

Make Your High School Years Count!

Valuable tips on the college acceptance process!



One Key to Lowering College Costs:

College costs enough already, and your goal should be to do anything to lessen the total cost that you and your parents will have to cover. Don't put yourself in the situation where you'll have to take remedial courses your freshman year.

You will not receive credit toward your degrees for any remediation course you must take. Best advice: do your best in high school. Not only will it save you money, but it could shave a year or two off the time it takes you to earn your degree.

Parents take note:
Statistics show that only 17% of students who take remedial college courses graduate within 8 years vs. 58% who do not take remedial classes.

Pssst...Parents!
You'll want your student to score higher than these numbers! These are minimum scores for non-remedial students.



Answers to Burning Questions about the ACT®

Q: Do I have to take a college entrance test?

A: Yes, if you are planning on attending a college.

Q: What is this "test"?

A: The "test" that colleges will use may be the ACT®, the COMPASS test, SAT, ACCUPLACER or something similar to these. Cut scores are in the process of being established and students will know ahead of time what scores will be required for their respective schools and fields of interest.

Q: What is a "cut" score?

A: A cut score is a score on a test that will be used to determine what class a student will be placed in upon entering college. If a score is not high enough, remediation could be required by your college of choice.

Q: What scores are needed on the entrance tests?

A: In Ohio, students who have scored at or above the scores listed below will not require remediation (as of 2013).

ACT (Math) 22

SAT (Math) 520

Q: What's the Cost of the ACT?

A: Visit act.org for accurate pricing.

Q: When Should I Take the ACT?

A: It can be taken any time. However, (recommended at least 2 months before college application deadlines) it is suggested that it be taken toward the end of the junior year because much of the material on the ACT will have been covered during that grade. Taking it at that time also allows students to retake the test if they wish.

Q: How Often Can I Take the Test?

A: It only needs to be taken once, however, some choose to take it more than once in order to improve their scores.

Q: How do I prepare?

A: The most common way is to ask your teachers and visit the ACT website. You'll find a "test prep" section which will explain how the test works and give practice questions. In addition, there are also books that can be found at the library and book stores. www.actstudent.org

Q: What's a Good Score?

A: The highest possible score on the ACT is 36. Check with the different colleges and scholarships to find out what ACT score they require for entrance.

Q: How can I find out more?

A: You can either go to your high school guidance counselor or www.actstudent.org. Registering online requires a credit card.



There's Another Test to Take... College Course Placement Tests

What is a College Course Placement Test?

College course placement tests like ACCUPLACER and COMPASS help to determine your knowledge in math, reading and writing.

Both tests are used to identify your strengths and weaknesses in each subject area. The assessment results, in conjunction with your academic background, goals and interests, are used by academic advisors and counselors to place you in the appropriate college courses that meet your skill level.

What's the Cost of COMPASS or ACCUPLACER?

Costs vary from year to year. It's best to visit each website for exact pricing:
compass.org
accuplacer.collegeboard.org

When Should I Take It?

It depends on the college of your choice. Some colleges require the COMPASS before enrolling in a program or course. Some colleges give the test to incoming freshmen as part of their orientation. Others allow students to take the test while still in high school. Contact your college to find out their requirements.

How do I prepare?

Practice tests and booklets available for ACCUPLACER and COMPASS abound! Visit their websites for practice tests. Keep in mind, some materials are free and others must be purchased. Additional prep can be found at TechPrepNWO.org.

Username: Your email address

Password: Name of school

What's a Good Score?

This usually is a pass/fail test. It takes the scores the person obtains and finds their strong and/or weak areas of study. A college will take these scores and place you in the appropriate classes.

Non-remedial cut scores follow:

COMPASS
(Algebra) 52

ACCUPLACER
(Elem. Alg.) 108
(College Math) 69

How can I find out more?

Again, it depends. Contact the admissions office at the college you want to attend to find out their entrance requirements.

Materials compliments of:

Northwest Regional Center
Ohio College
Tech Prep
Providing Services for Programs of Study
www.techprepnwo.org

Tips for Taking a Better Test...

- 1 Get a good night's rest.
- 2 Get up early.
- 3 Don't be rushed.
- 4 Have a good breakfast.
- 5 Make sure you are dressed warm enough and wear comfortable clothes.
- 6 Have something to drink and maybe a snack. (You will be allowed to eat and drink during the break).
- 7 Plan on arriving 30 minutes early. Find the classroom for which you are assigned.
- 8 Take a calculator you are familiar with and at least 2 pencils. (You are not allowed to use mechanical pencils).
- 9 Make sure you have a photo ID and your admission ticket.
- 10 Have your pencils and calculator out, your cell phone **TURNED OFF AND PUT AWAY**. You will not be able to use your cell during your break.
- 11 Put food and anything else on floor.
- 12 Have a watch (not with an alarm) to help you budget your time wisely.



Web-Based Tests

Some placement assessments have moved to web-based exams.

Most of these tips still apply!

