2 reasons why every point matters

A single point on your ACT® test Composite score can open many doors to getting into colleges or getting the best scholarships and financial aid.

Here are two big reasons why striving to get the best score possible on the ACT is worth the effort.

1 Opportunity

Your ACT score is a **big factor** in how colleges decide which students to admit (along with your GPA, class rank, activities, and courses you've taken).

Colleges want high-achieving students, and **getting high scores** on the ACT can help you **get their attention** when applying.

A typical 2016 test taker received an ACT Composite **score of 20**. But those who retested had an average Composite score of nearly **three points higher than single-testers.**

Here's how that score would compare to the **average ACT scores accepted** by these colleges for admission, compared to getting a score that's **three points higher**.

College or University	Chance of acceptance with ACT Composite score of 20	Chance of acceptance with ACT Composite score of 23
Boise State University	70%	80%
Bowling Green State University	69%	83%
Central Michigan University	59%	73%
New Mexico Military Institute	40%	50%
Oregon State University	66%	75%
San Jose State University	42%	55%
University of Memphis	32%	44%
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee	80%	88%
West Virginia University	75%	84%

Source: collegesimply.com

Note: Most colleges and universities do not make admissions decisions based on ACT scores alone. Other factors include GPA, class rank, course rigor, and student participation in activities.

2 Money

ACT test scores are also a big factor in **merit scholarships and awards**, or awards based on academic achievement.

A **single test point** can give you **access to thousands of dollars** in financial aid to pay for college.

A couple of examples:

Indiana University offers a merit scholarship. A single point on the ACT can be the difference between qualifying for $11,000 vs. $5,000 (Source: The College Solution)

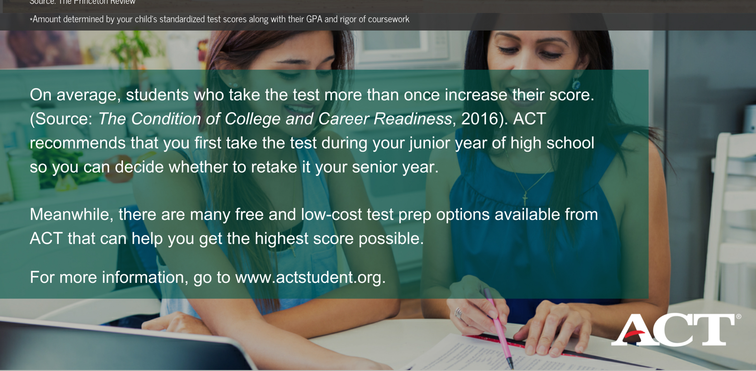
At The University of Iowa, a 3.85 GPA and a 30 Composite score can make you eligible for a $34,000 scholarship, while a 32 can make you eligible for a $74,000 scholarship. (Source: The University of Iowa)

Compare these examples to your score:

College or University	ACT Composite Score	Merit award (Average merit award for qualifying individuals)*
Emory University	31	$21,345
Lafayette College	29	$20,000
Saint Louis University	28	$15,643
Texas Christian University	27	$15,535
University of Miami	30	$17,841
Villanova University	30	$10,464
Wofford College	27	$18,874

Source: The Princeton Review

*Amount determined by your child's standardized test scores along with their GPA and rigor of coursework



On average, students who take the test more than once increase their score. (Source: *The Condition of College and Career Readiness*, 2016). ACT recommends that you first take the test during your junior year of high school so you can decide whether to retake it your senior year.

Meanwhile, there are many free and low-cost test prep options available from ACT that can help you get the highest score possible.

For more information, go to www.actstudent.org.

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