

WorkKeys

Why is it important?

WorkKeys

- **The National Career Readiness Certificate** assesses critical skills for employability:
 - Graphic Literacy
 - Applied Mathematics
 - Workplace Documents

WorkKeys

- The NCRC serves as a reliable predictor for workplace success of any applicant.
- Thousands of private and public employers now ask for or require NCRC scores as part of the application process.

WorkKeys

- **NCRC is awarded at four levels:**
 - **Platinum**
 - **Gold**
 - **Silver**
 - **Bronze.**
- Level allows employers to know an applicant has met or exceeded the necessary skills for a percentage of the 16,000 occupations.
- For example, a Gold certificate verifies that an individual has the necessary skills for 93% of occupations.

WorkKeys Prep

- **Students will have access to online prep materials**
- **Face to Face targeted instruction will be provided**

'Work Keys' unlock job opportunities

By CHARLES TAYLOR
SENIOR STAFF WRITER



Counties across the country are riding the wave of a growing trend of certifying their communities as "Work Ready."

Nationwide, there are several state-based work-ready initiatives — to demonstrate that their counties' workforce has the skills needed by employers (See "Kentucky Counties Work Ready," County News, Dec. 15, 2014). These top-down efforts are initiated and supported by governors and state economic development officials.

But counties don't have to wait for their states to award work-ready credentials, according to ACT, a nonprofit trust, best known its college admissions exam.

Counties such as Gregg County, Texas and Sweetwater County, Wyo. have taken it upon themselves to get their communities recognized under ACT's Certified Work Ready Communities initiative.

When the program began in 2011, it was only open to states, which then got their counties involved. Now, since 2013, individual counties are able to apply on their own.

"We've got counties and regions that felt such a need to get this initiative up and running, that they didn't want to wait for their state," said Debra Lyons, ACT's vice president for community and economic development.

States or ACT can designate counties as work-ready based on the number of individuals in the local workforce who have earned ACT's National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) — and the extent to which businesses recognize, prefer or recommend the certification as a factor in hiring decisions.

Using its Work Keys testing — which includes applied math, reading for information and locating information — ACT evaluates individuals' career readiness for jobs that rely on those skills, which Lyons said ACT research has shown are required for most "middle-skilled"

jobs. In the aggregate, at the workforce level, economic developers can use credential attainment numbers as a selling point.

"It's a credential that companies consider in their location and

See **WORK KEY** page 4

INSIDE THIS ISSUE ▶



America's public lands counties face challenges born of beautiful vistas, constricted tax bases and dwindling federal support. See inside to read County News' special Hot Topics report on the unique issues they face. ▶ Page 7

WorkKeys

List of Employers in Pitt and surrounding counties

WorkKeys

Reference

Practice Test

ACT

American College Testing

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO PREPARE FOR THE ACT?

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO PREPARE FOR THE ACT?

The ACT measures
what a student has learned in high school.

Colleges and Universities make admission decisions and
measure college readiness based on your ACT scores.

Students have to be competitive!

ACT Admissions for NC Colleges and Universities

| School | ACT Range | SAT Range | | School | ACT Range | SAT Range |
|----------------------|-----------|-------------|--|---------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Appalachian State | 23 - 28 | 1060 - 1240 | | UNC Greensboro | 20 - 25 | 940 - 1110 |
| East Carolina | 21 - 24 | 980 - 1130 | | UNC Pembroke | 18 - 22 | 830 - 990 |
| Elizabeth City State | 17 - 19 | 760 - 920 | | UNC Wilmington | 23 - 27 | 1120 - 1260 |
| Fayetteville State | 17 - 20 | 790 - 930 | | Western Carolina | 20 - 24 | 940 - 1130 |
| NC A&T State | 17 - 21 | 830 - 990 | | Winston-Salem State | 17 - 19 | 810 - 930 |
| NC Central | 17 - 20 | 810 - 940 | | Barton | 18 - 22 | 910 - 1090 |
| NC State | 26 - 31 | 1160 - 1330 | | Campbell | 17 - 29 | 900 - 1350 |
| UNC Asheville | 23 - 28 | 1060 - 1250 | | Chowan | 14 - 16 | 790 - 950 |
| UNC Chapel Hill | 28 - 33 | 1220 - 1430 | | High Point | 22 - 27 | 1012 - 1196 |
| UNC Charlotte | 22 - 25 | 1010 - 1180 | | Shaw | 13 - 16 | 740 - 900 |

Average ACT Score for Competitive Scholarships

| School | Scholarship | ACT |
|-------------------|----------------------------|-----|
| Appalachian State | Diversity Scholars | 27 |
| East Carolina | ECU Honors College | 27 |
| NC A&T State | Lewis and Elizabeth Dowdy | 29 |
| NC State | Park Scholars | 29 |
| UNC Chapel Hill | Morehead Cain Scholarship | 28 |
| UNC Charlotte | Levine Scholars Program | 29 |
| UNC Greensboro | UNC-G Merit | 27 |
| Barton | Honors Trustee Scholarship | 24 |
| Shaw | Presidential Scholarship | 26 |

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO PREPARE FOR THE ACT?

Sometimes students don't perform as well as they could just because they do not know what to expect.

It is important to be prepared for the test!!!

What is on the ACT?

How many sections are on the ACT?

There are 5 main parts of the ACT.

English Test - 75 Questions - 45 Minutes

Mathematics Test - 60 Questions - 60 Minutes

Reading Test - 40 Questions - 35 Minutes

Science Test - 40 Questions - 35 Minutes

Writing Test - 40 Minutes

Each test covers very specific material.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO PREPARE FOR THE ACT?

When students know what to expect,
they can set attainable goals.

Knowing how the test is scored helps
students set those goals.

How is the ACT score calculated?

- A raw score is given on each test.
- Raw Score = The number of questions correct out of the number possible.
- The raw score is converted to a scale score.

What is important to know about scoring?

- Math, English, Science, and Reading are counted equally.
- Your converted scores are added and divided by 4 to get your composite score.
- If you reach the college readiness benchmark on all sections, your ACT score would be a 21.

Access to Online ACT Prep

A world of information.

Lessons that give instruction in EVERY type of question

The screenshot shows the ACT Online Prep interface. On the left is a sidebar with navigation options: Home, Learning Plan, Game Center, Discussions, Historical Reports, Lessons (highlighted with a green arrow), Flashcards, Practice, Tests, and Essays. The main content area is titled 'English Test - Review' and contains a table of lessons. A green arrow points to the 'Use Process of Elimination - Try the Answer Choices' lesson in the 'General Approaches' section.

| English Test - Review | |
|--|--|
| Overview | English Test <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| General Approaches | |
| | Read Everything and Answer as You Go <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Use Process of Elimination - Try the Answer Choices <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Simplify the Answer Choices <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Don't Make New Mistakes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Consider DELETE and NO CHANGE <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Conventions of Standard English | |
| | Conventions of Standard English - Overview <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Punctuation Rules <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Good Commas <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Bad Commas <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Commas Example Questions <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Apostrophes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Apostrophes Example Questions <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Semicolons - Good and Bad <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Colons <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Colons and Semicolons Example Questions <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Parentheses and Dashes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Parentheses and Dashes Example Questions <input type="checkbox"/> |

Flashcards that cover content specific vocabulary

The screenshot displays the ACT Online Prep user interface. On the left is a vertical navigation menu with the following items: Home, Learning Plan, Game Center, Discussions, Historical Reports, Lessons, Flashcards (highlighted with a blue bar and a green arrow pointing to it), Practice, Tests, and Essays. At the bottom of the menu is a 'Support' link with a question mark icon. The main content area is titled 'Flashcards: All' and includes sub-tabs for 'Study', 'My Sets', and 'Community Sets'. Below the tabs is a search bar with a 'Filter' dropdown and a 'View List' button. A navigation bar with left and right arrows and a refresh icon is also present. The central focus is a flashcard for the word 'Acceleration', which is displayed in a large, serif font on a white card with horizontal lines. The card is labeled '1 of 450' in the top right corner.

Practice Items for each item type on the test

ACT Online Prep

Home Learning Plan Game Center Discussions Historical Reports Lessons Flashcards Practice Tests Essays Support

Practice Dashboard Confidence Levels Notes Bookmarks

Dashboard [Reset All Questions](#)

N/A

Questions Taken
0 of 2448

Avg. Answer Time
0 min

Avg. Correct Answer Time
0 min

Avg. Incorrect Answer Time
0 min

Avg. Session Duration
0 min

Question Categories

| Category Name | Completion | % Correct |
|--|------------|-----------|
| English | 0 of 616 | -- |
| Conventions of Standard English | 0 of 329 | -- |
| Knowledge of Language | 0 of 87 | -- |
| Production of Writing | 0 of 200 | -- |
| Mathematics | 0 of 842 | -- |
| Integrating Essential Skills | 0 of 298 | -- |
| Preparing for Higher Math - Number and Quantity | 0 of 80 | -- |
| Preparing for Higher Math - Algebra | 0 of 193 | -- |
| Preparing for Higher Math - Geometry | 0 of 114 | -- |
| Preparing for Higher Math - Functions | 0 of 130 | -- |
| Preparing for Higher Math - Statistics and Probability | 0 of 27 | -- |
| Reading | 0 of 450 | -- |

Short Practice Tests on Each Section

The screenshot displays the ACT Online Prep interface. The top navigation bar includes the ACT logo, 'Online Prep', and user icons. The left sidebar contains a menu with items: Home, Learning Plan, Game Center, Discussions, Historical Reports, Lessons, Flashcards, Practice, Tests (highlighted with a green arrow), and Essays. The main content area is titled 'Tests' and includes sub-tabs for Dashboard, Confidence Levels, Notes, and Bookmarks. The 'Dashboard' sub-tab is active, showing a large red circle with 'N/A' and a 'Reset All Tests' link. Below this is a table of tests with columns for Test Name, Test Length, and % Correct. Summary statistics for tests taken are shown at the bottom of the dashboard.

ACT Online Prep

Home Learning Plan Game Center Discussions Historical Reports Lessons Flashcards Practice **Tests** Essays

Tests Dashboard Confidence Levels Notes Bookmarks

Dashboard [Reset All Tests](#)

N/A

Tests Taken
0 of 6

Avg. Answer Time
0 min

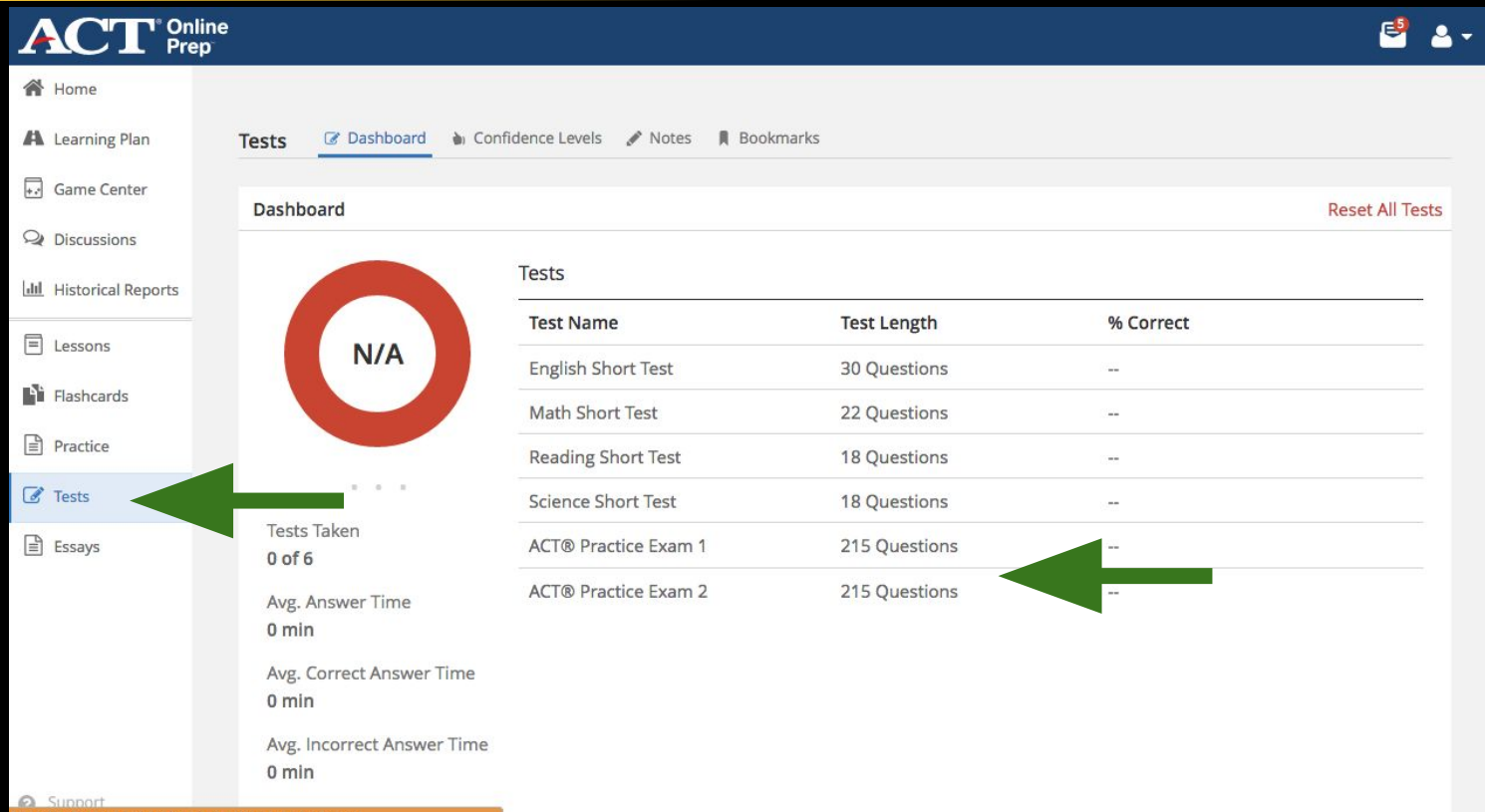
Avg. Correct Answer Time
0 min

Avg. Incorrect Answer Time
0 min

| Test Name | Test Length | % Correct |
|----------------------|---------------|-----------|
| English Short Test | 30 Questions | -- |
| Math Short Test | 22 Questions | -- |
| Reading Short Test | 18 Questions | -- |
| Science Short Test | 18 Questions | -- |
| ACT® Practice Exam 1 | 215 Questions | -- |
| ACT® Practice Exam 2 | 215 Questions | -- |

Support

Two Full Length Tests

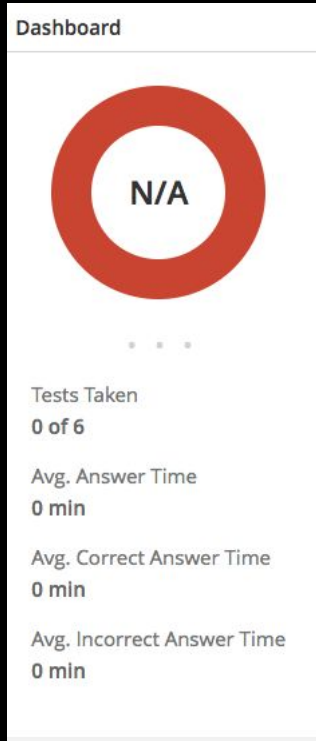


The screenshot displays the ACT Online Prep dashboard. On the left is a navigation menu with options: Home, Learning Plan, Game Center, Discussions, Historical Reports, Lessons, Flashcards, Practice, Tests (highlighted with a green arrow), and Essays. The main content area is titled 'Tests' and includes sub-tabs for Dashboard, Confidence Levels, Notes, and Bookmarks. The 'Dashboard' sub-tab is active, showing a large red circle with 'N/A' in the center. Below this, statistics are listed: Tests Taken (0 of 6), Avg. Answer Time (0 min), Avg. Correct Answer Time (0 min), and Avg. Incorrect Answer Time (0 min). A table titled 'Tests' lists the following data:

| Test Name | Test Length | % Correct |
|----------------------|---------------|-----------|
| English Short Test | 30 Questions | -- |
| Math Short Test | 22 Questions | -- |
| Reading Short Test | 18 Questions | -- |
| Science Short Test | 18 Questions | -- |
| ACT® Practice Exam 1 | 215 Questions | -- |
| ACT® Practice Exam 2 | 215 Questions | -- |

A green arrow points to the 'ACT® Practice Exam 2' row in the table. In the top right corner of the dashboard, there is a 'Reset All Tests' link. The top navigation bar includes the ACT Online Prep logo and a notification icon with the number 5.

Test results



Feedback includes ...

- Average amount of time you spend on each question.
- How much time you spend on each question you get correct.
- How much time you spend on each question you get incorrect.

Two Practice Writing Prompts

The screenshot displays the ACT Online Prep interface. At the top left is the ACT Online Prep logo. The top right corner features a notification icon with a red '5' and a user profile icon. A vertical sidebar on the left contains navigation links: Home, Learning Plan, Game Center, Discussions, Historical Reports, Lessons, Flashcards, Practice, Tests, and Essays (which is highlighted). The main content area is titled 'Essays' and contains two cards, 'Essay 1' and 'Essay 2'. Each card shows a document icon, the text 'Writing Score' with an information icon, and 'Your Score: Not started'. A blue 'Start' button is located on the right of each card. At the bottom of the page, there is a copyright notice: '© 2016 by ACT, Inc. All rights reserved.' followed by links for 'Terms of Use', 'Privacy Policy', and 'Contact Support'. A 'Support' link is also visible in the bottom left corner. The URL 'https://onlineprep.act.org/app/act-online-prep-tm#essays' is shown at the very bottom.

ACT Online Prep

Home
Learning Plan
Game Center
Discussions
Historical Reports
Lessons
Flashcards
Practice
Tests
Essays

Essays

Essay 1

Writing Score ⓘ
Your Score: Not started

Start

Essay 2

Writing Score ⓘ
Your Score: Not started

Start

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Support
<https://onlineprep.act.org/app/act-online-prep-tm#essays>

Writing Practice Prompts are scored within 24 hours

Essay 1

Overview and Instructions

Writing Test

Directions: This is a test of your writing skills.

On the real ACT exam you will have forty (40) minutes to read the prompt, plan your response, and write an essay in English.

In this Essay module, you will be presented with a prompt and a textbox where you can type your essay. This module is **self-timed**. A timer counting up will begin as soon as you click "Start Writing" to help you manage your time. As you're working, use the "Save" button to preserve your progress without submitting the essay. If you need to take a break, press the "Pause" button - your work will be saved automatically.

*After you submit your essay, scoring experts will evaluate and grade it based on the **Scoring Rubric**. You should receive your score within 24 hours.*

Please note: Each Essay prompt can only be attempted one time. You cannot reset them like you can with the Tests or Practice Questions. Make sure you are committed before you start.

Good luck!

[Back to Dashboard](#)

[Start Writing](#)

Game Center has different ways to review for the test

The screenshot displays the ACT Online Prep Game Center interface. A green arrow points to the 'Game Center' menu item in the left sidebar. The main content area features a navigation bar with 'Game Center', 'Dashboard', and several game icons. Below this, there are four game cards: 'Card Hunter I', 'Card Hunter II', 'Card Coupler', and 'Card Sweeper'. Each card shows a 'Start playing' button, the user's highest score (0) and rank (Not yet determined), and a leaderboard with the top three players and their scores.

| Game | Start playing | Highest score | Rank | Top 3 Leaderboard |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|---|
| Card Hunter I | Start playing | 0 | Not yet determined | Top 1: CAITLYN ORTIZ - 6753 Top 2: ANNA THOMAS - 6066 Top 3: SHELBY GRYS - 5288 |
| Card Hunter II | Start playing | 0 | Not yet determined | Top 1: Ahmadre D. A. Darrisaw - 34334 Top 2: Olyvia Knight - 34256 Top 3: MICHAEL YESUDAS - 34236 |
| Card Coupler | Start playing | 0 | Not yet determined | Top 1: LYDIA CROSE - 2653 Top 2: ASHLEY LANDA - 2234 Top 3: ZETTIE BOWLING - 1786 |
| Card Sweeper | Start playing | | | |

The games require you to apply what you learn in lessons

The screenshot shows a learning management system interface. On the left is a navigation sidebar with the following items: Home, Learning Plan, Game Center (highlighted), Discussions, Historical Reports, Lessons, Flashcards, Practice, Tests, and Essays. At the bottom of the sidebar is a 'Support' link with a question mark icon. The main content area is titled 'Inversely Proportional' and contains a grid of six cards:

- Card 1 (Top Left):** Text: "With a negative exponent, take the reciprocal of the base and change the exponent to be positive". Equation: $x^{-a} = \frac{1}{x^a}$. Example: $\text{Ex. } 2^{-3} = \frac{1}{2^3} = \frac{1}{8}$.
- Card 2 (Top Middle):** Text: "factor of 4." Equation: $x \cdot y = k$. Example: "e.g. speed and time, volume and density etc." with a downward arrow.
- Card 3 (Top Right):** Text: "indifferent to/toward".
- Card 4 (Bottom Left):** Text: "Integers that follow each other in order, e.g. 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 etc." and "These are represented algebraically by x , $x+1$, $x+2$, $x+3$..." with a downward arrow.
- Card 5 (Bottom Middle):** Text: "lie, lay, lain".
- Card 6 (Bottom Right):** Text: "A process of combustion where materials in a fuel are broken down into several by-products."