



## **Why the ACT is Important**

From the Counselors at Independence High School

### **ACT Scores Increase Your Chances of College Acceptance**

If a college is “test optional,” that just means they’ll examine the rest of the application very closely to evaluate you:

1. Class difficulty: Are you taking Honors and AP classes?
2. Essays: If you don’t send an ACT score, colleges need something to see if you’re a good fit. They’ll examine your essays much more closely if that’s all they have to go on.
3. GPA (note that GPA’s are very inflated): The most common grade in high school is an “A” – so colleges are really looking to see if a student takes challenging courses in high school.
4. AP Scores: Colleges need data to compare students. AP scores are not inflated like GPA, so it’s a way for colleges to get an honest look at a student.

If you’re not taking AP courses and writing amazing essays, the ACT is important for your college application.

### **ACT Scores Usually Equal Scholarships**

Some colleges are “test optional” right now. But most scholarships are based on ACT score.

- A 21 on the ACT means \$16,000 from the Hope Scholarship.

### **Not Planning to Head to a Four-Year University Right Away?**

Are you taking a gap year? Headed to the military? Community College? Trade School? The Workforce? If you’re not planning to go straight to college after graduating from high school, doing your best on the ACT is still a smart move.

- Many students change their minds in a year or two and apply to college when they are older, more mature, and with money saved. You can use the \$16,000 in HOPE money later if you score over a 21 now.



- You can get two years for free at Columbia State, then transfer to a four-year institution - that will want to see your ACT score. And YOU want that \$16,000 in HOPE tuition money for your last two years.
- The military looks at your GPA and ACT scores to determine your speciality/job.

### **Why Take the ACT?**

- A score of 21 on the ACT earns \$16,000 to any Tennessee college.
- A score of 25 on the ACT earns:
  - \$32,000 to the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
  - \$20,000 to the University of Mississippi
  - \$30,000 to the University of Alabama
  - \$40,000 to the University of Kentucky

### **How Can You Prepare?**

1. There's a free practice test in Schoology.
2. There are free practice booklets in the Counseling Center.
3. Attend "Ask an ACT Expert" tutor sessions in the library during SOAR.
4. Take part in ACT Lessons during February.
5. Take the ACT class next semester – it's Pass/Fail and it works!

### **When Can a Student Take the ACT?**

Anytime! Go to [ACT.org](https://act.org) to sign up for a national ACT test. They are given almost every month and you can take the ACT up to 12 times. WCS also has a free ACT for WCS eleventh graders on March 1, 2022. Another free ACT will be available for WCS twelfth graders in October 2022.

### **Pro Tip**

Sign up for the ACT on April 2, 2022 or June 11, 2022 or in December. Only in those months, you can pay \$30 extra to get the test booklets and all the answers marked right and wrong. This tells you exactly what your student needs to practice and study. It's a game changer.



## **The Myth of the Bad Test Taker**

All of us would be bad cricket players if we went to England and suddenly had to play three hours of cricket without knowing the rules or practicing for weeks and weeks beforehand. The ACT is not a test of knowledge. It's a game – you need to know how to play it, then practice, practice, practice.

Colleges know that kids with high scores spent hours practicing. That's the kind of student they want. They want students who work hard to learn new skills. They want students who put in the time and effort.

Please contact your student's counselor if you have any additional questions..

**IHS students who score a 24 on the March 1, 2022 ACT  
earn an early dismissal pass!**