



Guide to the ACT Exam

What is the ACT?

The ACT, originally an abbreviation of American College Testing, is a standardized test for college admissions. The test is owned and administered by ACT International. Historically the ACT was preferred by Midwestern colleges and universities, and the SAT by east and west coast institutions, but the majority of schools around the nation now accept either. The test takes three hours and forty minutes and costs \$59. There are four sections to the test: English, Math, Reading and Science Reasoning. There is an additional optional Writing section. Scores are calculated for each section and for the test as a whole, and for the full test range from 1 to 36. All sections are made up of multiple choice questions, except for the Writing section which includes a brief essay. The optional writing section affects the score of the English section only, with a maximum of a 2 point deduction or addition to the English score.

Students are encouraged to check the admission websites of schools that they are interested in to check that they accept the ACT, and to verify if they should take it with or without the optional writing section. Students often ask if they should take the ACT or SAT and this decision is individual, and best discussed with Laura Shope, college counselor.

ACT International does offer a fee-waiver program for low-income students. Please see Laura Shope if you think you might qualify.

When do the High School students take it?

The ACT is offered six times a year: September, October, December, February, April and June. At the Rudolf Steiner High School we recommend that the students first take the ACT in the spring of their eleventh grade year (February, April or June) and then if they wish to improve their score they can work on it over the summer and retake it in September or October of their twelfth grade year. The test is usually taken at a local community high school, such as Pioneer. There is no limit on the number of times that a student can take the ACT but studies have shown that after three attempts there is rarely a significant increase in scores. We do not recommend that a student take both the SAT and ACT.

Who schedules it?

Individual students and their families schedule and pay for the ACT themselves. ACT International offers online registration, and preparation support at <http://www.actstudent.org/regist/index.html>

How are the results used within the school?

At the High School the results are only used as part of the full program of college advising.

Questions?

If you have any questions or concerns about the ACT exam please speak with Laura Shope: 734-669-9394 or lshape@steinerschool.org