

Enhanced ACT[®]: What YOU Need to Know

The Enhanced ACT[®] is here! Fewer questions and more time per question— while largely testing the same concepts.

Key Changes

Change	Details	Why It Matters
Shorter Test	10 to 50 minutes shorter, 44 to 84 fewer questions (depending on whether a student takes the Science Section)	The ACT [®] is less of a race, but the score impact of each question is much greater. Preparation matters more.
More Time per Question	More time per question for all 4 Sections	Students can think more clearly.
Optional Science	Students can choose to do or skip Science	Because submitting a solid Science score increases the likelihood of winning scholarships, OTC recommends every student take Science.
Math Simplified	Now 4 answer choices (not 5)	Fewer questions, fewer answers per question, but each question counts about a full point.
Shorter Passages	More concise English and Reading passages	Easier navigation & focus

Test Day is Pay Day!



What Stays the Same

- Huge scholarship dollars tied to the score
- Same 4 Subject areas — English, Math, Reading, & Science (scored 1–36) — largely testing the same content
- Paper AND digital formats offered

What Changes

- Composite Score now based on EMR: English, Math, & Reading
- Superscore based on EMR
- Science is reported as a separate score, but it matters for those seeking scholarships.
- Some questions in each Section do NOT count— but students don't know which are these 'Field Test' questions. So students need to try hard on every question.
- With so many fewer questions, each counts so much more – about one point each.

Starting in September 2025, the Enhanced ACT[®] will be the official test and will be available in both paper and digital formats. OTC recommends the paper format.

What Parents Can Do



For Juniors: Remind them to prepare hard because each question counts so much more now. The Science Section still matters a lot for scholarship seekers and future STEM majors.

For Seniors: Prepare hard for the New Enhanced ACT[®]. Scores senior year should be higher -- for those who prepare.

Prep Tips: OnToCollege Prep for the ACT[®] is so effective, easy-to-use, efficient, and affordable — and more important than ever as each question now counts about one point!

Quick Takeaway

The Enhanced ACT[®]

Shorter • More time • Each Question Counts More
Starts September 2025 for all national tests