

# Partner with ACT to Examine the Use of ACT® Test English Language Arts and Writing Scores

Take this opportunity to learn more about how the new ACT English Language Arts (ELA) and enhanced writing scores relate to students' chances of success in typical first-year reading- and writing-intensive courses at your institution and nationally.

In September 2015, ACT introduced enhancements to the ACT writing test and began reporting an ELA score for students who have ACT English, reading, and writing scores. In light of these recent enhancements, your institution may be interested in examining the relationships between ACT ELA and writing scores and performance in reading- and writing-intensive courses for students at your institution. ACT can assist your institution with this.

## Benefits of Participating in the ELA/Writing Research Opportunity

For many years, the ACT Course Placement Service has used student-level data to assist postsecondary institutions with course success research. When your institution participates in this research opportunity, you will receive a **free** ACT Course Placement Report for specific English and social science courses.

The specific courses include English Composition I, English Composition II, English Literature, Speech, and the following reading-intensive courses from the social sciences: American History, World History, Psychology, Sociology, Political Science, and Economics.

Participating institutions will also receive an aggregate report of the multi-institutional results.

## Data Collection

To receive these research services, your institution must submit the following data elements for first-time entering students from your 2016–17 through present freshman cohort:

- Student identifiers and characteristics (local student ID, name, birthdate, gender, ELL indicator, high school attended, home ZIP code)
- Course information (title, number, content/subject area)
- Grades earned in courses
- First-term GPA
- CIP major code

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 course transcripts.

## 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 course success—[\*Updating the ACT College Readiness Benchmarks\*](#) and [\*Development and Validation of a Preliminary ELA Readiness Benchmark Based on ACT ELA Score\*](#).

## 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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