

The ACT Prep class is designed to familiarize students with the test required for admission by most colleges and universities. Well-prepared students are more likely to score higher on the ACT, which may increase their chances of receiving scholarships and enable them to have more options when selecting a college.



Because of the fast-paced design of this course, ATTENDANCE will be a **HIGH** priority. Much of the practice is timed, so you may not complete that work outside of the classroom. Students will learn test-taking strategies, review English, math, reading and science content, take practice tests, and discover ways to reduce test anxiety. Although writing is not required for most college admission, we will spend a few days on the writing section. In addition to the workbook—The Official ACT 2017 Prep Guide—you will practice with released ACT tests and Method Test Prep software within Career Cruising at SDMyLife.

From now on, whenever you see the word **standardized**, think **predictable** instead. The ACT test measures what it says it does: academic achievement. The ACT tests the same information the same way, year after year. For example, there are always 14 plane geometry questions on the ACT, and there are exactly 10 questions on punctuation. You can count on it! Even the way they ask the questions is predictable, based on the need for a standardized product. You will be exposed to the type of questions that will be on the test so you will know how to recognize them and be prepared.

When should you take the ACT? The test is given six times each year in most of the country, usually at 8:00 A.M. on a Saturday morning. The vast majority of American students take the test in the spring of their junior year, but more and more are taking it several times, beginning as early as their freshman year.

For this course, **YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO REGISTER AND TAKE THE OFFICIAL ACT on December 9, 2017.** We will get registered for that exam soon. If you have a **SPECIFIC** and legitimate reason that you must miss the test that day, that must be confirmed **BEFORE October 1st** by email or phone contact from your parents, and you must sit for a full-length (3 hour) exam administered by Mrs. Merkwan and Mrs. Renner. You must also **REGISTER** for the February ACT and print your ticket, since that printed ticket will be one of the assignments for the December test. If you fail to complete the December exam or to register for the February exam, your grade will be docked one full letter grade.

In this class, you will learn test-taking strategies for the ACT test specifically which could also be applied to other classroom tests. You will also spend a great deal of time practicing on ACT tests. In most semester-long ACT prep classes, up to ten ACT tests are given. **PRACTICE** is the best way to study and prepare to take the ACT. From the tests that you take, you will discover both your strengths and your weaknesses, and you can work specifically on those areas to improve your score. If you really try hard to improve through the completion of these practice tests, you will find that your scores will increase significantly. The more that you practice the ACT tests, the better and more comfortable you will become at taking any standardized test.

EVALUATION:

Your participation on the computer practices, the written practices, and the almost daily sample subject area tests will constitute a portion of your grade. More about grading will be discussed in class. If you are consistently absent, your participation grade will be reduced. Two or three times during the semester, you will be given **full length** "mock" ACT tests. Your grade for these tests will be based on improvement only. The mock tests will be counted as a larger percentage of your grade.

PREREQUISITES:

Students must have a real desire to improve/score well on their ACT. Everyone is in this class for a different reason. Some need to earn a high enough score to enroll in the college of your choice (SDSU requires a score of 18; USD requires 21; the SD School of Mines requires 24); others want to get more scholarship money. Scoring well on the ACT means assistance in the form of scholarships/grants (usually a score of 27 or above for scholarships). Remember, each point that you can raise your ACT above 27 means approximately \$800 to \$1000 per year. In South Dakota, a score of 24 on the ACT will guarantee you \$6000 for the SD Opportunity Scholarship. To avoid remedial coursework at South Dakota universities, you must score an 18 in English and a 20 in Math.

EXPECTATIONS:

1. **Be Respectful.** Show respect through your words and actions. Since this class relies heavily on computers, appropriate computer use is very important. Anyone visiting sites that are not appropriate will be removed from the computers and given written work in place of using the technology.
2. **Be Responsible.** Participate in class and complete all assignments. Be **HERE!**
3. **Be Ready.** Be In Class Ready to Work before the Second Bell
 - Do not work on assignments from another class during ACT work time.
 - Do not bring food or drinks into the classroom.
 - Cell phones and other electronic devices such as Apple watches and iPods are not to be seen or heard during ACT work time. They are **NOT allowed** in the ACT testing center, so we'll get used to that now! If you think you will be tempted to even TOUCH your phone, check it into the Cell Hotel on Mrs. Renner's desk! If we even SEE a cell phone in class, you will forfeit that days' points, just as you would forfeit the fee for taking the ACT if you bring a cell phone into the ACT or if your phone goes off during the ACT. In both cases, you are removed from the testing center.