



## The ACT<sup>®</sup> International Computer-Based Test FAQs for Students, Parents and Counselors

### **Q1: When will the ACT<sup>®</sup> start as a computer-based test (computer based testing)?**

A: The first administration of the computer-based ACT to international examinees is planned for September 2018.

### **Q2: Will there be an option to take the paper version after the September 2018 launch?**

A: No. The computer-based ACT will be the only option for students outside the US—including Canada—who test on an international ACT test day.

### **Q3: Many students are worried they will not get a good score on the computer-based test because they have not taken one before. Will ACT provide practice opportunities that will simulate the test? How should students practice for the computer-based ACT test?**

A: In May, ACT released timed and untimed practice tests in the computer-based format, so that international students can have some experience taking a computer-based test. [Click here to try the practice tests.](#)

It is important to note that the only difference between the computer-based ACT and the paper version will be the administration format. The ACT test itself will not change.

As a result, test preparation materials such as *The Official ACT Prep Guide*, ACT<sup>®</sup> Online Prep, *Preparing for the ACT*, and officially licensed preparation programs—like the ACT Student Journey—offered by official ACT partners, will continue to provide students with exceptional information and practice that will help them prepare for the ACT, regardless of whether they take it via computer or paper. In many locations, ACT also offers ACT<sup>®</sup> Academy™, a free online resource that offers personalized suggestions for practice exercises and resources based on the results of an online diagnostic.

### **Q4: Is ACT looking to reduce the number of test dates?**

A: No. In fact, with the launch of the computer-based ACT in September 2018, we plan to expand the number of testing sessions from five up to 24, depending on location. In certain cases, capacity demands that we will only host one session per day or per test window. The registration system will show you which sessions are available at the time you register for the ACT test. ACT is committed to helping international students reach their education goals by offering our test in as many countries on as many dates as we can—while maintaining test security and keeping costs down.



**Q5: Will the computer-based test used internationally be comparable to the paper forms used in the US? How will colleges compare them?**

A: Yes. The only difference between the computer-based ACT and the paper version will be the administration format. Scores will mean the same thing and will continue to use the familiar 1–36 scale. College reportable scores will be provided to post-secondary institutions and admissions counselors in the same manner that they are today. To ACT’s knowledge, this will not result in any different expectations on score submission deadlines for students testing in a computer-based environment.

The ACT test has been administered via computer in the US, for state and district testing, since 2015. To gather information about the differences across the modes (computer-based vs. paper-based), and to learn about potential administration issues, ACT conducted comparability studies in 2014 and 2015, in operational testing environments where participating students received university-reportable scores.

Equating methodology was used for all four multiple-choice tests to adjust for any differences in scores across mode so that study were comparable to those from examinees taking the ACT on paper.

Expanding on these results, ACT is conducting additional studies to ensure comparability of scores on the computer-based testing model planned for administration outside the US. Results of these studies will be published after their completion.

**Q6: Will the results of the computer-based test have the same value to universities? How will they compare results with the American paper form?**

A: Yes. Scores on the computer-based version of the ACT will mean the same as those on the paper version, and universities will treat them the same. ACT has already shown the comparability of scores from tests taken via computer or paper to our university partners beginning in 2015. Additional research is underway with results to support score comparability to be published upon completion of the studies. Test scores will remain on the familiar 1–36 scale that universities use today when considering candidates for admission.

**Q7: How many sections will there be in the computer-based ACT, and how many questions in each section?**

A: This will be exactly the same as the paper version. The ACT test will have the same four content sections and continue to measure English (75 questions), math (60 questions), reading (40 questions), and science (40 questions), with an optional writing section (1 question).

**Q8: How will accommodations work in this new format?**

A: ACT is committed to providing a high-quality assessment that provides a level playing field and fair testing experience for all students, including those with disabilities. As a result, ACT will continue to provide accommodations to students who qualify. Students will continue to work with local school officials to request available accommodations via our Test Accessibility and Accommodations System (TAA).



**Q9: How will students with disabilities testing international, including in Canada, take the ACT with extended time?**

A: Starting in September 2018, ACT will begin offering a computer-based version of the ACT test internationally, including in Canada. All examinees will be able to access accessibility features via the computer-based version of the ACT test, including answer eliminator, answer masking, browser zoom, keyboard navigation, line reader, magnifier, and highlighter. In addition, eligible students may take the computer-based ACT test with timing code 6 or 50% extended time in one session.

Eligible students who require any amount of extended time, including 50% extended time in one session, or other accommodations not available via computer-based testing, may take the ACT via paper and pencil.

**Q10: How will students with disabilities choose between computer-based testing and paper and pencil testing?**

A: During registration, the student will indicate a need for accommodations to access the ACT. In addition, eligible students may take the computer-based ACT test with timing code 6 or 50% extended time in one session. After doing so, the student will be prompted to choose between a preference for a computer-based administration at a test center or a paper and pencil administration at his/her home school. If a student chooses a computer-based administration for timing code 6 (50% extended time), that student will schedule their test date and location themselves, within the registration system. If the student elects paper and pencil testing, scheduling will be done within the TAA system, as it does currently.

**Please note:** the computer-based administration is only available to students who can test with 50% extended time in one session. All other accommodations will be delivered via paper and pencil.

**Q11: How will students request accommodations for an International administration of the ACT?**

Accommodations requests will continue to be submitted by school officials via the Test Accessibility and Accommodations System (TAA). All requests, including requests for reconsideration, must be submitted via TAA by the late registration deadline.

**Q12: Why is ACT moving away from paper to the computer-based version? Is there something wrong with the current paper test?**

A: No, there is nothing wrong with the current paper test. The computer-based ACT, however, will provide a personalized, secure, scalable experience for test takers. ACT is moving away from paper testing in order to provide students with more opportunities to test and provide scores in a quicker manner. Although there is nothing wrong with the current paper test, it is ACT's mission to continue looking for ways to better meet the needs of its customers.



**Q13: Why is ACT starting the computer-based testing internationally? Will it be offered in the US?**

A: ACT is moving away from paper testing in order to provide students with more opportunities to test and provide scores in a quicker manner. Although there is nothing wrong with the current paper test, it is ACT's mission to continue looking for ways to better meet the needs of its customers. ACT has been delivering computer-based testing within the US since the spring of 2015 to students who test in a State or District testing program, where all students take the ACT in school, during school hours. States and districts have the option of using the computer version or the paper version.

**Q14: Will I be able to take this computer based test at my normal test center or at my home high school?**

A: The final list of test centers that will deliver the computer-based ACT is not available yet. To meet the growing demand, ACT will be using a combination of existing test centers that have the technical capability to deliver the computer-based ACT and new commercial testing centers. The initial list of test centers will be published on July 20, 2018. We anticipate adding more centers throughout the year, as more sites become available.

**Q15: When can a student expect to receive their scores?**

A: Students who take the ACT as a computer-based test may receive scores on the multiple-choice tests two business days after taking the exam. Scores on the optional ACT writing test will take longer than that, as the essays will continue to be scored by two professionally trained graders. We estimate writing scores will be returned two to three weeks after testing.

**Q16: Can ACT help find a test center for students who are having difficulty finding an open seat?**

A: Yes, if you have issues please email ACT Customer Care. Our representatives will work to help individuals with specific registration and scheduling questions. The email form can be found here: <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/contact-act.html>.

**Q17: What will the registration fee be for the 2018–2019 school year?**

A: For the 2018–2019 testing cycle, the ACT test without writing will be \$150. For an ACT test *with* writing, the fee will be \$166.50. This will still include sending scores to (up to) four institutions of the examinee's choice.





**Q18: Will the result be sent to the universities/colleges automatically?**

A: Scores will be sent to the colleges and universities of the examinees' choice, just as they are now. If students authorize their scores to be sent to particular universities by listing them during the registration process, those scores will be automatically sent when the scoring is completed. Test takers will be able to log in to the registration system and make changes to where their scores are sent up to 24 hours after completing the ACT test.

**Q19: Will the testing time remain the same on the computer based testing version of the ACT as they currently are on paper?**

A: Testing times will remain the same for computer-based testing as they are on paper. English will receive 45 minutes, mathematics will receive 60 minutes, reading will receive 35 minutes, and science will receive 35 minutes. If the optional writing test is taken, students will receive 40 minutes to complete this subject. The break times will also closely follow the paper-based testing model: after the first two tests, students will take a 15-minute break before continuing to the third and fourth multiple-choice sections. If they elect to sit for the writing exam, students will have five minutes after the science test to use the restroom or get a drink before beginning the writing section. Each examinee will be timed individually at their workstation, and the timers will begin automatically after each break.