

Calculating Your ACT Score Target

Find Out What's Right for You

Expert Tips from the PrepScholar Team



Setting a Target ACT Score

By now, you probably already know that **your ACT score is vital for getting into college** (and if not, check out our guide on why the ACT matters). But knowing that the ACT matters raises another, equally important question:

How high does your ACT score really need to be?

Having a concrete target ACT score can make a big difference in your prep. It gives you a goal to aim for and helps you track your progress over time.

Your score target needs to be different from everyone else's, because you have different goals from them. You need your own score target to aim for, based on data.

In this guide, we'll explain exactly **how to calculate what your score target needs to be.**

Your ACT score target really depends on what schools you want to apply to. We've created a worksheet to guide you through the process and recommend you print out the next page before going further.

ACT Score Target

School Name	25 th Percentile	75 th Percentile
Average		

Total Score: _____

(We recommend using the highest 75th percentile score above.)

Math: _____ **Reading:** _____ **Writing:** _____

Step 1: Fill in the Worksheet

First, **fill in all the schools you want to apply to in the leftmost column.** If you don't know what schools you're aiming for yet, check out our [guide to making a college list](#).

Next, **we're going to find the 25th and 75th percentile ACT scores for each of these schools** and add them to the worksheet. Google this phrase: "[name of school] prepscholar ACT."

Click on the link to our ACT Scores and GPA page (or our Admission Requirements page—they'll both have the information you need), and scroll down to the 25th and 75th percentile composite ACT scores.

If you score at or above the 75th percentile for any school, you'll have an excellent chance of getting in (assuming your other credentials are up to par). As such, **we can set the ACT score goal for a given school as its 75th percentile score.**

Step 2: Calculate Your Final ACT Target Score

To determine your target ACT goal score, look at the 75th percentile column. Find the highest ACT score in that column; that'll be your ACT score goal.

By scoring at the 75th percentile level for the most competitive school on your list, you'll be competitive at all the schools you're applying to. So that's a good ACT score for you!

Another advantage of choosing a high goal score is that if you end up falling 2-3 points short, it's not a huge deal because you'll still be competitive for most of your schools.

You might be thinking, "Hey, wait! Why did I fill out that entire sheet if I was just going to pick the highest 75th percentile score?" Well, **the advantage of filling out this information is that you now have it handy as a reference.**

You'll be able to compare your own ACT score with the 25th–75th percentile ranges of all your schools of interest as soon as you get your scores back.

Step 3: Make Your Goal Known

As a last step, I suggest that you do two things with your target ACT score:

#1: Share it with your parents. This can turn into a helpful conversation about your personal goals and how you want to achieve your target ACT score. Plus, your parents can help hold you accountable throughout the test-prep process!

#2: Tape it to your wall. This will keep your goal score front and center in your mind, encouraging you to stay motivated to keep up with your ACT study schedule.

Don't get stressed out by your score target. You absolutely can reach it, as long as you put in serious effort to study. We should know — we've helped thousands of students reach their goals over the years!



Now What?

Through this guide, you've learned how to find your own ACT score target. **This is your personal target – not anyone else's!** So block out what everyone else is doing and focus on your own prep.

Should you need a bit more guidance on your ACT prep journey, we hope you'll give PrepScholar a try! **We truly believe it's the best ACT prep program out there**, and you can start a five-day free trial today.

If you have more questions, please call us at +1 (866) 811-5546, where one of our Academic Advisers will walk you through the best options for you and your family. We'd love to hear from you!

Finally, if you found this guide helpful, **please share it with any other people who might benefit.**

– The PrepScholar Team