A stack of white papers or documents, slightly blurred, set against a light blue background.

Scholarship Group ACT Testing

www.actstudent.org

www.act.org (updated 2014)



What is the ACT?

- The ACT is a national college admission examination that consists of subject areas in: **English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science** (and an optional **Writing Test**)
- ACT results are accepted by virtually all U.S. colleges and universities.
- The ACT includes 215 multiple-choice questions:
 - English :75 questions
 - Math: 60
 - Reading: 40
 - Science :40
 - takes around *4 hours* to complete with breaks
- In the U.S., the ACT is administered on five national test dates—in **September, October, December, February, April, and June.**
- ACT is more than a test, it has an *interest inventory about career/educational planning and a student profile.*



Facts about the ACT

- Highest possible score is 36
- National average for the 2010 ACT was 21.0 and Utah's average was 21.8
- 24,824 or 71% of Utah High School Seniors took the ACT test for the class of 2010
- Scores on the test can help predict grades during the student's first year of college.

	% students that take it	Average Composite	English	Math	Reading	Science
National	40%	21.0	20.5	21.0	21.3	20.9
Utah	71%	21.8	21.4	21.1	22.5	21.7



What is the difference between the ACT and SAT?

- The ACT is an achievement test, measuring what a student has learned in school. It is curriculum-based. The SAT is more of an aptitude test that examines reasoning and verbal abilities.
- While the **ACT** has up to 5 components: English, Mathematics, Reading, Science, and an optional Writing Test, the **SAT** has only 3 components: Verbal, Mathematics, and a required Writing Test.
- The SAT takes off points for wrong answers. The ACT is scored based on the number correct with no correction for guessing.



ACT/SAT Equivalency Chart



SAT	ACT Equivalency	SAT	ACT Equivalency	SAT	ACT Equivalency
1600	36	1290-1320	29	1020-1040	22
1540-1590	35	1250-1280	28	980-1010	21
1490-1530	34	1210-1240	27	940-970	20
1440-1480	33	1170-1200	26	900-930	19
1400-1430	32	1130-1160	25	860-890	18
1360-1390	31	1090-1120	24	820-850	17
1330-1350	30	1050-1080	23	770-810	16

When should I take the test?

- Many students take the ACT for the 1st time in their junior (11th grade year)., but junior high students can take the test (but it is not recommended)
- It may be helpful to take the test **more than once**. ACT research shows that of the students who took the ACT more than once:
 - 55% increased their Composite score
 - 22% had no change in their Composite score
 - 23% decreased their Composite score
- Pick a test date that is **at least *two months* ahead of the application deadlines** of all the colleges and scholarship agencies you might want to apply to. It typically takes four to eight weeks after a test date to receive your score reports.
- There is no limitation on how many times, but you can only take it once per state test date.



2014-15 Test Dates

- National 2014-15 Testing Dates:
 - September 13, 2014
 - October 25, 2014
 - December 13, 2014
 - February 7, 2015
 - April 18, 2015
 - June 13, 2015
- Schools in the area that administer the ACT :
 - Lone Peak High School (Center Code: 234110)
 - American Fork High School
 - Orem High School
 - Utah Valley State College
 - Lehi High School
 - Timpanogos High School
 - Pleasant Grove High School



ACT Fees

- All fees are **nonrefundable** unless otherwise noted.
- **\$ 38.00 Basic registration fee for the ACT** (includes reports for you, your high school, and *up to 4 colleges* requested at registration)
- \$54.50 for ACT test including optional writing test
- There are Late Fees and additional charges to test date/center change, standby testing, and sending your scores to more than 4 colleges



Helpful Hints for Test Day

- Be Early (usually by 8 AM)
- Bring Admissions ticket and have *Acceptable Identification*
 - which are: driver's license, published individual photo, notarized statement with photo or passport , and school letter or transcript. School IDs are Not acceptable.
- Have permitted calculator
- Carefully Read Instructions and questions
- Pace self
- Use No. 2 Pencil
- Answer easy questions first, then go back and answer more difficult ones
- On difficult questions, eliminate as many incorrect answers as you can, then make an educated guess among those remaining.
- Mark answers neatly, if you erase, erase completely





Colleges use ACT results in a variety of ways:

- **Admission decisions** (i.e. Admissions index)
- **Course placement** (i.e. in freshman classes)
- **Academic advising**
- **Scholarships and loans** (i.e. competitive for scholarship due to scores.)

College Admissions Index

FRESHMAN ADMISSIONS INDEX* Effective entering class of Fall, 2005

TEST SCORES		Cumulative GPA																				
ACT	SAT	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.0
36	1600	99	95	90	86	81	77	73	68	64	60	55	51	47	42	38	34	29	25	20	16	12
35	1580	98	94	89	85	81	76	72	68	63	59	54	50	46	41	37	33	28	24	20	15	11
34	1520	95	91	87	83	78	74	69	65	61	56	52	48	43	39	35	30	26	21	17	13	8
33	1470	94	89	85	80	76	72	67	63	59	54	50	46	41	37	32	28	24	19	15	11	6
32	1420	91	87	83	78	74	70	65	61	57	52	48	43	39	35	30	26	22	17	13	9	4
31	1380	89	85	81	77	72	68	64	59	55	50	46	42	37	33	29	24	20	16	11	7	3
30	1340	88	84	79	75	71	66	62	58	53	49	44	40	36	31	27	23	18	14	10	5	1
29	1300	86	82	78	74	69	65	60	56	52	47	43	38	34	30	25	21	17	12	8	4	0
28	1250	84	80	76	71	67	63	58	54	49	45	41	36	32	28	23	19	15	10	6	1	0
27	1220	83	79	74	70	66	61	57	53	48	44	39	35	31	26	22	18	13	9	5	0	0
26	1180	81	77	73	68	64	60	55	51	46	42	38	33	29	25	20	16	12	7	3	0	0
25	1140	80	75	71	67	62	58	54	49	45	40	36	32	27	23	19	14	10	6	1	0	0
24	1110	78	74	70	65	61	57	52	48	44	39	35	30	26	22	17	13	9	4	0	0	0
23	1070	77	72	68	64	59	55	51	46	42	38	33	29	24	20	16	11	7	3	0	0	0
22	1030	75	71	66	62	58	53	49	45	40	36	31	27	23	18	14	10	5	1	0	0	0
21	990	73	69	65	60	56	52	47	43	39	34	30	25	21	17	12	8	4	0	0	0	0
20	950	72	67	63	59	54	50	46	41	37	33	28	24	19	15	11	6	2	0	0	0	0
19	910	70	66	61	57	53	48	44	40	35	31	26	22	18	13	9	5	0	0	0	0	0
18	870	68	64	60	55	51	47	42	38	34	29	25	20	16	12	7	3	0	0	0	0	0
17	830	67	62	58	54	49	45	41	36	32	27	23	19	14	10	6	1	0	0	0	0	0
16	780	65	60	56	52	47	43	38	34	30	25	21	17	12	8	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	740	63	59	54	50	46	41	37	32	28	24	19	15	11	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	680	60	56	52	47	43	39	34	30	26	21	17	13	8	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	620	58	54	49	45	41	36	32	27	23	19	14	10	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	560	55	51	47	42	38	34	29	25	21	16	12	7	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	500	53	49	44	40	36	31	27	22	18	14	9	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

* The Admissions Index is used as a guide by all of the four-year public universities in the state of Washington, but is not the only factor considered. Cumulative GPA is approximately three times as important as test scores in determining the Admissions Index. ACT and SAT are not equivalent tests, but the formula uses this approximate conversion chart to calculate Admissions Index.

Sample Question on the ACT

If $5a = 25$, then $a^2 = ?$

- A. 5
- B. 20
- C. 25
- D. 125
- E. 625





The correct answer is C.

$5a = 25$ so $a = 5$; $a^2 = 5 \cdot 5 = 25$

- **A.** If $a^2 = 5$, then $a = \sqrt{5}$ and $5a = 5\sqrt{5} \neq 25$ so $a^2 \neq 5$.
- **B.** If $a^2 = 20$, then $a = \sqrt{20}$ and $5a = 5\sqrt{20} \neq 25$ so $a^2 \neq 20$.
- **D.** If $a^2 = 125$, then $a = \sqrt{125}$ and $5a = 5\sqrt{125} \neq 25$ so $a^2 \neq 125$.
- **E.** If $a^2 = 625$, then $a = 25$ and $5a = 5(25) = 125 \neq 25$ so $a^2 \neq 625$.

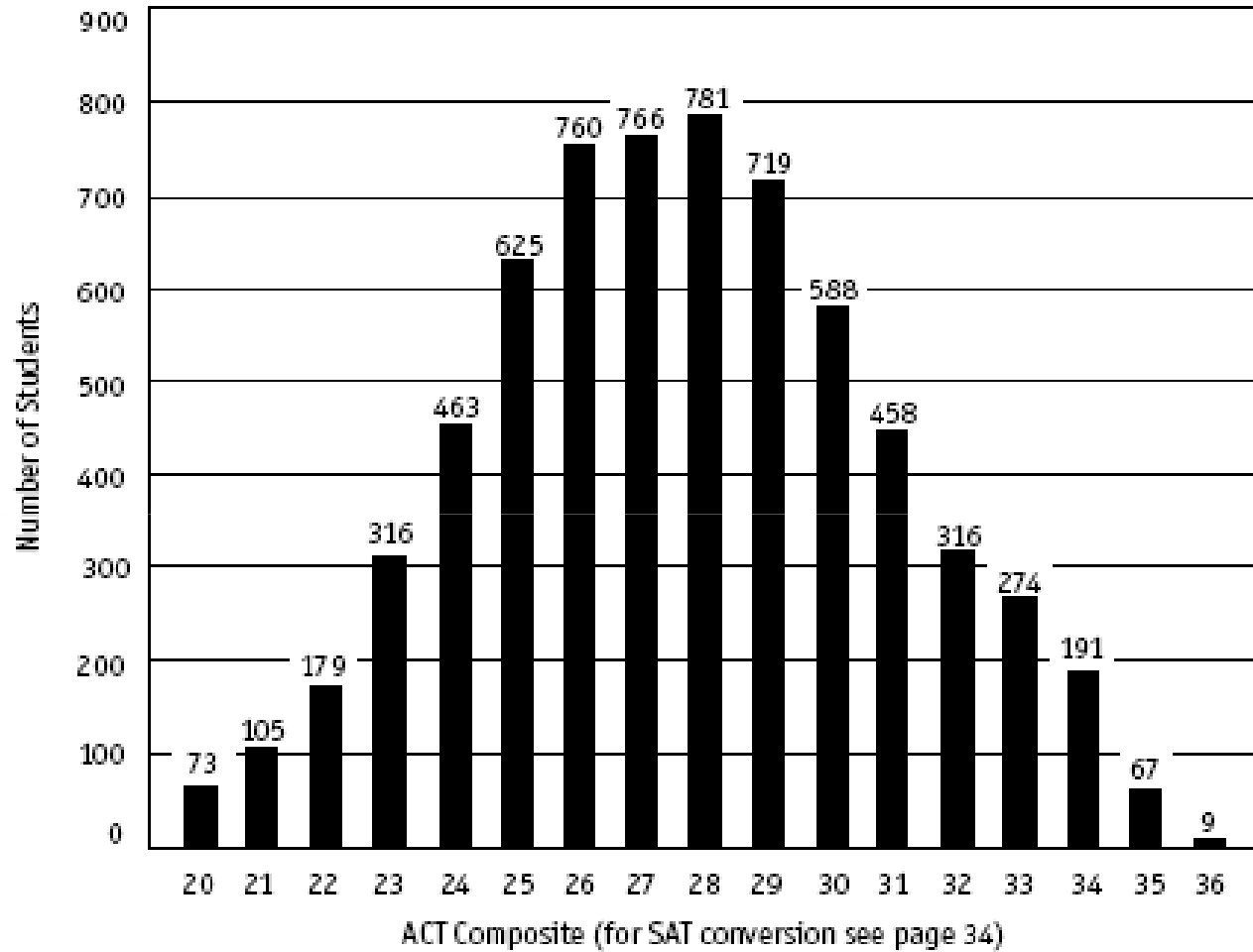
Example: Brigham Young University (home.byu.edu)

- It should be noted that the December ACT test is the last test date which will be evaluated for summer or fall admission.
- As a reference point, the average ACT for an incoming freshman at BYU is a **28.1** (note: ACT score is only one factor of many considered in the admissions decision). Avg. SAT score is 1240
- Because BYU considers only your highest composite scores, you should consider taking the ACT/SAT multiple times. Studies show that students who retake the ACT/SAT have a **57 percent chance** of increasing their previous score by 1 to 3 points.
- Be sure to take the ACT/SAT at the beginning of your junior year so that you can take it again before October of your senior year.



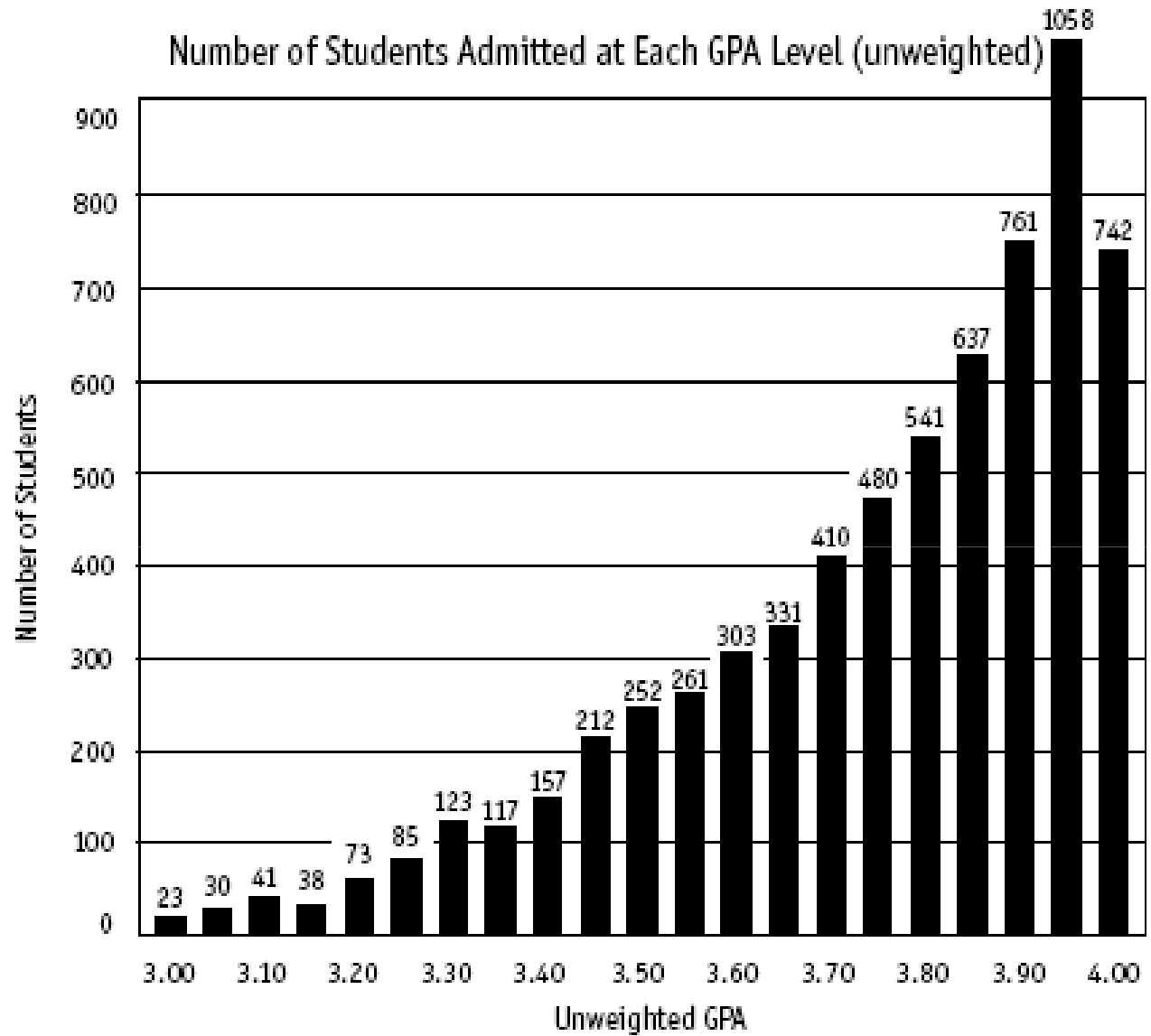


Number of Students Admitted at Each ACT Composite Level





Number of Students Admitted at Each GPA Level (unweighted)





Ways to Prepare for the ACT

- *ACT On-line Preparation can be found at www.act.org or www.actstudent.org*

- Practice tests with real ACT test questions
- Practice essays for the new optional ACT Writing Test, with real-time scoring
- Comprehensive content review for each of the ACT's four required tests—English, Math, Reading, and Science
- Diagnostic test and personalized Study Path
- Anywhere, anytime access via the Internet

- **Personal Edition**

- Purchase the Personal Edition online. Have a credit card ready.
- Access for a single user
- \$19.95 for one year
- Includes one practice essay with real-time scoring
- \$30.95 for a hard copy of the prep guide



Ways to Prepare for the ACT

- ACT practice tests are available at: act.org



"I will prepare and some day my
chance will come."

Abraham Lincoln

"Luck is what happens when
preparation meets opportunity."

Seneca