



The ACT[®] International Computer-Based Test FAQs for Students, Parents, and Counselors

Q1: Is there an option to take the paper version of the ACT?

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

Q2: 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: 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 very important to note that the only difference between the computer-based ACT and the paper version is the administration format.

As a result, test preparation materials such as *The Official ACT Prep Guide*, ACT[®] 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.

Q3: Is ACT looking to reduce the number of test dates?

A: No. In certain cases, capacity demands that we host only one session per day 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 the ACT test in as many countries on as many dates as we can.

Q4: Will the computer-based test user internationally be comparable to the paper forms used in the US? How will universities compare them?

A: 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. University-reportable scores will be provided to post-secondary institutions and admissions counselors in the same manner that they are today.

The ACT test has been administered via computer in the US since 2015. To gather information about the differences between computer-based and paper testing 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 test formats so the studies were comparable to those from examinees taking the ACT on paper.



Q5: Will the results of the computer-based test have the same value to universities? How will they compare results with paper testing?

A: 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 and paper testing to our university partners, beginning in 2015. Test scores are on the familiar 1–36 scale that universities use today when considering candidates for admission.

Q6: How many tests will there be in the computer-based ACT, and how many questions are in each test?

A: This will be exactly the same as the paper version. There are four subject matter tests: English (75 questions), mathematics (60 questions), reading (40 questions), and science (40 questions) and an optional writing test (1 writing prompt).

Q7: How will accommodations work in this computer-based 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 provides 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).

Q8: How will students with disabilities testing outside the US—including Canada—take the ACT with extended time?

A: 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 (one-and-one-half extended time in a single session).

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

Q9: How will students with disabilities choose between computer-based testing and paper testing?

A: During registration, the student indicates a need for accommodations to access the ACT test. Examinees who can test with one-and-one-half extended time and on the computer in a single administration will be directed to schedule a test date and location in the registration system. Students requiring other accommodations will test via paper administration.



Q10: How will students request accommodations for an international administration of the ACT?

A: Accommodations requests are 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.

Q11: Why is ACT moving away from paper to computer-based version? Is there something wrong with the current paper test?

A: No. There is nothing wrong with the paper test. The computer-based ACT test, however, will provide a personalized and secure experience for test takers. ACT is moving away from paper testing in order to provide students with more opportunities to test and provide scores more quickly. 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.

Q12: When can a student expect to receive scores?

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

Q13: 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 is located here: <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/contact-act.html>.

Q14: Will the results be sent to universities automatically?

A: Scores will be sent to the universities of the examinees' choice. 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 scoring is complete. 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.



Q15: Are the testing times the same on the computer-based version of the ACT as they are on paper?

A: Testing times are for the same computer-based testing as they are for paper testing.

- English – 45 minutes
- Mathematics – 60 minutes
- Reading – 35 minutes
- Science – 35 minutes
- Writing (optional) – 40 minutes

The break times closely follow the paper-based testing model: after the first two tests, students take a 15-minute break before continuing to the third and fourth multiple-choice tests. If students elect to sit for the writing test, they will have five minutes after the science test to use the restroom or get a drink before beginning the writing test. Examinees are timed individually at their workstations, and the timers begin automatically after each break.