



ACT Strategy Session and Math Tips

Pudaloff - 2014

Where Will Your Scores Take You?

Every point counts!

Where will I be accepted?

The following is only a guide. Schools look at other factors, as well.

Institution	GPA Computed	Avg. GPA	Avg. ACT	Avg. SAT
Central	academics only	3.3	22	n/a
Eastern	all subjects	3.15	21	1010
Ferris	all subjects	3.0	20	n/a
Grand Valley	all subjects	3.6	23	n/a
Lake Superior	all subjects	3.1	21	n/a
Michigan State	academics only	3.7	25	1220
Michigan Tech	all subjects	3.5	26	1220
Northern	academics only	2.75	21	n/a
Oakland	academics only	3.2	22	n/a
OCC	all subjects	n/a	n/a	n/a
Saginaw Valley	all subjects	3.3	22	n/a
U of M – Ann Arbor	all subjects	3.6-3.9	27-31	1230-1420
Wayne State	all subjects	3.0	22	n/a
Western	all subjects	3.2	22	n/a

Institution	GPA Compute	Avg. GPA	Avg. ACT	Avg. SAT
Adrian	academics only	3.3	22	1110
Albion	academics only	3.5	25	1210
Alma	academics only	3.5	25	1170
Aquinas	all subjects	3.3	23	n/a
Calvin	all subjects	3.5	26	220
Hillsdale	academics only	3.7	26	1940
Hope	all subjects	3.7	26	1220
Kalamazoo	all subjects	3.7	28	1280
Kettering	academics only	3.6	26	1200
Lawrence Tech	academics only	3.0	22	n/a
Madonna	all subjects	2.75	21	n/a
Northwood	all subjects	2.9	21	n/a
Rochester College	all subjects	2.75	20	n/a
Sienna Heights	all subjects	3.2	22	n/a
U of D/Mercy	academics only	3.3	23	1030

Why students find the ACT difficult!

	ACT	High School
Number of Questions on the exams	Designed so you can't finish	Designed so you can finish
Answer Choices	Common errors included in answer choices	Not as many
Essay	30 min	Hours & weeks
Reading	Under serious time constraints	Read at home
Science	Little science needed	Science required
Math	No partial credit Process does not matter You should look for the wrong answers	Partial Credit Process matters Look for the correct answer
Questions	Intentionally hard	Straight forward

The ACT Test Writers!

The test writers:

- 1) intentionally make the questions time consuming
- 2) include trap answers
- 3) include words that lead you to the incorrect answer
choice



Basic Strategies

- Practice Makes Perfect
- Students should take numerous practice tests!
- Students should not under any circumstances take the tests for the first time without practicing when it counts towards their admissions!



Basic Strategies

By taking several practice exams students will

- Increase their confidence & decrease test anxiety by becoming familiar with the test
- Increase their overall speed and accuracy

2013 ACT National and State Scores

State	Percent of Graduates Tested	Average Composite Score	Average English Score	Average Math Score	Average Reading Score	Average Science Score
National	54	20.9	20.2	20.9	21.1	20.7
Michigan	100	19.9	19.1	19.9	20.0	20.2

ACT College Readiness Benchmarks

The Benchmarks are scores on the ACT subject-area tests that represent the level of achievement required for students to have a 50% chance of obtaining a B or higher or about a 75% chance of obtaining a C or higher in corresponding credit-bearing first-year college courses. These college courses include English composition, college algebra, introductory social science courses, and biology. Based on a sample of 214 institutions and more than 230,000 students from across the United States, the Benchmarks are median course placement values for these institutions and as such represent a *typical* set of expectations. The ACT College Readiness Benchmarks are:

College Course	ACT Subject-Area Test	ACT Explore® Benchmark Grade 8	ACT Explore® Benchmark Grade 9	ACT Plan® Benchmark	The ACT® Benchmark
English Composition	English	13	14	15	18
College Algebra	Mathematics	17	18	19	22
Social Sciences	Reading	16	17	18	22
Biology	Science	18	19	20	23

Answer Every Question

- There is no penalty for wrong answers on the ACT
- Use P.O.E.
 - Process of Elimination
- Get in the habit of placing a line through the answers you know are wrong in the test booklet

ACT Triage

- Work on the easy/quick questions first
- Be sure to know your speed and POOD:
(Personal Order of Difficulty)

Use a Watch or Watch the Clock

- Timing and Pacing are the most difficult aspects of the test because students are not used to dealing with time constraints.
- Wearing a watch will help keep your pacing goals and tell you if you are spending too much time on one section or passage.

- **Math**
- 60 multiple choice questions; 60 minutes
- 1 minute per question!
- Algebra I and II, Arithmetic, Geometry, Trigonometry
- This is 7th-11th grade math
- It's the wording in the question that makes this section difficult
- Only four Trig problems, but two can be done without having even learned Trig! They are out to intimidate you!

- Know how to ballpark - this will improve your efficiency and score!
- Learn how to use a calculator – graphing functions and matrix problems
- Take 2 passes - X the questions in the test booklet you do not understand at all and skip them on your second pass - when should I circle some
- P.O.E. - be sure to eliminate the wrong answers
- Follow your personal order of difficulty – start with your easiest section
- Read the question carefully – they predict where students will misread the question– you can count on that answer as being one of your choices – they do this to trap students



Math Tips

- Know Content!! (Duh)
- Practice Tests!
- Use Calculator Wisely



Math Tips

- Use POE / Common Sense!
- Don't Linger (Know Thyself!)
- D+ is Not Bad



Math Tips

- Answer the Question!!!
 - (Usually last sentence, *read carefully*)

- Work Backwards
 - (Good for equations and simple answer choices)



Math Tips

- Guess on Figures / Use estimates
 - (Make if not given)

- Pace Yourself
 - (Know your timing – practice, practice, practice)



Math Tips

- Bubble One Page at a Time
 - (Usually 2-3 questions)

- Know 15-20 + Eliminate 2 Per Question
 - (Gets you another 15-20 even guessing)



Math Tips

- What's Your Target?
- Cross Multiply – Early and Often
 - (Consistent proportions)



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Math Tips

- Use $y =$
 - Graph when possible and look
- Try an Easy Example (Plug in simple numbers)
 - (100 for percent, $\frac{1}{2}$ for fractions, etc. Doesn't have to be realistic)

Thank you!

- Remember www.mrpudaloff.com
 - Practice Tests/Solutions/Explanations
 - Videos
 - All Content Info
 - Test Info