



K-12 EDUCATORS



Helping Students

Prepare for Testing
Prepare for College
Prepare for Careers

Helping Schools

Measure Student Progress

Assess Outcomes
Improve Teaching and Learning
Strengthen School Counseling Programs

Resources

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Measuring Student Progress

For a flexible solution to the varied challenges involved in helping students reach their goals, consider ACT's [EPAS® Educational Planning and Assessment System](#).

This comprehensive system brings together a sequence of assessment programs:

- [EXPLORE®](#) (8th or 9th grade)
- [PLAN®](#) (10th grade)
- [the ACT](#) (11th & 12th grades)
- [WorkKeys®](#) (9–12th grades)

EPAS offers special reporting programs called [linkage reports](#) and [College Readiness Standards Information Services](#).

This unique combination can meet your school's needs in four key service areas:

Assessment

Students need to know their academic strengths and weaknesses so they can choose courses or get extra help where they need it.

EPAS:

- Focuses on standards-based assessments that emphasize higher-order thinking skills important for success in school and work
- Provides information to document student academic achievement and program effectiveness
- Contributes information for appropriate course placement decisions

Student Planning

Students also need a plan that includes a general direction for their life. Without such a plan, they are less likely to stay in school.

EPAS:

- Provides a systematic way to explore careers and educational requirements associated with those careers
- Motivates students to see the connection between course selections and achievement and their lifelong objectives
- Increases student access to post-high school options

Instructional support

Teachers need clear targets for integrating essential skills into classroom instruction.

EPAS:

- Connects teaching, learning, and assessment
- Provides information helpful in aligning curriculum to life-relevant goals and objectives
- Relates what is being taught to what is being learned
- Suggests high-quality instructional activities

Evaluation

Administrators need a way to evaluate student progress in acquiring these skills from eighth to tenth to twelfth grade.

EPAS:

- Documents accomplishment of standards and objectives
- Provides evidence of student change and growth over time
- Provides information to make informed decisions about relative strengths and weaknesses of instructional programs

[Next -> Assessing Outcomes](#)

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EXPLORE[®]

ACT[®]

EXPLORE[®]

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ACT's College Readiness Test for 8th and 9th Graders

The **EXPLORE[®]** program is designed to help 8th and 9th graders explore a broad range of options for their future. EXPLORE prepares students not only for their high school coursework, but for their post-high school choices as well. It marks an important beginning for a student's future academic and career success.

EXPLORE can serve as an independent program or as the entry point into ACT's [EPAS[®] Educational Planning and Assessment System](#).

Both 8th- and 9th-grade norms are available for EXPLORE.

Improvements to
the EXPLORE Program

NEW

Visit the
EXPLORE[®]
student site



Materials for Educators
to download and share

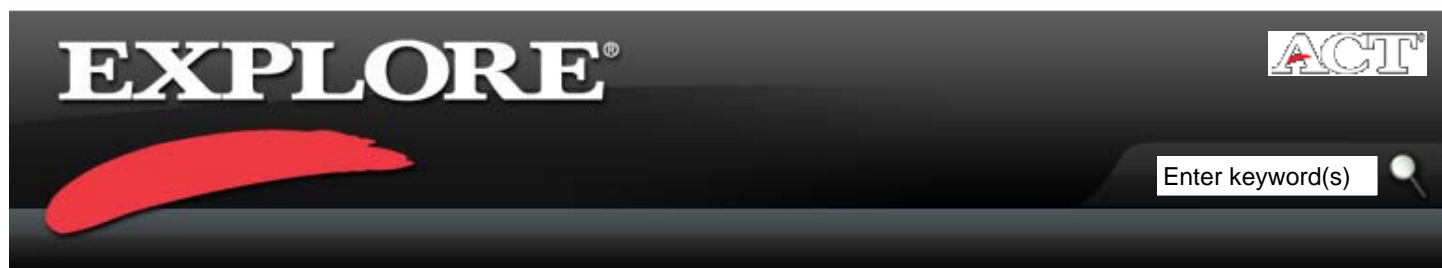


EPAS[®] in Action

- Video for Counselors
- Video for Administrators

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Components

EXPLORE® is administered to all students during the regular school day at the school's convenience. EXPLORE is made up of four academic achievement tests and other key components:

Achievement Tests

English	40 items	30 minutes
Mathematics	30 items	30 minutes
Reading	30 items	30 minutes
Science	28 items	30 minutes

Additional Components

- **Why Take EXPLORE?**
Provides helpful information about EXPLORE for students and parents, including practical hints for making a successful transition into high school. (Also available in Spanish)
- **[UNIACT Interest Inventory](#)** (72 items)
Helps students explore personally relevant career options.
- **Needs Assessment**
Collects information about students' perceived needs.
- **Plans and Background Information**
Gathers information about students' school coursework plans, educational and career plans after high school, and other relevant information.

The content of the EXPLORE tests is closely tied to that of the achievement tests in the [the ACT](#), which is broadly used for college entrance and placement decisions. It is also consistent with the content of ACT's [PLAN®](#) program for grade 10. EXPLORE, PLAN and the ACT can be used in combination to focus on meeting academic standards across the entire secondary school core program of studies. The EPAS [College Readiness Standards](#) are a useful tool for supporting instructional improvement.

Activities After Testing

Using Your EXPLORE Results explains the EXPLORE report profile to students and their parents, offering an introduction to ACT's World-of-Work Map, a study skills checklist, and a coursework planner. The booklet is also available in Spanish.

Utilize **Using Your EXPLORE Results** to find helpful post-testing activities. Topics include:

- **Understanding Your EXPLORE Results**—helps families understand and effectively use information provided by EXPLORE

- *Exploring Your Career Possibilities*—shows how to use the results of the UNIACT Interest Inventory to explore careers
- *Coursework Planning*—provides guidelines to help students develop a high school coursework plan based on their EXPLORE test results

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**PLAN®**[Components](#)[Packages](#)[Benefits](#)[Ordering Information](#)[Contact Us](#)[EPAS®](#)[ACT Education Home](#)**ACT's College Readiness Test for 10th Graders**



The **PLAN®** program helps 10th graders build a solid foundation for future academic and career success and provides information needed to address school districts' high-priority issues. It is a comprehensive guidance resource that helps students measure their current academic development, explore career/training options, and make plans for the remaining years of high school and post-graduation years.

PLAN can help all students—those who are college-bound as well as those who are likely to enter the workforce directly after high school.

As a "pre-ACT" test, **PLAN** is a powerful predictor of success on the ACT. At the same time, many schools recognize the importance of PLAN testing for all students, as it focuses attention on both career preparation and improving academic achievement.

Typically, **PLAN** is administered in the fall of the sophomore year.

**EPAS® in Action**

-  Video for Counselors
-  Video for Administrators

**Improvements to the PLAN Program** **NEW**
visit the **PLAN®** student site **Materials for Educators**
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**The ACT®****Information for:**

- College Administrators
- Students with Disabilities

Writing Test Option**Publications****EPAS®****K-12 Educators****Postsecondary Educators****ACT Education Home****America's Most Widely Accepted College Entrance Exam**

The ACT® test assesses high school students' general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work.

- The multiple-choice tests cover four skill areas: English, mathematics, reading, and science.
- The Writing Test, which is optional, measures skill in planning and writing a short essay.

Journalists, see more [facts about the ACT](#).

Counselors, use our [order form](#) to request selected ACT materials.



The [School Edition](#) is now available!

More Information

- Signing up for the test
- Taking the test
- Viewing, sending, or understanding ACT scores

Go!

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ACT's Interest Inventory (UNIACT)

One of the most difficult tasks faced by adolescents, and by adults considering a career change, is to find occupations appropriate to their goals and personal characteristics. The ACT Interest Inventory provides a focus to career exploration, not by singling out the one "right" occupation, but rather by pointing to world-of-work regions individuals may wish to explore. Through exploration, people may find occupations they might otherwise have missed.

What Makes the UNIACT Different?

UNIACT's items emphasize work-relevant activities (e.g., fix a toy, conduct a meeting) that are familiar to people, either by participation or observation. Contrary to most other interest inventories, UNIACT does not use occupational titles or specific job duties that may be unfamiliar to persons in the early stages of career exploration/planning.

Items have been carefully chosen to assess basic interests while minimizing the effects of sex-role connotations. UNIACT reports six scores that parallel John Holland's six interest and occupational types and its results are visually linked to career options via the [World-of-Work Map](#). The UNIACT Technical Manual contains several chapters describing more than 20 years of research supporting the reliability and validity of UNIACT.

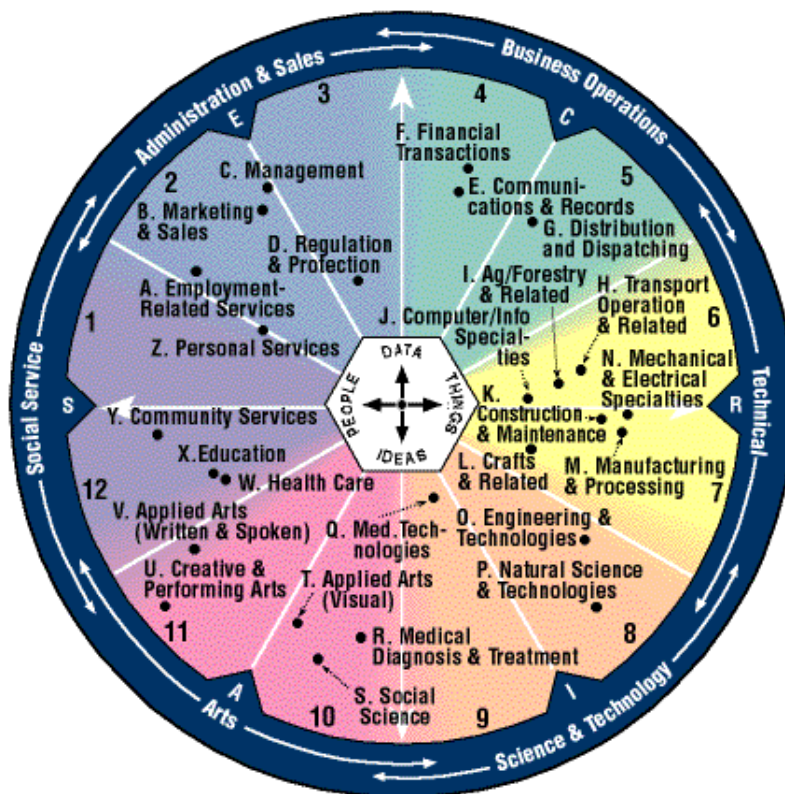
How can I take the UNIACT?

The UNIACT is not available as a stand-alone service. However, each year more than five million people complete this survey as a first step in exploring career options. The interest inventory is a key component of several ACT services including:



- [The ACT](#)
- [EXPLORE®](#)
- [PLAN®](#)
- [Career Planning Survey](#)
- [DISCOVER®](#)

**World-of-Work Map**[About the Map](#)[Counselor Version](#)[Student Version](#)[Career Clusters and Areas](#)[Underlying Research](#)[ACT Education Home](#)**Counselor Version**

On the counselor version, which is oriented to professionals, six general types of work ("career clusters") and related Holland types (RIASEC) are shown around the edge of the Map. The work task locations of the 26 [career areas](#) appear inside the Map.

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WorkKeys®



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WorkKeys® job skills assessment system measures real-world skills.



The WorkKeys System

- connects work skills, training, and testing for [education](#) and [employers](#).
- makes it easier to meet the requirements of [federal programs and legislation](#)
- supports [economic and workforce development](#) programs.
- is the basis for the [National Career Readiness Certificate](#)

Find the nearest [WorkKeys Solutions Provider location](#).

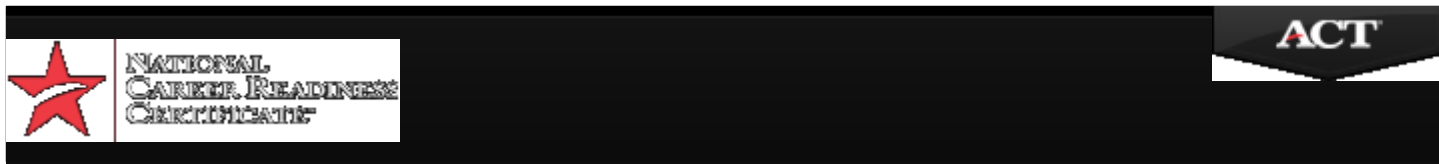


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Frequently Asked Questions

Please see our [job seekers FAQ](#) for more detail about using your account and earning and ordering The Certificate.

- [Why is The Certificate based on the Applied Mathematics, Reading for Information, and Locating Information skills?](#)
- [Which businesses will accept a career readiness certificate?](#)
- [What makes the National Career Readiness Certificate unique?](#)
- [Why should employers accept the National Career Readiness Certificate?](#)
- [How do jobseekers qualify for a certificate?](#)
- [For how long is the National Career Readiness Certificate valid?](#)

Why is The Certificate based on the Applied Mathematics, Reading for Information, and Locating Information skills?

ACT has profiled more than 16,000 individual jobs across the country to determine the skills and skill levels needed to succeed in them. According to our findings, three skills are highly important to most jobs:

- **Reading for Information**—comprehending work-related reading materials, from memos and bulletins to policy manuals and governmental regulations.
- **Applied Mathematics**—applying mathematical reasoning to work-related problems.
- **Locating Information**—using information from such materials as diagrams, floor plans, tables, forms, graphs, and charts.

A solid foundation of these three skills is essential for a well-qualified workforce.

A recent American Management Association survey found that 38 percent of job applicants taking employer-administered tests lacked the reading and math skills needed in the jobs for which they applied.

Information retrieval and problem-solving skills—what the Locating Information test measures—are highly relevant in our information-based business culture.

Which businesses will accept a career readiness certificate?

ACT will be partnering with affiliated states to let businesses know about the National Career Readiness Certificate, what it signifies, and how it can be used to find skilled workers. Several companies are already accepting The Certificate from statewide or regional WorkKeys-powered certificate programs.

What makes the National Career Readiness Certificate unique?

The Certificate is based on well-established WorkKeys tests that are documented as making a difference for employers. WorkKeys has been in use for nearly two decades and is already widely accepted by thousands of companies all over the world.

The National Career Readiness Certificate is a proven, successful system. National Career Readiness Certificates have been used for more than two years at the state- and community-wide levels.

Also, WorkKeys exams are compliant with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) regulations.

Because WorkKeys tests assess essential foundational skills, they are applicable to and necessary for virtually every job. "Soft skills" are important, but essential foundational skills such as reading, math, and locating information are the bedrock of training for just about every job.

Why should employers accept the National Career Readiness Certificate?

The Certificate is a portable credential that shows employers anywhere in the United States that jobseekers have attained a certain level of workplace employability skills in Reading for Information, Applied Mathematics, and Locating Information. These workplace skills are highly important to the majority of jobs in the workplace.

How do jobseekers qualify for a certificate?

To qualify for a National Career Readiness Certificate, jobseekers take the WorkKeys Applied Mathematics, Reading for Information, and Locating Information assessments. Certificates are awarded in the three categories listed below:

- Bronze Level signifies an individual has scored at least a Level 3 on each of the three assessments and has the necessary foundational skills for 35% of the jobs listed in the WorkKeys Occupational Profile Database.
- Silver Level signifies an individual has scored at least a Level 4 on each of the three assessments and has the necessary foundational skills for 65% of the jobs listed in the WorkKeys Occupational Profile Database.
- Gold Level signifies an individual has scored at least a Level 5 on each of the three assessments and has the necessary foundational skills for 90% of the jobs in the WorkKeys Occupational Profile Database.

For how long is the National Career Readiness Certificate valid?

The National Career Readiness Certificate is valid for five years beyond the first test date of the WorkKeys assessments included in that certificate.