

ACT INFORMATION

A student's ACT score is a significant factor in admission at many colleges and universities and is often a factor when awarding merit scholarships.

All public high school graduates take the ACT in April of their junior year as part of the state-mandated Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE). There is no cost to take the PSAE.

PSAE (includes ACT) Dates

2010	<u>April 28-29, 2010</u>	Class of 2011
2011*	April 26-27, 2011	Class of 2012
2012*	April 24-25, 2012	Class of 2013

Because the ACT score is significant in college admissions, students should consider strategies to maximize their score.

- **Challenging Curriculum** – Students should take a challenging curriculum including AP and Accelerated classes when appropriate. The ACT measures skills in English, Reading, Mathematics, Science, and Writing. <http://www.actstudent.org/testprep/descriptions/index.html>
- **Practice Tests** – Many students find that taking a practice ACT and scoring it helps them assess their strengths and weaknesses and motivates them to prepare for the actual test. The ACT is a timed exam and students find that practice tests teach them to finish the exam within the allotted time. The BNHS Guidance Office can provide a practice test. Practice tests can be found in published prep materials (see below). Most commercial preparation classes (see below) also provide students with practice tests. You can also do an Internet search for “free ACT practice tests.”
- **Preparation Material** - Preparation materials include books and internet sites that offer countless practice problems and solutions. Because the ACT covers clearly defined content areas and skills, students who are self-disciplined often improve their ACT through self-study and practice tests.
- **Prep Classes** – Students may benefit from preparation classes that provide structured ACT preparation. The classes vary in cost, duration, location and content. Some classes focus primarily on “test-taking strategies” while others also include content review to help students refresh specific academic skills.
- **Multiple Test Dates** - Students will take the ACT as part of the PSAE testing, but they are also encouraged to take additional ACTs to improve their scores. Colleges typically use a student's highest score for admission purposes. The test is available on national test dates in September, October, December, February, April, and June. The test fee is \$32.00 or \$47.00 with Writing.

National ACT Dates <http://www.actstudent.org/regist/dates.html>

ACT Online Registration <http://www.actstudent.org/regist/index.html>