

# College and Career Readiness Assessment

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## Overview of the ACT

“The ACT test is the nation’s most popular college entrance exam accepted and valued by all universities and colleges in the United States. The ACT is based on what students learn in high school and provides personalized information about their strengths for education and career planning.” -ACT

## Questions and Answers

### Who takes the ACT?

To be eligible for graduation, all students, free of charge, must participate in Nevada’s College and Career Readiness (CCR) assessment during their junior year of high school. The State Board of Education chose the ACT as Nevada’s CCR assessment. A student’s ACT score will not be used to determine graduation eligibility, but can be submitted with college applications. Students are able to retake the ACT; however they will be responsible for covering the cost of the retake. The new scores from the retakes will not count in the Nevada School Performance Framework. The ACT is a nationally recognized college admissions exam that is accepted by all four-year colleges and universities in the United States.

### What content areas are assessed?

The ACT assesses the domains of English, Math, Reading, Science and Writing. The English section measures the understanding of English, production of writing and knowledge of language skills. The Math section measures mathematical skills typically acquired in courses up to the beginning of grade 12. The reading section measures reading comprehension commonly encountered in first-year college curricula. The Science section measures interpretation, analysis, evaluation, reasoning and problem-solving skills required in Biology, Chemistry, Earth/Space Sciences and Physics. The Writing section measures writing skills taught in high school English classes and in entry-level college composition courses.

### When is the ACT given?

The ACT occurs during late winter or early spring. Please speak with your student’s school for more detailed information regarding testing dates.

### What is the approximate testing time?

The ACT will take 3 hours and 35 minutes to complete. Students will be provided scheduled breaks throughout the duration of the exam in accordance with ACT and administrative break procedures.

## What is the test design?

- The ACT is a five part exam – English, Math, Reading, Science, and Writing
- The ACT is either given Online or in a Paper/Pencil format by the school the student is enrolled in.
  1. English – 75 questions, 45 minutes
  2. Math – 60 questions, 60 minutes
  3. Reading – 40 questions, 35 minutes
  4. Science – 40 questions, 35 minutes
  5. Writing – 1 prompt, 40 minutes

## What accessibility resources are available?

ACT is committed to serving examinees with documented disabilities by providing reasonable accommodations appropriate to the examinee’s diagnosis and needs. ACT has established policies regarding documentation of an examinee’s disability.

## How are scores reported?

Score reports will be posted on the student’s individual online ACT profile, which should be created prior to the student taking the ACT exam. Score reports provide information about a student’s performance on the ACT. It includes scores for each section as well as composite score and student specific college and career readiness data.

## Example of ACT Performance Results

| College Course      | ACT Score   | Benchmark (BM) Score | % Students Achieving BM Score Nationally |
|---------------------|-------------|----------------------|--|
| English Composition | English     | 18                   | 61                                       |
| Algebra             | Mathematics | 22                   | 41                                       |
| Social Science      | Reading     | 22                   | 44                                       |
| Biology             | Science     | 23                   | 36                                       |

A benchmark score is the minimum score needed on an ACT subject-area test to indicate a 50% chance of obtaining a B or higher or about a 75% chance of obtaining a C or higher in the corresponding credit-bearing college course.

## Where can I find more information?

- [NDE Assessment Website](#)
- [ACT Nevada Website](#)
- [ACT Accommodations Website](#)
- [ACT Understanding Your Scores](#)

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