

Okaw Valley Testing Information

The state of Illinois has recently switched from the ACT to the SAT as the test that will be offered to Juniors during the school day in the spring (at no cost to the student). Over the past decade the ACT has been offered at no cost to students in all Illinois schools.

Throughout one's education, a student will take numerous standardized tests. In high school, this continues. These tests can help students understand more about themselves, suggest where they need possible extra assistance, provide an idea on how they compare to others across the nation, and even supply possible career options. Regardless of the examination, to best help the student, each should be taken seriously. The following examinations, and a brief description of each, are options at Okaw Valley High School

- **ACT**

- The ACT measures achievement related to high school curricula
- Accepted by all 4 year colleges and universities in the United States
- 36 is the highest score you can get
- 26 gets you a Full Ride to Lake Land College
- 22 on the Math Section gets you dual credit at OVHS
- 19 on the English Section gets you dual credit at OVHS
- The ACT consists of four multiple-choice tests: English, mathematics, reading, and science. The ACT with writing includes the four multiple-choice tests and a writing test.
 - Some colleges require the writing test; others do not. You should decide whether or not to take the writing test based on the requirements of the colleges you are applying to or considering. There is list on the ACT website of colleges that require the writing assessment.
 - The ACT writing test contains one question to be completed in 40 minutes. When asked to write a timed essay, most writers find it useful to do some planning before they write the essay, and to do a final check of the essay when it is finished. It is unlikely that you will have time to draft, revise, and recopy your essay.

- **18-19 Test Dates**

Upcoming ACT Test Dates

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|------------------------------------|---|
| ○ September 8 th , 2018 | Register by August 10 th , 2018 |
| ○ October 27 th , 2018 | Register by Sept 28 th , 2018 |
| ○ December 8 th , 2018 | Register by Nov 2 nd , 2018 |
| ○ February 9 th , 2019 | Register by January 11 th , 2019 |
| ○ April 13 th , 2019 | Register by March 8 th , 2019 |
| ○ June 8 th , 2019 | Register by May 3 rd , 2019 |
| ○ July 13 th , 2019 | Register by June 14 th , 2019 |

- **When to take the ACT**

- Many sophomore's take it in April or June before their Junior year so they can try to get dual credit in the fall. They also are taking it as a practice and then they will take it again in the spring of their Junior year. **You may take the ACT no more than 12 times.**

- Of the students who took the ACT more than once:

- 57% increased their Composite score
- 21% had no change in their Composite score
- 22% decreased their Composite score

- **Registering for the ACT (ACT.ORG)**

- **Online registration is the fastest method.** You will know immediately if your preferred test center has space for you to test, and you also can print your admission ticket from the website. How you sign up depends on where and how you plan to test: please see below for how to register.
- **Reminder: You need to register by mail only if you are younger than 13 or cannot pay by credit card.**
- If you plan to test at a national or international test center, sign up online by creating or logging in to your ACT Web account
- If you are requesting extended time or other accommodations for the first time, sign up online by creating or logging in to your ACT Web account or register by mail **in addition to** completing the application request and submitting required documentation.
- If you missed the late registration deadline, you can request standby testing online.

- **Cost**

- **ACT (No Writing) \$50.50**

- Includes reports for you, your high school, and up to four college choices (if valid codes are provided when you register).

- **ACT with writing \$67.00**

- Includes reports for you, your high school, and up to four college choices (if valid codes are provided when you register). The \$17.00 writing test fee is refundable, on written request, if you are absent on test day or switch to the ACT (No Writing) before testing begins.

- **SAT – Will be offered at school on April 9th, 2019. All students must take this test and in Illinois you have to complete the essay portion. The make-up date is April 23rd, 2019.**

- The SAT is undergoing its biggest change in 30 years. The New SAT made its debut in March 2016 and impact students in the class of 2017 or younger.
- The content on the New SAT will be very similar to that which is on the ACT. The major difference is in how the concepts are tested and the steps students

will have to take to solve problems correctly. Students will have to reason their way through this exam by tackling problems in a linear and sequential fashion; a student's ability to process information quickly will be key.

- Questions will require multiple steps to get an answer.
- The reading passages will include complex structure and vocabulary.
- Foundational math skills will be more important.
- Reasoning and critical thinking skills will be paramount.
- There will be fewer sections on the new test, but they will be longer in time than the current test.

- **The Test**

- 2 sections
- Math
- Evidence-Based Reading and Writing
 - Total score (400–1600)
 - 2 section scores (200–800)
 - 3 test scores (10–40)
 - 7 sub-scores (1–15)
 - 2 cross-test scores
- 3 hours (without essay) (3 hours, 50 minutes (with essay))
- 4 answer choices per question
- No penalty for incorrect answers
- Paper and pencil AND a computer-based option

- **Reading and Writing**

- Two tests:
 - Reading Test
 - Writing and Language Test
 - No more sentence completions; focus on multiple-meaning words
 - Passages will draw from significant historical or scientific documents – may include informational graphics, such as charts
 - The reading passages will include complex structure and vocabulary
 - Passage-based grammar – including punctuation

- **Math**

- Application-based, multi-step questions
- Higher-level math, including trigonometry
- One set of “extended-thinking” grid-in questions (worth 4 points);
- Core math competencies (translating math into English and English into math)
- A deep understanding of the theories behind mathematical principles, such as building equations
 - Calculators only allowed in the longer of the two math sections

- **Essay**

- The essay is optional (50 minutes, timed)

- Students will be provided a substantial passage (600–700 words) and will then be asked to analyze how the author built their argument; students will need to understand the techniques authors used to write persuasively

- **ACT vs. SAT**

- ACT questions tend to be more straightforward.
- ACT questions are often easier to understand on a first read. On the SAT, you may need to spend time figuring out what you're being asked before you can start solving the problem.
- The SAT has a stronger emphasis on vocabulary.
 - If you're an ardent wordsmith, you'll love the SAT. If words aren't your thing, you may do better on the ACT.
- The ACT has a Science section, while the SAT does not.
 - You don't need to know anything about amoebas or chemical reactions for the ACT Science section. It is meant to test your reading and reasoning skills based upon a given set of facts. But if you're a true science-phobe, the SAT might be a better fit.
 - The ACT tests more advanced math concepts.
 - In addition to basic arithmetic, algebra I and II, and geometry, the ACT tests your knowledge of trigonometry, too. That said, the ACT Math section is not necessarily harder, since many students find the questions to be more straightforward than those on the SAT.
 - The ACT Writing Test is optional on test day, but required by many schools.
 - The 25-minute SAT essay is required and is factored into your writing score. The 40-minute ACT writing test is optional. If you choose to take it, it is not included in your composite score — schools will see it listed separately. Many colleges require the writing section of the ACT, so be sure to check with the schools where you are applying before opting out.
 - The SAT is broken up into more sections.
 - On the ACT, you tackle each content area (English, Math, Reading and Science) in one big chunk, with the optional writing test at the end. On the SAT, the content areas (Critical Reading, Math and Writing) are broken up into 10 sections, with the required essay at the beginning. You do a little math, a little writing, a little critical reading, a little more math, etc. When choosing between the SAT and ACT, ask yourself if moving back and forth between content areas confuse you or keep you energized?
 - 7. The ACT is more of a "big picture" exam.

- College admissions officers care about how you did on each section of the SAT. On the ACT, they're most concerned with your composite score. So if you're weak in one content area but strong in others, you could still end up with a very good ACT score and thus make a strong impression with the admissions committee

Placement Tests for Junior College

Placement tests such as the ACCUPLACER and/or COMPASS test are given by Junior Colleges to place students in Math, English, and Reading classes at the Junior College level. High enough scores in Math and English on this test can get you dual credit through OVHS. You may take 2 sets of placement tests in a 4-year period. If you did not get dual credit with your ACT score this could be an option for you. OVHS will host an ACCUPLACER test (via Lake Land College) in May for interested students. (More details to come)

ACCUPLACER tests are designed to assist institutions in placing students into appropriate courses. Given that institutions differ greatly with respect to composition of the student body, faculty, and course content, it is not possible to stipulate specific test cut scores to be used for placement decisions. Instead, each institution should establish their own cut scores to facilitate placement decisions based on factors and data unique to their institution. To help institutions establish these cut scores, the College Board has developed “proficiency statements” that describe the knowledge and skills associated with specific ACCUPLACER score ranges. These statements were derived by convening a panel of experts in each subject area to review items anchored at specific points along the Total Right Score scale and to describe the knowledge and skills that are required to answer these items correctly. The proficiency statements offer useful information for understanding students’ skill levels. Wherever

- The Arithmetic test measures students’ ability to perform basic arithmetic operations and to solve problems that involve fundamental arithmetic concepts. There are three content areas measured on this test: Whole Numbers and Fractions; Decimals and Percents; and Applications.
- The Elementary Algebra test measures a student’s ability to perform basic algebraic operations and to solve problems that involve elementary algebraic concepts. Three content areas are measured with this test: Integers and Rationals; Algebraic Expressions; and Equations, Inequalities, and Word Problems.
- The College-Level Math test measures students’ ability to solve problems that involve college-level mathematics concepts. There are six content areas measured on this test: Algebraic Operations; Solutions of Equations and Inequalities;

Coordinate Geometry; Applications and Other Algebra Topics; Functions; and Trigonometry. There are 20 questions on this test.

- The Reading Comprehension test measures a student’s ability to understand what he or she has read. There are four content areas on this test: Identifying Main Ideas; Direct Statements and Secondary or Supporting Ideas; Inferences; and Applications. Examinees are presented with a series of 20 questions. Both short and long narratives are provided. The reading passages can also be classified according to the kind of information processing required, including explicit statements related to the main idea, explicit statements related to a secondary idea, application, and inference.
- The Sentence Skills test measures students’ understanding of sentence structure, i.e. how sentences are put together and what makes a sentence complete and clear. There are three content areas measured on this test: Recognizing Complete Sentences; Coordination and Subordination; and Clear Sentence Logic.

INTERPRETING TEST SCORES

READING REQUIREMENTS

ACT SCORE	CPT SCORE (Accuplacer)	COMPASS SCORE	REQUIRED COURSE
0-11	0-39	0-50	RDG 007
12-16	40-54	51-66	RDG 009
17-20	55-75	67-82	RDG 050
21 +	76 +	83 +	NONE REQUIRED

ENGLISH REQUIREMENTS

ACT SCORE	CPT SCORE (Accuplacer)	COMPASS SCORE	REQUIRED COURSE
0-11	0-37	0-26	ENG 005
12-18	38-60	27-67	ENG 007
		68-80 with E-write 2-7	
19 +	61-120	68-80 with E-write 8-12	ENG 120
		81 +	

MATH REQUIREMENTS

ACT SCORE	CPT SCORE (Accuplacer)	COMPASS SCORE		REQUIRED COURSE
0-14	Arithmetic 0-43	Pre-Algebra	0-26	MAT 001 (Arithmetic Review experiences)
15-18	Arithmetic 44-120 Elementary Algebra	Pre-Algebra	27-100	MAT 005 (Elementary Algebra or courses with arithmetic prerequisite)

	0-35 College Level 0-21	Algebra	15-38	
15-20		Pre-Algebra	27-100	MAT 008 (Math Literacy - for placement into MAT 116 or 125)
		Algebra	15-49	
19-21	Elementary Algebra 36-92 College Level 22-44	Algebra	39-57	MAT 006, 009, 090 (Courses with elementary algebra prerequisite)
21-26		Algebra	50-100	MAT 116, 125 (Courses with math literacy or intermediate algebra prerequisite)
		College Algebra	0-55	
22-24		Algebra	58-100	MAT 130 (Course with intermediate algebra prerequisite)
		College Algebra	0-55	
22-26	Elementary Algebra 93-120 College Level 45-69	Algebra	58-100	MAT 118, 140 (Courses with intermediate algebra prerequisite)
		College Algebra	0-55	
25-26		College Algebra	56-100	MAT 132, 210, 211 (Courses with college algebra prerequisite)
		Trigonometry	0-50	
27 +	College Level 70-120	Trigonometry	51-100	MAT 241 (Courses with college algebra and trigonometry prerequisites)

COURSE PLACEMENT WILL BE BASED ON PLACEMENT DOMAIN

About Placement Scores

Lake Land College policy requires all degree seeking students to have reading, English and math placement scores on file. Students planning to enroll in a math or English course are also required to have appropriate placement scores on file. **Students will be mandatorily placed in courses based upon placement scores (ACT/COMPASS.)**

If a student's record includes more than one set of scores, the highest scores recorded are used for placement. Certain courses for which a student will not earn credit for graduation are required when indicated by placement scores and major. These courses include: RDG007, RDG009, RDG050, ENG005, ENG007, MAT001, MAT005, MAT006, and MAT008. *Placement in these courses may lengthen time and costs for college.*

Retesting prior to enrollment for the first semester offers an opportunity to improve your placement. Students may retest one time per subject area for a fee of \$5.00 per subject

— limit of two sets of Lake Land College placement scores within a four-year period.
Call 217-234-5301 to schedule a retest.

Determining Your Placement

To determine placement in reading, English and math, match your score on the ACT or LLC placement test with the appropriate range of scores.

For example, follow the chart below from left to right. A student with an ACT reading score of 12-16, an Accuplacer score of 40-54, or a COMPASS score of 51-66 will be placed into RDG009. All students are required to enroll in a reading course unless their placement score is in the “None Required” range.

ACT SCORE	CPT Score (Acuplacer)	COMPASS SCORE	REQUIRED COURSE
12-16	40-54	51-66	RDG 009

Use this same process to determine placement in the areas of English and math for those majors that require ENG120 or any MAT course. *Not all majors require these courses.*

Counselors will review this information at your orientation/advising appointment.

Contact Information

To discuss your placement scores or for additional information regarding degree requirements, please call Lake Land Counseling Services at (217) 234-5232.

To schedule a retest, call the Lake Land Learning Assistance Center at (217) 234-5301.