



Updates for 2013–14

Welcome Back! What's New for High Schools

Updates to ACT College Readiness Benchmarks for Reading and Science

ACT routinely monitors the predictive validity of the ACT College Readiness Benchmarks* by analyzing the performance of students in college and their achievement levels in credit-bearing, first-year college courses in each content area. Data gathered through this review indicated the need to adjust the current ACT College Readiness Benchmarks in Reading and Science. The updated Benchmarks will appear on individual student reports beginning in September 2013. Updated Benchmarks were also shown on the 2013 graduating class aggregate reports delivered in August 2013. The table below shows the original and updated Benchmarks.

College Course	Subject Area Test	Original ACT College Readiness Benchmark	Updated ACT College Readiness Benchmark
English Composition	English	18	18
College Algebra	Mathematics	22	22
Social Studies	Reading	21	22
Biology	Science	24	23

Updates to College Readiness Standards

As part of our ongoing content validity process, a Standards review, and the results of the 2012 ACT National Curriculum Survey, we have determined that tighter alignment was needed between our ACT College Readiness Standards and the Common Core State Standards. Our goal is simple—to eliminate confusion by providing a more transparent connection between the two sets of Standards.

ACT is in the process of reformatting the language in some of the College Readiness Standards to better align to the Common Core and to facilitate comparisons by users. Overall, the Standards will not change and will continue to represent the backbone of our assessment systems. New Ideas for Progress that align to the Standards will also be available this fall. To view or print the Standards, go to www.act.org/standard/index.html.

*The empirically derived ACT College Readiness Benchmarks predict the likelihood of success in corresponding credit-bearing, first-year college courses in each specific subject area. Benchmarks are scores on the ACT subject area tests that represent the level of achievement required for students to have a 50% chance of obtaining a B or higher or about a 75% chance of obtaining a C or higher in corresponding credit-bearing, first-year college courses. These college courses include English Composition, College Algebra, Biology, and introductory social science courses. Based on a national sample of colleges and universities, the Benchmarks are median course placement values across these institutions and as such represent a typical set of expectations.