



**Using your
ACT WorkKeys® scores**

ACT® WorkKeys®

workforce.act.org

How the ACT WorkKeys assessment system can work for you

Whether you're thinking about the next phase of your education, launching a new career, or making a transition in your current job, the ACT WorkKeys assessment system can help.

Taking ACT WorkKeys tests is an important first step to prepare for education, training, a career, or career advancement. Your test scores help you compare your skills to the skills real jobs require.

ACT WorkKeys test questions are based on situations in the everyday work world. That's why employers nationwide require these tests or ask applicants for the ACT National Career Readiness Certificate™ to help them hire, train, and promote the most qualified candidates. The ACT NCRC® is awarded on the basis of individuals' ACT WorkKeys test scores and is the most widely used employability credential in the country.



ACT WorkKeys assessments include both cognitive (“hard”) and noncognitive (“soft”) skills tests that enable you to:

- Determine the skill levels you’ve achieved
- Identify skills you could improve
- Match your skill levels to specific job requirements
- Show employers that you have the skills needed for workplace success

ACT’s extensive research—based on data from more than 20,000 occupations—has identified three foundational skills that are essential to success in most jobs. These three core skill assessments also form the basis for earning the ACT NCRC:

- Applied Mathematics
- Locating Information
- Reading for Information

ACT WorkKeys “soft” skills assessments are:

- Fit
- Talent



“I learned that I’m smarter than I gave myself credit for. It made me a better person and gave me confidence.”

— Tina Smith, machine operator, Green Mountain Coffee Roasters

Understanding your ACT WorkKeys scores

Your score is determined by the number of questions answered correctly. There is no penalty for guessing. The Level Scores describe the skills you have achieved and can apply on the job or in training. After taking the assessments, you will receive a score report.

If you take the ACT WorkKeys assessments on a computer, you will receive an Individual Score Report. If you take paper-and-pencil versions, you will receive a Memo to Examinee. Both reports document your skill level for each assessment taken, describe the tasks associated with each skill level, and suggest general strategies for improvement.

ACT WorkKeys Skill Report

Realm: My Company
SubRealm: <ALL>
Test Date:
Report Date:

WorkKeys Individual Score Report With Scale Score
Examinee: Sample, Sam
Examinee ID**:

Test	Level Score	Possible Range	Scale Score	Possible Range
Applied Mathematics	6	3-7	82	65-90

WHAT YOUR SCORES MEAN

You scored at Level 6. People achieving this level can set up and solve problems containing extraneous information or information presented out of logical order and involving multiple-step calculations on a mixture of whole numbers, fractions, decimals, or percentages. To improve your skills:

- * apply ratios that involve a mixture of fractions and decimals, and perform multiple-step conversions that involve fractions and decimals.
- * check to see that each step of your calculations is correct, that you have solved the problem posed, and that your answer is reasonable.
- * calculate multiple areas or volumes of rectangular solids, spheres, cylinders, and other complex shapes.

HOW YOU CAN USE YOUR SCORES

For more information, visit www.workkeys.com

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ACT WorkKeys score reports

Common terms used

Test is the name of the ACT WorkKeys test you took; Sam Sample took Applied Mathematics.

Level Score is the score you earned on this test; Sam Sample earned a Level 6.

Possible Range shows the lowest and highest possible Level Score and Scale Score for an assessment, so you can see how well you did compared to the minimum and maximum possible scores on this test. In this example, the range is from Level 3 through Level 7 and 65 through 90.

Scale Score is used primarily for training purposes; Sam Sample earned an 82.

What Your Scores Mean gives you information about the skills you demonstrated on this test. For example, Sam Sample can likely solve problems that may require multiple steps and have unrelated information.

To Improve Your Skills suggests how you can work to increase your Level Score. Sam Sample should practice converting decimals to fractions; work on taking measurements in a variety of formats, such as inches, feet, and meters, and use them to calculate formulas requiring more than one step; and verify his answers.

Your report may be slightly different from those shown here, depending on how and where you took the test, but all of the essential elements are the same.

For more information about scores, visit workforce.act.org.

Making the most of your ACT WorkKeys scores

If you already have a job in mind

Compare your Level Scores to those needed for your target job. For instance, look at Sam Sample's report and compare it to the scores needed for the occupation below.

Job title	Applied Mathematics	Locating Information	Reading for Information
Accountant/Auditor	5	5	5

Sam earned a Level 6 in Applied Mathematics. This job requires a score of Level 5. So, Sam has the foundational math skills to qualify for this job. If Sam had taken Locating Information and Reading for Information, reports would also indicate Level Scores for those skills, and he could compare them to the levels required for this job.

If you're still exploring your career choices

ACT WorkKeys soft skills assessments—Fit and Talent—focus on your personal characteristics and help you match your interests and values with workplace demands.

Read descriptions of assessments and search jobs by skill levels at workforce.act.org.

Official Skill Report

WorkKeys®
Memo to Examinee

Report for: *Sam Sample* Test Date: _____
 Test Site: _____ Report Date: _____

Your WorkKeys skill report can help you understand how you did on the test(s), and how you can do better. This report tells you about your skills and gives information on how you can further develop them.

Applied Mathematics (Levels range from 3 to 7) Level: 6 Scale Score: 82

You scored at Level 6. People achieving this level can set up and solve problems containing extraneous information or information presented out of logical order and involving multiple-step calculations on a mixture of whole numbers, fractions, decimals, or percentages. To improve your skills:

- apply ratios that involve a mixture of fractions and decimals, and perform multiple-step conversions that involve fractions and decimals.
- calculate multiple areas or volumes of rectangular solids, spheres, cylinders, and other complex shapes.
- check to see that each step of your calculations is correct, that you have solved the problem posed, and that your answer is reasonable.

We hope you find this WorkKeys information useful. If you have questions about these scores or about the WorkKeys system or skills, please contact WorkKeys (96), ACT, 2201 North Dodge Street, P. O. Box 168, Iowa City, IA 52243.

LS= Level Scores:
Use for selection, promotion, or other individual high-stakes purposes. For more information on Level Scores go to: <http://www.act.org/workkeys/pdf/forms/interp.pdf>

SS= Scale Scores:
Use to show growth over time and provide group comparisons in outcome measurement. Not intended for selection and hiring. Scale Score range: 50–90. For more information on Scale Scores go to: http://www.act.org/workkeys/pdf/scale_score_interp_guide.pdf

If you have completed three assessments, Applied Mathematics, Reading for Information and Locating Information, and received at least a level score of 3 for each test, you may qualify for a National Career Readiness Certificate. Go to www.MyWorkKeys.com to access your scores. An individual can obtain a certificate, and share testing information with potential employers at this site.

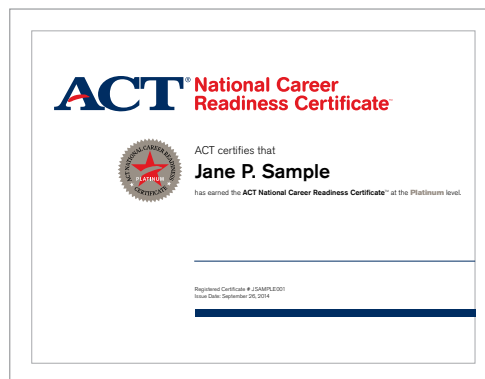
ACT® WorkKeys

Give yourself the ACT NCRC advantage

The ACT NCRC indicates that you have the foundational workplace skills needed to succeed. You can earn the ACT NCRC at the Platinum, Gold, Silver, or Bronze level, based on your scores on the three core tests: Applied Mathematics, Locating Information, and Reading for Information.

Although it is only one of the criteria employers use when hiring and promoting, and it is not a substitute for meeting other job requirements, documenting your skills with the ACT NCRC gives you an advantage in launching or advancing your career.

Learn more about the ACT NCRC at workforce.act.org.



To earn the ACT NCRC at this level...	...and qualify for this percentage of jobs in the ACT database...	...on each core test, you need to score at least:
Platinum	99%	6
Gold	93%	5
Silver	69%	4
Bronze	17%	3

Use your scores to stand out

- Set up an online account at myworkkeys.com so employers can verify your ACT WorkKeys scores and ACT NCRC quickly and conveniently.
- Add scores and information about your ACT NCRC to your resume and job applications.
- Take your ACT WorkKeys score report or ACT NCRC to job interviews to show that you have the skills needed for the job.
- Include your ACT WorkKeys scores in your application to a community or technical college.

Visit workforce.act.org for more information.

“I took my ACT WorkKeys tests before I even got hired on. I was Gold certified. I think it made employers notice me. It’s a good test that shows your capability in certain areas, and I think it really helps a company determine which employees have a skill set needed to hire for the optimal position.”

— Evan Shockey, training coordinator, Berner Food & Beverage

Aiming higher: Resources to improve your scores

If you would like to improve your ACT WorkKeys scores to match a job requirement or earn a higher-level ACT NCRC, online practice tests and training options are easily accessible.

Practice tests that seem like real tests

Online practice tests are full length and look and feel like a real test. You can purchase practice tests for:

- Applied Mathematics
- Locating Information
- Reading for Information

Training that targets your needs

Strengthen your skills and help increase your ACT WorkKeys scores with the ACT Career Curriculum. The curriculum is a comprehensive learning system focused on the foundational knowledge and skills important for success in the workplace. It has three components:

- ACT KeyTrain® courses, linked to the ACT WorkKeys job skill assessment system
- ACT Soft Skills Suite, focused on the most prevalent soft skills and “21st century skills” found in workforce research
- ACT Career Ready 101™, including all abovementioned courses and others on job searching and personal financial awareness, with tools for career exploration

ACT Career Curriculum courseware is accessible 24/7 on computers and mobile devices, and learners can use the curriculum at their own pace. Ask your counselor, career advisor, or ACT WorkKeys test site administrator for more information.



Explore your resources for career guidance

Taking the ACT WorkKeys assessments and earning the ACT NCRC empowers you when making crucial decisions about your education and your career. It also helps you stand out from other applicants and prove your workplace skills.

Do you have questions about how your scores relate to your career options? Depending on whether you're a student, job seeker, or a current employee seeking a career change, you can get advice from:

- Counselors
- Career advisors
- Your employer's human resources staff
- Your state training and employment office, or “one-stop”

For more information, call **800.967.5539** or visit **workforce.act.org**.

Good luck in your future career!

“Once I started, it felt like the ACT WorkKeys test was made for me. It told me my ups and how to improve on my downs. By far, this is one of the best tests I have ever taken.”

— Shaylunn Lee, student

“The ACT WorkKeys assessments were a real eye-opener. I believe they helped me demonstrate my capabilities in a way that employers understand.”

— Kevin Reaves, cab assembly technician, Able Manufacturing & Assembly

About ACT

Founded in 1959, ACT is a nonprofit organization headquartered in Iowa City, Iowa, and dedicated to helping people achieve education and workplace success.

ACT provides a broad array of assessment, research, information, and program management solutions in the areas of education and workforce development.

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For more information, visit act.org.



workforce.act.org

