar en español a www.act.org/the-act/scores en *Using Your ACT Results (Spanish)*.

