

ACT - to test or not?

Here are questions to ask the colleges you are considering about their test-optional policies:

- Specific Program Entry: Are there any majors or direct-admit programs with ACT score requirements?"
- Course Placement: Are ACT scores used for intro course placement in English and Math?
- Merit-Based Aid: "Are there any scholarships or aid available that require an ACT score, or do all merit-based scholarships use GPA or other factors?"
- Candidate Admission: "Are students admitted to this college equally with and without a submitted ACT score? Also, are ACT scores used for course placement?"

Here are some reasons to still study and take the ACT your Junior year:

- Your overall GPA doesn't reflect your achievement. (*ex: drop in grades during a semester or year due to personal circumstances, distance learning, etc.*)
- You are planning on going to college out of state. (*While most MN colleges are currently test-optional, many in WI, SD, ND, and different areas of the USA are not*).
- You want to apply for a specific program with:
 - Direct Admissions (*ex: Nursing frequently has an ACT score requirement for direct admit programs*)
 - Honors Program (*a more rigorous program typically with smaller class sizes*)
 - Accelerated Degree program (*ex: a 4 year engineering program shortened to 3 years*)
 - Concurrent Degree program (*also called a 3-2 program, which combines your Bachelors and Masters degrees into 5 years*).
- You think you will have a high ACT score, which will give you an advantage in scholarships and admissions processes. (*ex: 26+*)
- A college you are interested in uses ACT for admissions or merit-based aid. (*ex: UM-Duluth (merit-based aid & course placement)*).

[Local ACT Test Dates Can be Found Here](#)

Additional Resources:

[ACT Registration Website](#)

[My ACT Troubleshooting Guide](#)

[My ACT Quick Start Guide](#)

[My ACT - Setup Account Video](#)