

# PreACT<sup>®</sup> Secure

**ACT<sup>®</sup>**



ACT endorses the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_, which guide the conduct of those involved in educational testing. ACT is committed to ensuring that each of its testing programs upholds the guidelines in each Code. You may locate copies of these Codes through the following organizations:

- \_\_\_\_\_ : American Psychological Association ([www.apa.org](http://www.apa.org))
- \_\_\_\_\_ : National Council on Measurement in Education ([www.ncme.org](http://www.ncme.org))

# Understanding Your PreACT Secure Results in Three Quick Steps

Your PreACT Secure Student Report contains a lot of information about your skills, interests, plans, and goals. You can use this information to make sure your remaining high school courses are the best ones possible to prepare you for college and to help you consider your options for life after high school.

Use this guide, along with your PreACT Secure Student Report, to get a better sense of where you are, where you might want to go, and how to get there.

## How am I doing so far?

Your PreACT Secure Student Report shows your relative strengths and weaknesses in four subject areas important for success in college: English, math, reading, and science. Ask your counselor how you can improve in areas where you are not as strong.

## Am I on target for college?

Your PreACT Secure Student Report shows you how well you are learning the skills you'll need to be ready for college. Most likely, you have learned some of these skills better than others. Use your PreACT Secure Student Report to help you strengthen those skills that you still need to work on.

This guide will help you understand the information on your PreACT Secure Student Report and how it can help you. Later, visit [www.act.org/content/act/en/students-and-parents.html](http://www.act.org/content/act/en/students-and-parents.html) for more information on how to continue your College and Career planning.

# What Do Your Scores Mean?

**For PreACT Secure, your scores are between 1** (the lowest score you can receive) **and 35** (the highest score you can receive). PreACT Secure takes the number of questions you got right on each test and translates it into a number between 1 and 35 (called a “scale score”). Just like grades, your scores tell you how well you did on each test.

Because no test can measure educational development with absolute precision, it’s best to think of each of your PreACT Secure scores as a range rather than as a precise point. Your PreACT Secure score ranges are shown on your Student Report by the colored boxes on the graph below your scores. The heavy line within the colored boxes is your calculated scale score. The graph also includes light gray lines with a number next to it. These are the PreACT Secure Readiness Benchmarks. You can compare your score ranges to the benchmarks to see if you are on target to be ready for first-year college courses. We’ll discuss how you can use this information later in this booklet.

**Your Composite score is simply the average of the English, math, reading, and science test scores** (rounded to a whole number). In the same way your overall grade point average in school shows how well you are doing across all of your different classes, your PreACT Secure Composite score shows how well you did across the entire PreACT Secure test.

Your STEM score is the average of the math and science test scores. You can compare your STEM score to the PreACT Secure STEM Readiness Benchmark to see if you are on target to be ready for first-year college courses in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM)



## Progress Toward the ACT National Career Readiness Certificate

*Progress Toward the ACT National Career Readiness Certificate* provides information about your level of career readiness based on your PreACT Secure composite score. More specifically, this indicator provides an estimate of the ACT National Career Readiness Certificate (ACT® NCRC®) that students with your PreACT Secure Composite score are likely to obtain at 11th grade. The ACT NCRC is an assessment-based credential that documents foundational work skills important for job success across industries and occupations. Visit [www.act.org/NCRC-indicator](http://www.act.org/NCRC-indicator) to learn more.

# Your Plans for High School and Beyond

## Compare Your Courses to Core

**What is Core?** Core is a suggested minimum set of college preparatory courses to be taken in high school. When thinking about what courses you should take, consider not only the number of courses you take, but also the content, level, and challenge of those courses.

So, what courses should you be taking? Following are the minimum number of courses as recommended by *A Nation at Risk*, the prominent report on American education from the National Commission on Excellence in Education:

- 4 years of English
- 3 years of math
- 3 years of laboratory science
- 3 years of social studies

Talk to your counselor if your high school course plans fall short of Core.

Successfully completing additional courses like speech, trigonometry, calculus, physics, and advanced history can result in higher ACT scores. This means you're more likely to do well in typical first-year college courses.

## Compare Your Scores to Readiness Benchmarks

Thinking about college?

A college or technical education can open many doors for you. In fact, most jobs (and almost all high-paying jobs) require some education or technical training after high school. While college may seem a long way off, you can be preparing now by taking (and working hard in) challenging core courses in high school. This way, you'll have the best chance to learn the skills you need to be ready for college.

### PreACT Secure Readiness Benchmarks

How can you tell if you're on target for college? Your PreACT Secure results give you an early indication of how likely you are to be ready for college-level work if your academics continue at the current pace. ACT has identified benchmark scores that reflect the foundation you are developing for the skills you will need by the time you finish high school.

Look again at the graph on the first page of your Student Report that shows your scores for each test. Compare your score ranges (the colored boxes) to the PreACT Secure Readiness Benchmarks (the gray lines with numbers). Students that score at or above the PreACT Secure Readiness Benchmarks in English, math, and science are likely to be ready to do well in entry-level college courses in these subjects when they graduate from high school. Students scoring at or above the reading benchmark are likely to be developing the level of reading skills they will need in all of their college courses. Of course, this assumes students will continue to work hard and take challenging courses throughout high school.

## Your College Readiness Action Plan

Look at how your score ranges compare to the PreACT Secure Readiness Benchmarks on your Student Report.

- Are your score ranges at or above the benchmark scores? If so, you are doing well, but keep working hard. There is still a lot you need to learn.
- Are your score ranges below the benchmark scores? It's important to start taking action now. Talk to your teachers or counselor about how you can improve in these areas. Remember, there is still time to get on target. Review the suggestions for improving your skills on the back of your report.

Make sure you are taking the recommended number and level of core courses.

Begin thinking about what you would like to study in college.

Remember, you still have time to improve your skills before you graduate from high school, but you need to be sure you have a plan for your remaining high school years.

### RETENTION POLICY

We keep registration records for 5 years, answer documents for at least 1 year, and test scores indefinitely.



# Building Your Skills

The back of your Student Report describes the skills and knowledge you have probably already developed. You'll also see some ideas for building your skills and knowledge even further in the different subject areas. The descriptions and suggestions are based on your own scores and are intended to help you strengthen your skills and understanding in important ways in each subject area. You will want to discuss these ideas with your counselors, teachers, and parents so that you can work together to get the most from your courses and reach the goal of being "college ready."

## Free ACT Prep to Help You Improve Your Scores

ACT offers a free official ACT practice test. Each subject can be taken individually with an overall score and links to free resources provided. Examinees can find the free practice test and other resources at [act.org/testprep](https://act.org/testprep).

