



**USING YOUR  
ACT SCORE  
REPORT  
AS A TOOL TO  
SHAPE YOUR  
FUTURE**

**ACT**<sup>®</sup>



After taking the ACT test, your biggest question is likely “how did I do?” The ACT® test student score report will answer that question, but it is also a powerful tool that can help you with questions like:

- Am I ready for college?
- Will I get into the college I want?
- Do I qualify for scholarships?
- Should I take the ACT® test again?
- How can I improve my score?
- What majors fit me best?
- What career should I consider?

This guide will tell you how to use your score report to answer these questions and become more prepared and confident for the next steps in your life.

# STUDENT CONNECTIONS

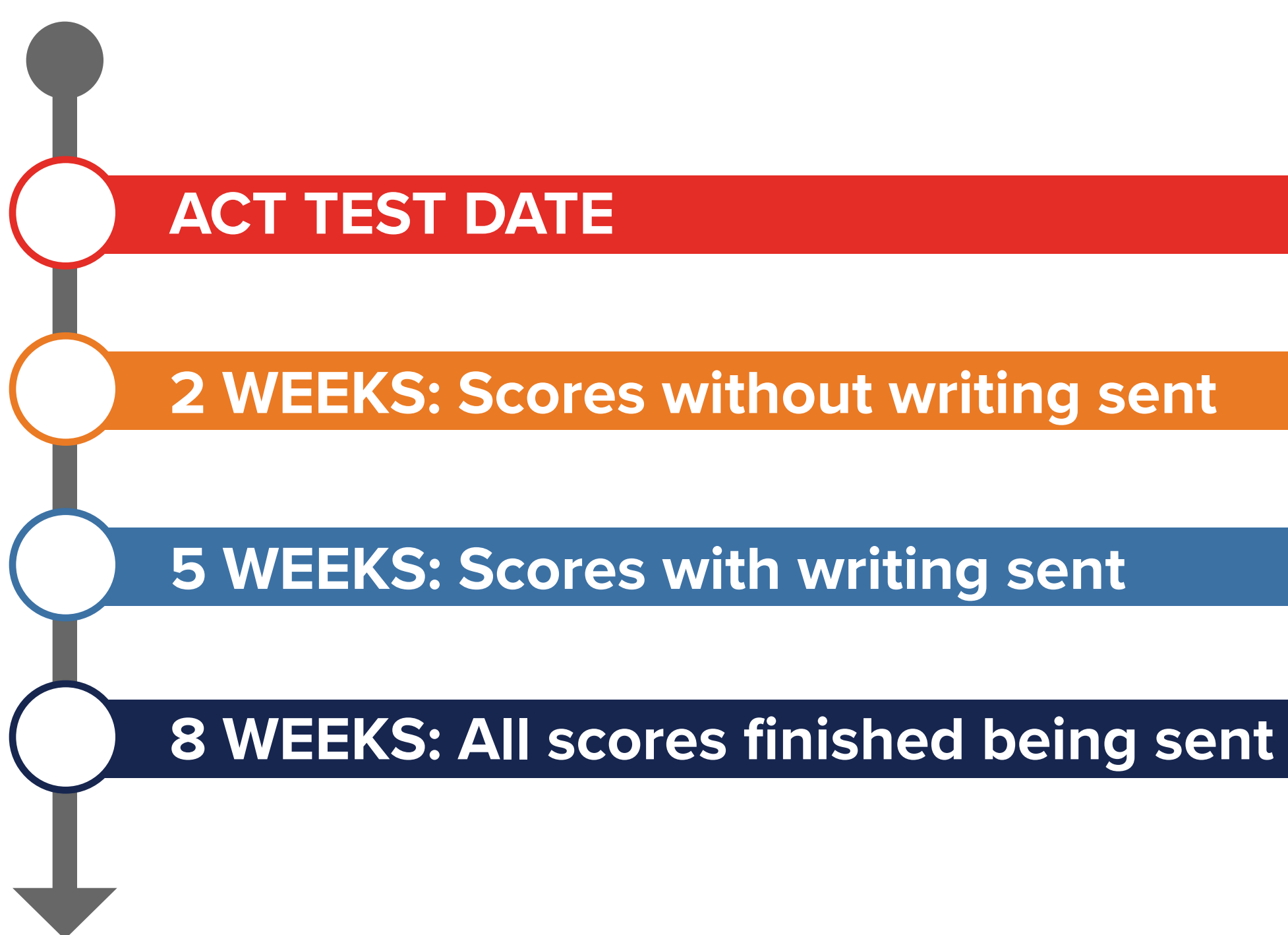
YOUR ACT SCORES: <i>When to expect them</i>	04
SENDING YOUR SCORES: <i>How to send them</i>	05
MORE COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY: <i>How to get recruited by more colleges</i>	06
COLLEGE READINESS: <i>Why it should be important</i>	07
GETTING INTO COLLEGE: <i>Giving yourself the best chance</i>	08
SCHOLARSHIPS: <i>How a single point can make the difference</i>	09
RETESTING <i>Is it worth it?</i>	10
IMPROVING YOUR SCORE: <i>Knowing what to study</i>	11
CHOOSING A MAJOR: <i>Have you considered your own interests?</i>	13
CAREERS: <i>Which one to consider</i>	14
USING YOUR SCORE REPORT	15

# YOUR ACT SCORES

## *When to expect them*

Your ACT score report will be available online 2 to 8 weeks after each national or international test date. If you took the writing test, your score report will be ready within 5 to 8 weeks after the test date.

Why does it take so long? More than 2 million students took the ACT last year. Simply put, that's a lot of tests to score – and accurate score reporting is first and foremost our concern.

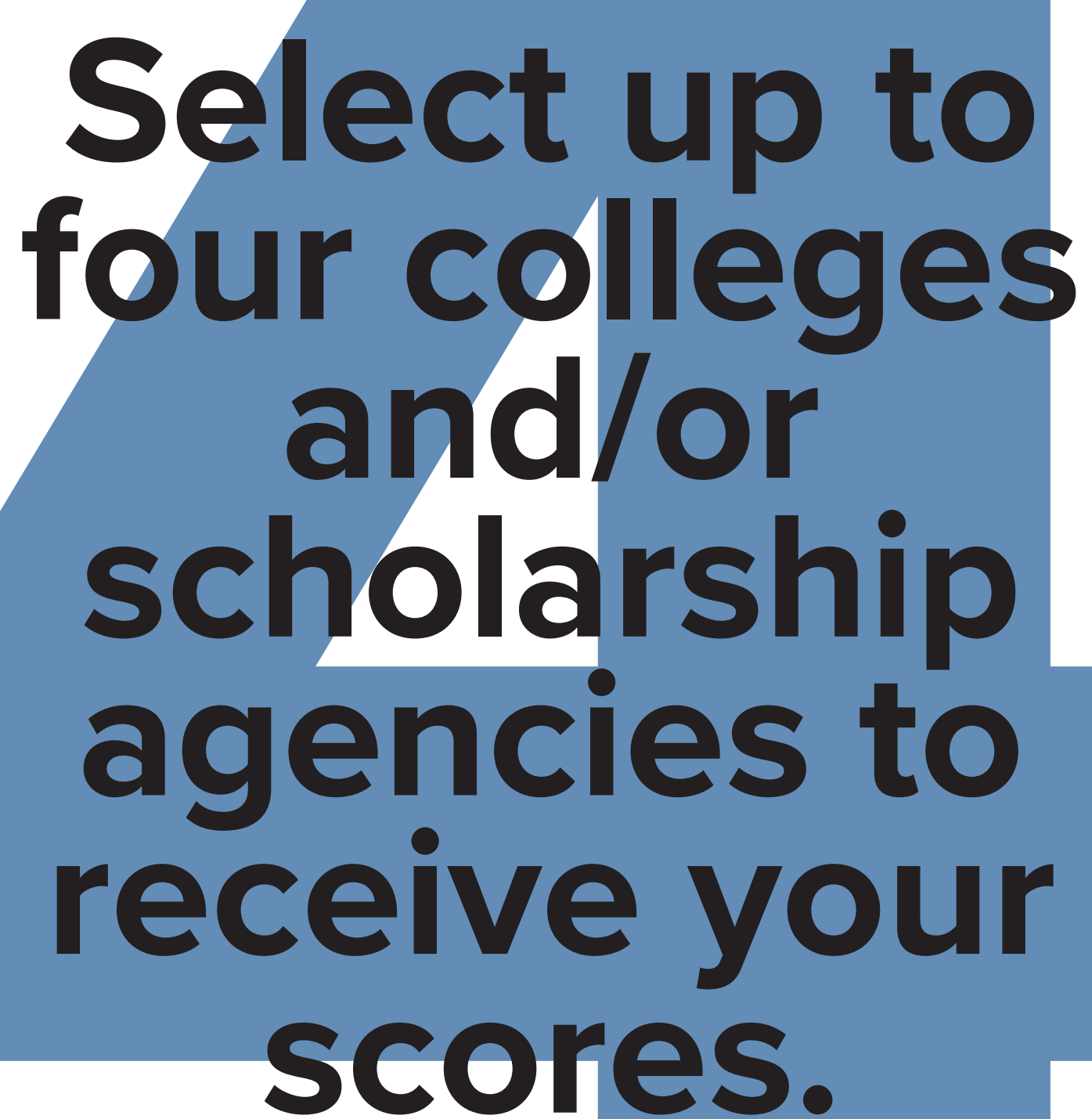




# SENDING YOUR SCORES

## *How to send them*

When you register to take the ACT test, you can select up to four colleges and/or scholarship agencies to receive your scores. There's a common myth that it's better to wait and see your scores before sending them. It's actually OK to send your scores before you receive them.



**Select up to  
four colleges  
and/or  
scholarship  
agencies to  
receive your  
scores.**

Not only is choosing four colleges or agencies free during registration, but colleges will only look at your highest ACT score. If you don't like your score and decide to take the test again, the higher score will be the score used in the admissions process.

Many people decide they want to send their scores to more than four schools. If you'd like to do this, you can request, online or via phone, to deliver your scores to more colleges or scholarship agencies at: **[www.act.org/the-act/scores](http://www.act.org/the-act/scores)**



# MORE COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY

## *How to get recruited by more colleges*

Students often spend quite a bit of time researching colleges to find the right one for their individual needs. It's also true that colleges work very hard to recruit students who may be a good fit for their program(s). But what if there's a college that would be a great fit for you and you are not aware of it? ACT provides a way for colleges and scholarship agencies to reach out to you, called the ACT Educational Opportunity Service, but this is an option you must select if you'd like to participate.

There are two ways to enroll in EOS.

1. When you register for the ACT, there will be an option to enroll in the ACT Educational Opportunity Service (EOS).
2. Or you can opt-in using our free online resource, ACT Profile.

### Be Discovered

ACT offers a service which allows you to learn about educational, scholarship, career, check the box below.

By checking the box, you agree to be contacted by ACT and third party organizations, universities, financial aid and scholarship agencies, and organizations that offer educational programs **about you that would be provided.**

Once participating in this service, you can opt out at any time by unchecking this box c

I would like to receive information about educational and financial aid opportunities agencies, and organizations that offer educational programs.

When you opt-in to EOS, it allows more colleges and scholarship agencies the opportunity to recruit you and possibly reward you.

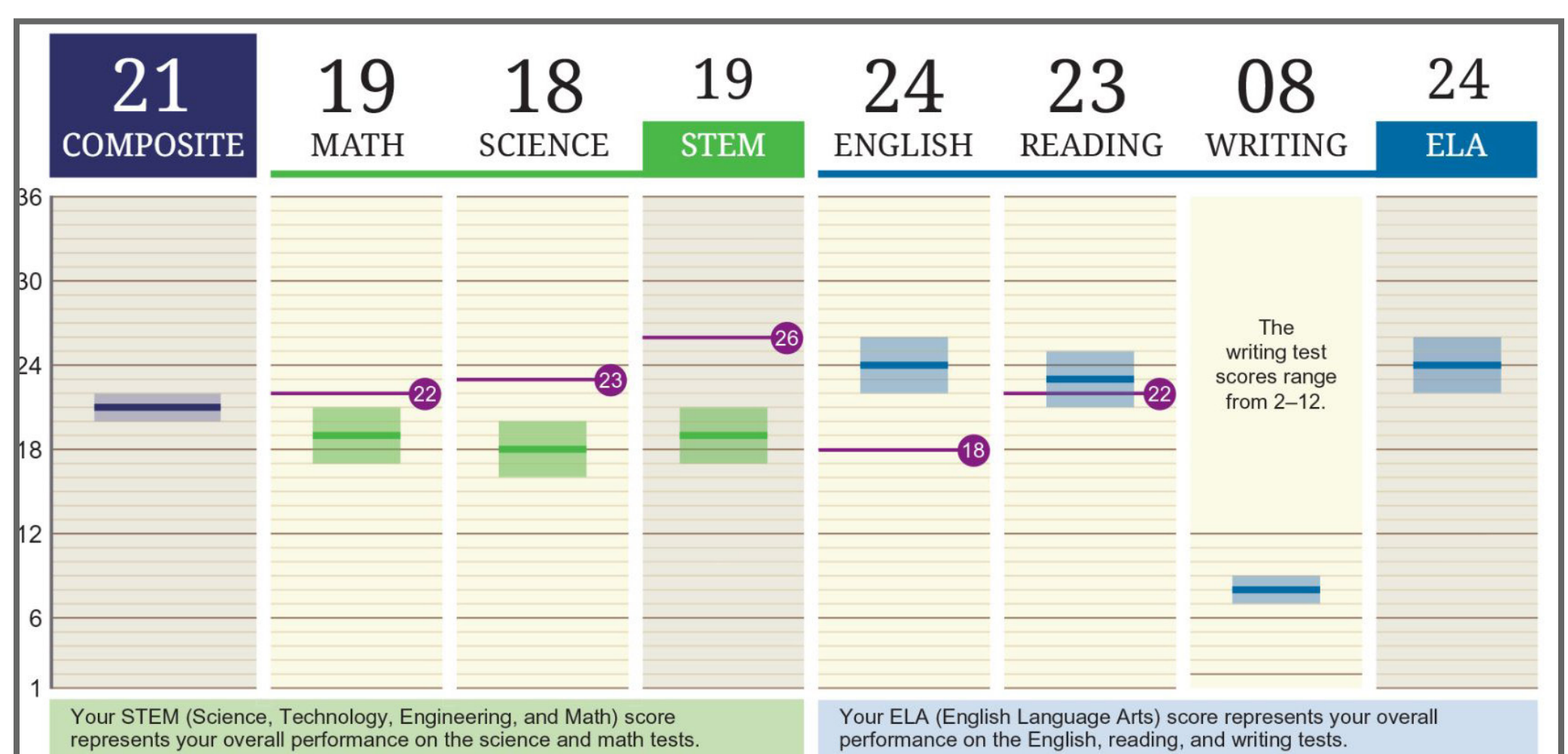


# COLLEGE READINESS

## *Why it's important for you*

The ACT is a college readiness assessment. That means it was designed to predict an individual's performance in college.

To understand how your scores relate to college readiness, you simply compare them to the college readiness benchmarks... or the scores that indicate college readiness in that subject.



When you receive your scores, the first thing you'll see is this box.

The purple lines you see within most of the boxes are the college readiness benchmarks.

If your score is at or above the benchmark, then you have a high chance of passing an entry-level course in the same subject in college. If you don't meet some of the benchmarks, these are the subject areas to focus your preparation if you decide to take the test again (see page 10: Retesting, is it worth it?).





# GETTING INTO COLLEGE

## *Giving yourself the best chance*

Colleges will generally look at your **ACT composite score** when making admission decisions.

Your ACT Composite score is an average of all the subject area scores, rounded up to the nearest whole number. You can find your ACT Composite score in the top left of your score report.



Most college websites will have information about what their incoming classes commonly score on the ACT. You can compare your composite score to your desired college's range of accepted scores to see how you stack up against students they accept.

There are a lot of factors that go into admission decisions, like your GPA, extracurricular activities, and references, on top of your ACT test scores. But scoring at or above the average ACT score for that college gives you a good chance of being accepted. It also may present more scholarship opportunities for high achieving students.

If you need to raise your Composite score to help get into the college you want, focus on your weakest subject areas, prepare, and try again.



# 1 POINT = More Scholarships

## **SCHOLARSHIPS:** *A single point on the ACT can make the difference*

Many scholarships require a minimum ACT score in order to qualify for consideration. Your ACT composite score is generally the score that is considered. Whether the scholarship comes from an agency or your desired college, a single point might make a big financial difference.

For example, at Indiana University, the difference between a 30 and a 31 on the ACT is either a \$5,000 or \$11,000 scholarship, respectively<sup>1</sup>. Or, take The University of Iowa, where students with a GPA of 3.85 and an ACT score of 30 are eligible for \$34,000 in scholarships compared to \$74,000 for students with an ACT score of 32<sup>2</sup>. There have also been cases where students have received full tuition after raising their score by just one point.

Research your desired colleges and find out what scholarships can apply to you. You may be only a point or two away from achieving extra support that could get you through college with less, or even no, debt and more financial freedom.

<sup>1</sup>How a 1 Point Increase on the ACT Can Equal \$24,000—The College Solution

<sup>2</sup>Scholarships for First-Year Students—University of Iowa



# RETESTING

## *Is it worth it?*

We advise taking the ACT for the first time the fall of your junior year, then testing again later, with more schooling and a bit of prep under your belt. That way you can use your first score as a benchmark, identify areas for improvement, and then work on those areas until you are college ready or continue to strengthen your knowledge.

Why do we suggest this? Taking the test more than once lets you see your improvement over time and identifies if you're on the path to college readiness. Also, you learn a lot as you

progress further through your high school career. So, if you took the ACT for the first time your junior year, your academic knowledge will have increased by your senior year. Since the ACT is an academic achievement test, chances are you will achieve a higher score.

**57%**  
**INCREASE**  
**THEIR**  
**SCORE BY**  
**RETESTING**

The numbers speak for themselves. Of the students who took the ACT last year, nearly half retook it and 57% INCREASED THEIR SCORE. Also we know that the earlier you start taking the ACT, the higher, on average, your score will be later on.

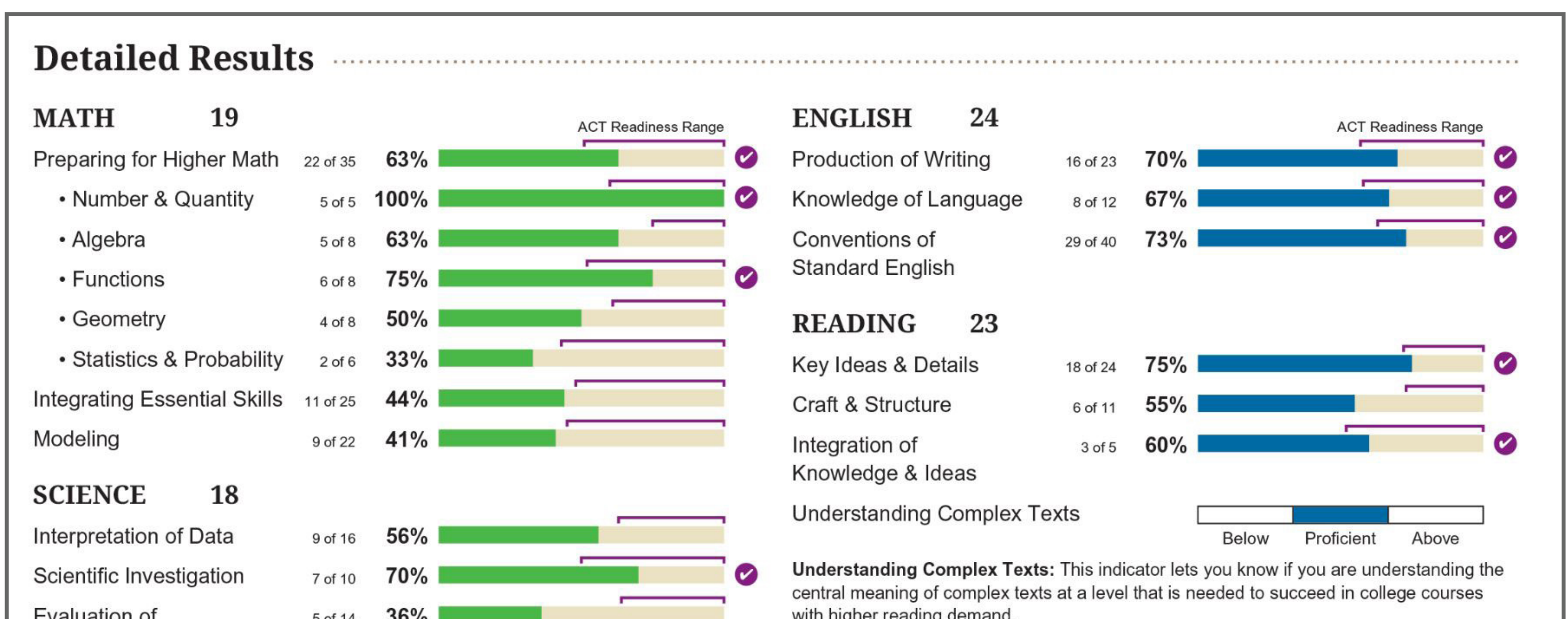


# IMPROVING YOUR SCORE

## *Knowing what to study*

What steps can you take to improve your ACT score? Your ACT score report can help answer this question.

Look at the bottom left side of your score report and you will see a section labeled “Detailed Results”:



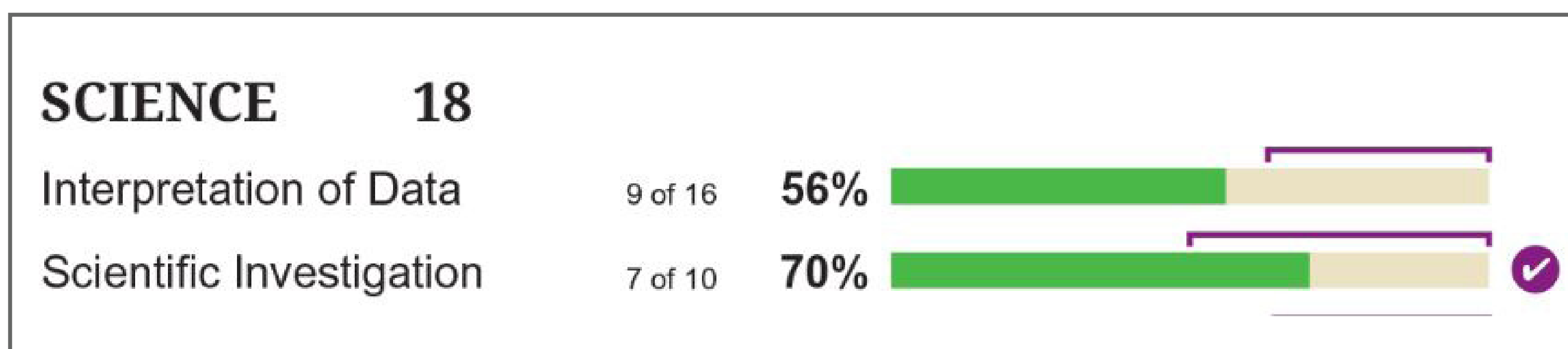
You will see the tested subject areas and the scores you achieved in those areas. Below the subject areas, you will find the breakdown of what information you were tested on and how well you did in each subcategory.

If you fall within the ACT Readiness Range within a specific subcategory, you’re ready for college level coursework in that category.



# IMPROVING YOUR SCORE

## *Knowing what to study*



Using the initial subject areas, find your scores that are below the benchmark or that are lower than the rest and then review the breakdown. You may be looking at your math score and find that you were in the readiness range with algebra but not geometry. To improve your score, you might consider improving your geometry skills before taking the ACT again.

Remember, every point matters. Pinpointing specific areas of improvement and diligently focusing on them can boost your knowledge of that subject—and as a result—your score. A small improvement may be the difference between getting into college or thousands of dollars in scholarships (see Scholarships: A single point on the ACT can make the difference).

ACT has a variety of ways to help boost your score and help you get into your dream college or win that amazing scholarship. Whether it be through questions of the day, test prep guides, or online instruction, ACT wants you to become confident and prepared for the next step in your life.

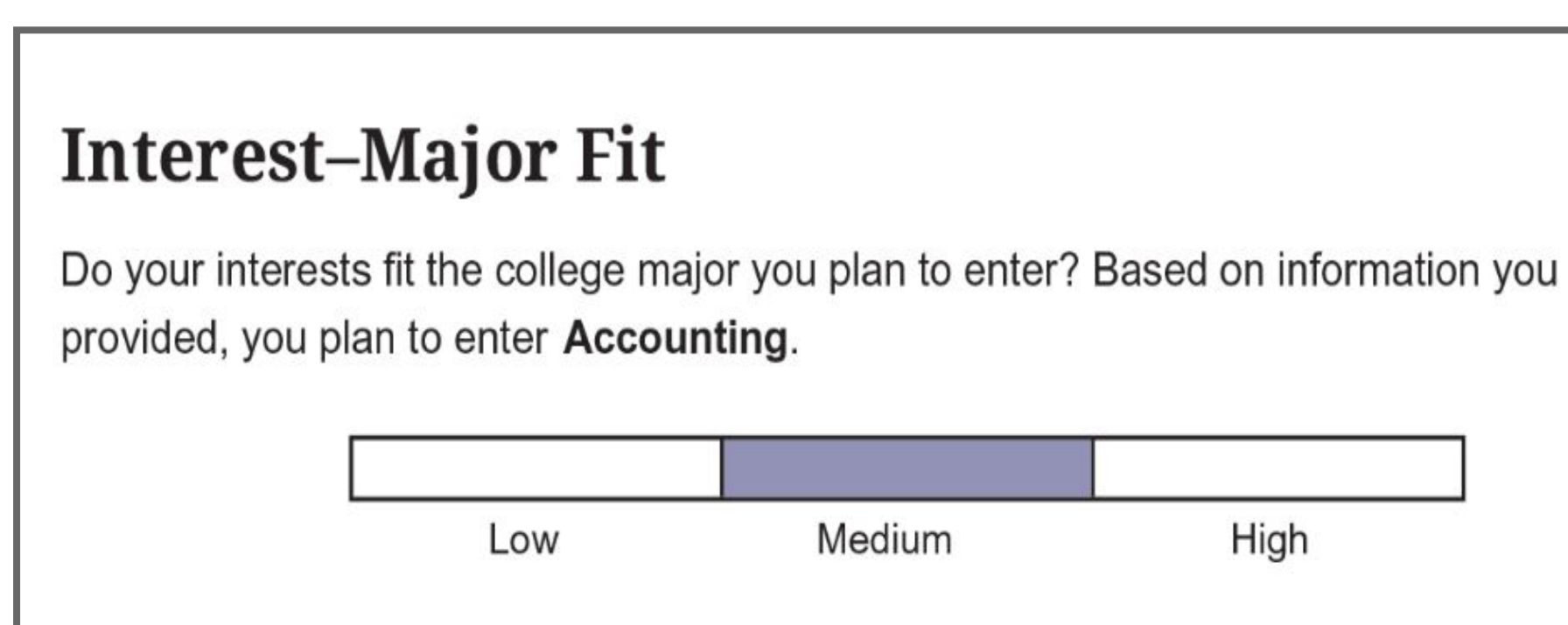
Check out [act.org/testprep](https://act.org/testprep) to see all the tools that can help you.



# CHOOSING A MAJOR

## *Have you considered your own interests*

How do you know if the major you're thinking about is the right one? This is a big question, but part of the answer lies in whether or not your interests align with that major. As you registered for the ACT, you took an interest inventory. The analysis of this inventory is displayed on your score report.



On your score report, toward the bottom right side, you will see an interest-major fit section.

While filling out your interest inventory, you provided an 'expected major.' This graph tells you how well your interests match with other students who declared the same major.

Students whose interests match up with their major are more likely to enjoy that major and graduate. That's why it's important to think about how your major and interests line up. If you are shaded in the high quadrant, this level of alignment might support continuing with the expected major you listed. If you find yourself shaded in the low or medium quadrant on your score report, this indicates a lesser alignment between your interests and the expected major you chose during registration for the ACT test.

ACT Profile is an online resource that exposes you to different majors that fit your interests. It also allows you to explore colleges that offer that major and helps you figure out the cost for college. Go to [act.org/actprofile](https://act.org/actprofile) to sign up for this FREE tool.



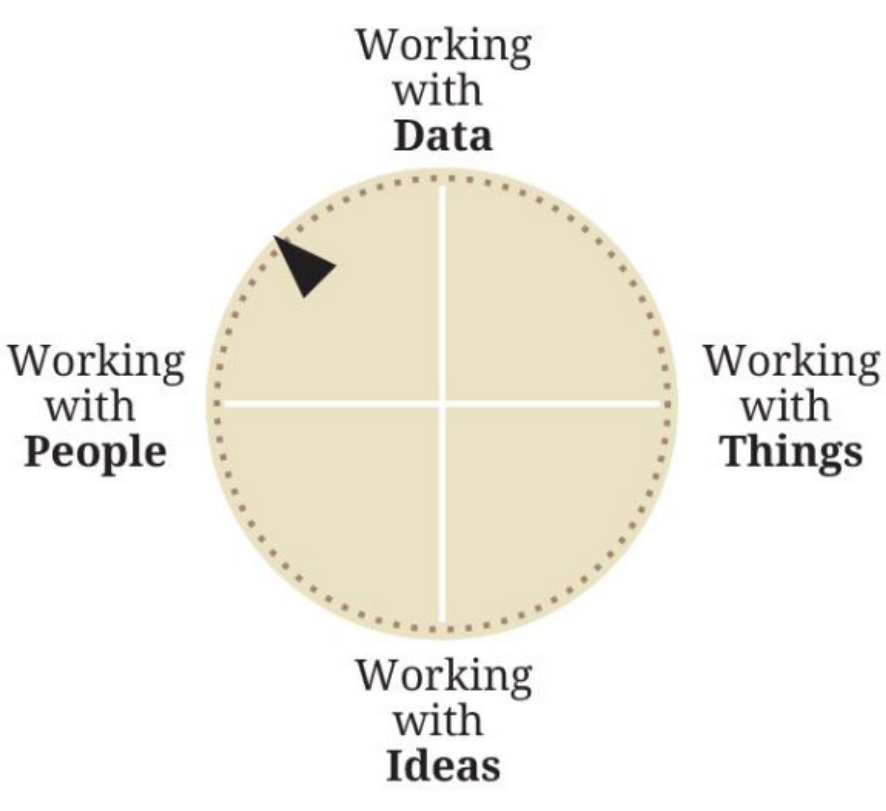
# CAREERS

## *Which one to consider*

During your interest inventory, you selected different kinds of basic work tasks you preferred. On your score report, in the college and career planning section, you will see a list of five potential occupations that involve the type of work you preferred.

According to your results, you enjoy working with **People & Data**. Here are a few examples of occupations involving this kind of work:

- Buyer
- FBI/CIA Agent
- Financial Manager
- Training/Education Manager
- Travel Guide



You can use this section to explore potential careers that best fit your interests. People whose interests fit their career experience higher job performance and greater job satisfaction.

Use this section of the score report to explore the careers presented. Could you see yourself doing something like this? If it fits your interests, you might experience a more fulfilling career and in the end, a happier life.



# USING YOUR SCORE REPORT

Think of your score report as more than just a score. Think of it as a tool, a map for tracking your readiness for college and how your interests match up with your career options. Use it to help plan and inform what might come next. For more information about your scores and what they mean, go to [actstudent.org/myscores](https://actstudent.org/myscores)