

The First Step Toward Preparing for The ACT Test



Each year millions of high school juniors and seniors take the ACT[®] test to gain insights into their college and career readiness. PreACT[®] assessments, targeted to grades 8-10, give students practice with the ACT and empowers them, their parents, and educators with these valuable insights even sooner.

PreACT assessments are multiple-choice and provide 8th, 9th, and 10th grade students an early measure of College and Career Readiness while serving as a practice opportunity for the ACT[®] test.

PreACT Assessments

Pre **ACT[®]** 8/9

Pre **ACT[®]**

Pre **ACT[®]** 9 Secure[™]

Pre **ACT[®]** Secure[™]

Opening Doors to Opportunities

Students may opt to have their information shared with colleges and scholarship agencies* when they take PreACT assessments, providing greater opportunities for recruitment and scholarship awards.

*Currently available on paper forms only check in Fall of 2025 for online availability.

PreACT Assessment Comparison

	PreACT [®] 8/9	PreACT [®]	PreACT [®] 9 Secure™	PreACT [®] Secure
1 Value	Gives students an early measure of college and career readiness while providing performance predictions and instructional support.	Gives students practice with taking the ACT. Educators can use insights from PreACT report data understand performance predictions, inform interventions and give instructional support.	Schools, districts, or states can use for high-stakes or accountability purposes while giving students practice with taking the ACT. Educators get insights from PreACT report data to understand performance predictions, inform interventions, and give instructional support.	Gives schools, districts or states the ability to use for high-stakes or accountability purposes while giving students practice with taking the ACT. Educators can use insights from PreACT report data to understand performance predictions, inform interventions and give instructional support.
2 Validated Standards and Benchmarks	Based on validated ACT College and Career Readiness Standards and ACT College Readiness Benchmarks.	Based on validated ACT College and Career Readiness Standards and ACT College Readiness Benchmarks.	Based on validated ACT College and Career Readiness Standards and ACT College Readiness Benchmarks.	Based on validated ACT College and Career Readiness Standards and ACT College Readiness Benchmarks.
3 Scoring and Score Predictions	Aligned to the same 1-36 score scale as the ACT, PreACT 8/9 has a top score of 30. Provides predicted score ranges for the PreACT and ACT Subject and Composite scores. PreACT 8/9 also provides a STEM score.	Aligned to the same 1-36 score scale as the ACT, PreACT has a top score of 35. Provides predicted score ranges for the ACT Subject and Composite Scores. PreACT also provides a STEM score.	Aligned to the same 1-36 score scale as the ACT, PreACT 9 Secure has a top score of 32. Provides predicted score ranges for the ACT Subject and Composite scores. PreACT 9 Secure also provides a STEM score.	Aligned to the same 1-36 score scale as the ACT, PreACT Secure has a top score of 35. Provides predicted score ranges for the ACT Subject and Composite scores. PreACT Secure also provides a STEM score.
4 Educator and Student Reports	Multiple reports including: Item Response Summary Report by Grade, Student Report, online Educator Reports, Interest Inventory and test booklets returned to students.	Multiple reports including: Item Response Summary Report by Grade, Student Report, online Educator Reports, Interest Inventory and test booklets returned to students.	Multiple reports including: Student Report and online Educator Reports.	Multiple reports including: Student Report and online Educator Reports.
5 Career and Navigation	Career suggestions based on student goals and interests are provided based on answers to the Student Profile and Interest Inventory.	Career suggestions based on student goals and interests are provided based on answers to the Student Profile and Interest Inventory.	PreACT 9 Secure scores can inform high school course selection, college and career planning, and test preparation activities.	PreACT Secure scores can inform high school course selection, college and career planning, and test preparation activities.
6 Recommended Grades	Grades 8-9	Grades 10	Grades 9	Grades 10
7 Flexible Administration	Schools choose when to test anytime between September 3 - May 30 for the 2024-25 school year.	Schools choose when to test anytime between September 3 - May 30 for the 2024-25 school year.	One six-week window in March-April.	One six-week window in March-April.
8 Quick Implementation	Materials received quickly, fast report turnaround time, and modularity allows for testing across multiple days.	Materials received quickly, fast report turnaround time, and modularity allows for testing across multiple days.	Online administration is easily set up and delivered to students with fast report turnaround time.	Online administration is easily set up and delivered to students with fast report turnaround time.
9 Delivery	Paper and Pencil and Online Options Multiple Choice 130 Minutes	Paper and Pencil and Online Options Multiple Choice 130 Minutes	Online Multiple Choice 155 minutes	Online Multiple Choice 155 Minutes

PreACT Assessments Provide

Accountability Needs

PreACT 9 Secure and PreACT Secure support your accountability needs with a secure test administration of a trusted ACT assessment.

Early Indication Of Progress and Ideas For Improvement

Detailed Results and Item Response Analysis on PreACT 8/9 and PreACT identify specific areas to continue support for students' improvement based on unique needs.

Career and Navigation

Allows educators to have early college and career conversations based on answers in the PreACT 8/9 and/or PreACT Student Information Section and Interest Inventory.

School, District, and State Support

ACT provides comprehensive training materials and resources to ensure a successful administration, as well as Customer Support to navigate questions. Data resources and trainings are available to ensure that educators can use PreACT assessment data to understand and support student progress and goals.

School, District, And State Benefits

Support strategic conversations and facilitate a deeper understanding of overall student progress with rich data.

Predict and Practice with The Act Test Experience

Students experience a structured testing environment, similar to what they experience with the ACT content. Scoring mirrors the ACT so students know where they can improve.

Easy, Flexible, and Affordable Administration

Choose to administer the PreACT 8/9 or PreACT either on paper or online with multiple choice tests in English, math, reading, and science, on any date between early September and the last school day in May. Modularity allows for testing across multiple days making it easier to fit testing into shorter class times and busy schedules. A flexible and affordable way to give students low-stakes practice in a high-stakes environment.

Administer the online based PreACT 9 Secure or PreACT Secure test during one six-week window in March-April, in under 3 hours.

Robust Reporting

Receive powerful data in both Student and online Educator reports that include PreACT and ACT score predictions that identify student skills and areas of opportunity.

Student score reports and school-level data are available in online reporting. Our centralized online reporting platform improves classroom success by providing greater insights and easier predictions of academic performance.

Online Testing

PreACT 8/9, PreACT, PreACT 9 Secure, and PreACT Secure all offer an online administration allowing students a streamlined experience in the same platform as the computer-based ACT test used by state and district testing.

Online testing is an easy school and district set-up and administration. In addition, there is reduced reliance on shipping and materials handling and storage.

One ACT Solution Builds on the Next

With predicted performance on the PreACT and ACT your students can have an earlier indication of success and a starting point to the path of college. Support your students through their journey with PreACT 8/9, PreACT, PreACT 9 Secure, PreACT Secure, and the ACT.



It is never too early to help students get comfortable with the ACT test. The best way for 8-10 grade students to prepare is with PreACT assessments, that helps your students practice for the ACT, discover new opportunities, and start planning for the future. Learn more at act.org/preact or contact ACT at preact@act.org to talk to someone about bringing the benefits of PreACT assessments to your students.