ACT Score Goal & Retake Worksheet

SHARP

Set an ACT target from college and scholarship policies, review your section scores, and decide whether another test has a useful purpose.

Give your target a reason

Choose a target by naming what a higher result would change. A college's published ACT range can help you compare; a scholarship's stated minimum can define a requirement. Keep those uses separate.

The Common Data Set's middle 50% ACT range describes enrolled first-year students who submitted ACT scores. It is not an admissions cutoff or a probability of acceptance. Record the class year and ACT sample size with any range.

Worked example: every college and policy below is fictional

Hypothetical record	What it means for this student
Current ACT: English 27, Math 23, Reading 25	(27 + 23 + 25) ÷ 3 = 25. The current Composite is 25.
College A: middle 50% of 24–28 among enrolled ACT submitters	A 25 falls inside the reported range. That does not establish an admission outcome.
College A scholarship: minimum 26 from one sitting, plus other conditions	A 26 could satisfy the score condition. Confirm the other conditions and deadline before planning a retake.

Keeping English at 27 and Reading at 25 while earning 26 in Math would give (27 + 26 + 25) ÷ 3 = 26. That is one hypothetical section profile, not a forecast. Review the Math errors before deciding whether that preparation fits the time available.

The current Composite averages English, Math and Reading and rounds to the nearest whole number. Science and Writing do not enter it. Use the score reported for an older sitting rather than relabeling its original Composite.

Make one policy record for each college or award

Copy this page for each item on your list. Use the institution's own admissions and scholarship pages. Write “not found” when a policy is unstated, then record the question you need answered.

Check	Your record
College, program or scholarship; entry year	
Current testing policy; Science and Writing rules	
Published ACT range, class year and population; number/share of ACT submitters	
Stated score minimum and other eligibility conditions; single sitting or superscore	
Last accepted test date; score-receipt deadline; official or self-reported scores	
Source URL(s) and date checked; page/cycle label	
Unanswered question; office/contact and dated response	

Do not turn a college's SAT range into a missing ACT range. Keep a class profile separate from the policy for your application cycle; keep scholarship requirements separate from admission requirements.

Read the section profile before choosing the work

Record one sitting per row. Label practice results and the exact test form; keep them separate from official results. For an older sitting, copy its reported Composite.

Date / official or practice / form	English	Math	Reading	Reported Composite
1				
2				
3				

Science / Writing results, dates and reason you need them:

ACT's current superscore uses your best English, Math and Reading results across test dates. Check each recipient's acceptance policy before treating it as your qualifying result. Do not combine practice scores into an official superscore.

Preparation decision	Your evidence and next step
Recurring skill error; test/question examples	
Timing or process problem; what to change	
Next practice task and review date	

A low section result identifies a place to investigate. Your wrong answers and unfinished questions help distinguish missing knowledge from a pacing problem.

Decide whether to retake

Retake when you can name a useful outcome, identify work that addresses your errors, and leave time for preparation and reporting. If a policy is unresolved, settle it before paying for another sitting.

Decision	Your plan
Current qualifying result → target; what the target would change	
Proposed test date; registration deadline; recipient's score deadline	
Weekly preparation and review time; school/application commitments; testing cost	
Retake / wait for clarification / stop for now; reason and date to revisit	

Check before registering

- [ ] The target serves a named college, program, scholarship or preparation goal.
- [ ] The recipient accepts the score format I plan to use, and I have checked Science and Writing separately.
- [ ] I have checked the last accepted test date and score-receipt rules; I am not assuming a guaranteed reporting date.
- [ ] My plan includes reviewing errors, not only taking more practice tests.

Use ACT registration for available dates and deadlines, and ACT score information for reporting guidance. The recipient controls its own deadline.

Source check: November 5, 2026. Sources: ACT scoring, ACT superscores, and Common Data Set C9. Recheck institutional policies for your entry year. All example colleges and award conditions in this worksheet are hypothetical.