

Why Are ACT Scores Important?

ACT scores are weighted heavily in college admission decisions and scholarship/financial aid decisions. Tennessee students are eligible for the Hope Lottery Scholarship of up to \$6,000 per year by scoring a 21 on the ACT and the General Assembly Merit Scholarship of an additional \$1000 per year by scoring a 29 on the ACT.

High School Curriculum

Take rigorous honors, AP, and dual enrollment classes. Our high schools' research indicates that ACT scores improve 0.7 points per AP course taken. Treat each class as important to your goals.

Setting Goals and Formulating a Plan

Students take the EXPLORE test in the 8th grade and the PLAN test in the 10th grade to identify areas of academic strength and weakness in English, math, reading, and science. These tests provide data on a student's progress toward ACT success and college/career readiness. Review this data with your teachers and counselors. Set a regular time to prepare for the ACT, giving special attention to the areas of weakness revealed by the EXPLORE and PLAN. Work with your teachers to develop a plan to strengthen your areas in need of improvement. Set a goal for subtest scores and for the composite, and then work to make it happen!

Reading

Read informational text from Science and Social Studies to prepare you for the types of reading you will see on the ACT. Reading often and widely will also increase your vocabulary and speed. Successful ACT students report that they read the questions in all subtests before reading the passage. They underline as they read and cross-out distracters.

Math

Review your Algebra I, II, and Geometry basics. You will see them often on the test. Memorize some of the most important formulae. Review is very important, as it may have been a year or two since you took these courses. As you practice for this subtest, consider using your calculator less. Your math teacher will be a great resource in explaining to you the why of any problem with which you are struggling in your practice sessions.

Science

The Science subtest will be the last one that you will encounter. You will be tired, but do not lose your focus. Students share that there are some questions that require you already know the answers, but for most questions, the answers are within the passage. However, this subtest requires good reading skills, the ability to read charts and graphs, and the ability to analyze. Students report that the passages with five questions are often easiest, while the passages with seven questions are the most difficult. Answer the easiest questions first.

ACT Prep Program

Hamblen County Schools provide a 24-hour ACT prep program in eight afterschool sessions. Students may enroll in the fall or spring sessions. The cost is \$25, which is fully refunded to students who attend all eight sessions. Certified Math and Language Arts teachers provide instruction. The prep materials are provided by the Hamblen County Board of Education. This program will familiarize students with the format of the test and will review and reinforce the skills that are frequently encountered.

Important Practices

Utilize available practice tests and released ACT tests from purchased ACT prep books, the ACT webpage, or other Internet sites. As you progress, begin timing yourself. Practice does not make perfect; practice makes permanent.

You cannot prep for the test in one evening or one week. Spread your preparation over time. There are great resources that are available online at no cost; many of them are on the ACT webpage. In fact, ACT offers a daily question of the day. Being familiar with the format and style of questions is important. Many successful ACT students report that they purchased or borrowed an ACT prep book. However, purchasing a book is not the answer, but using it is. Our high school webpages also include links to ACT resources. Currently the State provides the cost of one ACT test for each student. However, many ACT successful students take the test multiple times.

Personal Preparation for the ACT

Get a good night's sleep, eat a protein-rich breakfast, and get hydrated. Wear a watch and bring a jacket. Take your pencils and a calculator with which you are familiar. You will face questions that you do not know, but stay calm. You have a plan...work that plan! Stay focused!

Taking the Test

Answer the questions that you know first. Do not fret over an item. Save the ones that you do not know for later, but be careful and check frequently on your "bubbling" to make sure that you bubbles and numbers are aligned. Yes, you will encounter unfamiliar words, but through your practice, you will be able to use context clues to determine the meaning of the words. You will be pacing yourself through the subtest and monitoring your time limits. You will have answered all of the questions that you know and will have worked through many of your challenging questions. Do not leave items blank. Bubble in your best guess. A wrong answer or a blank answer counts the same. Make a plan and work it.

ACT Test Dates

Test Date	Registration Deadline
September 21, 2013	August 23, 2013
October 26, 2013	September 27, 2013
December 14, 2013	November 8, 2013
February 8, 2014	January 10, 2014
April 12, 2014	March 7, 2014
June 14, 2014	May 9, 2014

ACT Test Prep Resources

<http://www.actstudent.org/testprep/>

For additional information, please contact your school counselor.

Morristown East Guidance Office
423.586.6102

Morristown West Guidance Office
423.581.1600



Morristown East ACT Focus Group

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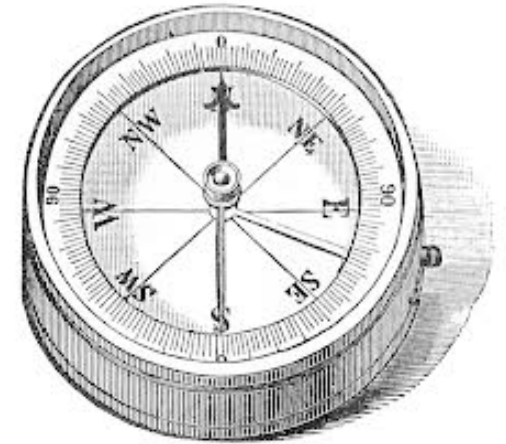
Morristown West ACT Focus Group

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The suggestions in this brochure are gathered from the students of Morristown East and Morristown West who have scored 27 or higher on the ACT test.

Hamblen County Department of Instruction
Dr. Brenda Dean, Assistant Director of Schools

Mastering the ACT



Charting a Course to Excellence