

Research Notes

Office of Research and Development

RN-40, October 2009

ACT and SAT® Concordance Tables

In 2005, the College Board added a required writing section to the SAT®, and ACT added an optional writing test to the ACT. Before 2005, ACT and the College Board had periodically produced concordance tables to assist admission officers who wanted to understand how students of comparable ability would score on the two college entrance examinations. Given the changes to both tests, the College Board and ACT are now providing updated concordance tables that are based on the current versions of the two tests.

Students who take the SAT receive three separate scores: critical reading, writing, and mathematics. Students who take the ACT receive a Composite score and four subscores (reading, English, math, and science). Students who take the ACT Plus Writing receive the Composite score with the corresponding four subscores (reading, English, math, and science) and also receive a Writing Test subscore and a Combined English/Writing subscore. Two separate concordance tables have been developed:

- Table 1 provides a concordance between the ACT Composite score and the sum of SAT critical reading and mathematics scores for 300,437 students.
- Table 2 provides a concordance between the ACT Combined English/Writing score and the SAT writing score for 190,148 students who completed the ACT Plus Writing.

Both tables are based on scores from students who took both tests between September 2004 (for the ACT) or March 2005 (for the SAT) and June 2006. Students in the sample represent the first high school graduating cohort since the introduction of the revised SAT with the writing section and the optional ACT Writing Test. The sample includes students who completed both tests and were matched across ACT and SAT files.

Although the ACT and the SAT are different tests, these two tables are provided to help the education community better understand how students of comparable ability will score on the two tests.

Notes to Consider

A research report describing the sample, methodology, and results will be published by ACT and the College Board in the coming months. Additional information and updates will be made available on the websites of ACT (www.act.org) and the College Board (www.collegeboard.com). The following notes and cautions should be considered before using the tables:

- Because the SAT score scale has more score points than the ACT, a single ACT Composite score concords to a range of SAT scores. In each of the tables, a range of SAT scores is concorded to a single ACT score. For example, in Table 1, the SAT (critical reading plus mathematics) scores of 980 to 1010 are all concorded to an ACT Composite score of 21. For those users who want to concord an ACT score to a single SAT score point, the most appropriate SAT score point within the range is provided. In this example, an ACT Composite score of 21 is concorded to a single SAT score of 990.
- Many students do not take the ACT Plus Writing. Consequently, the sample used for Table 2 is more restricted than the sample for the other table. Students who took the ACT Plus Writing appear to differ from the total group of ACT test-takers in terms of ability and other relevant factors.
- Concordance tables are dependent upon the sample used to establish the relationship between the two sets of scores. The ACT and SAT tables are based on an entire cohort of students who completed both tests, but this sample represents neither all ACT test-takers nor all SAT takers. The tables, therefore, may not be appropriate for use with scores from students who take only the ACT or only the SAT. Overall, a student who receives a score on one test will not necessarily obtain the concorded score on the other test.

Table 1

Concordance Between ACT Composite Score and Sum of SAT Critical Reading and Mathematics Scores

<i>SAT CR+M (Score Range)</i>	<i>ACT Composite Score</i>	<i>SAT CR+M (Single Score)</i>
1600	36	1600
1540–1590	35	1560
1490–1530	34	1510
1440–1480	33	1460
1400–1430	32	1420
1360–1390	31	1380
1330–1350	30	1340
1290–1320	29	1300
1250–1280	28	1260
1210–1240	27	1220
1170–1200	26	1190
1130–1160	25	1150
1090–1120	24	1110
1050–1080	23	1070
1020–1040	22	1030
980–1010	21	990
940–970	20	950
900–930	19	910
860–890	18	870
820–850	17	830
770–810	16	790
720–760	15	740
670–710	14	690
620–660	13	640
560–610	12	590
510–550	11	530

Table 2

Concordance Between ACT Combined English/Writing Score and SAT Writing Score

<i>SAT Writing (Score Range)</i>	<i>ACT English/Writing Score</i>	<i>SAT Writing (Single Score)</i>
800	36	800
800	35	800
770–790	34	770
730–760	33	740
710–720	32	720
690–700	31	690
660–680	30	670
640–650	29	650
620–630	28	630
610	27	610
590–600	26	590
570–580	25	570
550–560	24	550
530–540	23	530
510–520	22	510
480–500	21	490
470	20	470
450–460	19	450
430–440	18	430
410–420	17	420
390–400	16	400
380	15	380
360–370	14	360
340–350	13	340
320–330	12	330
300–310	11	310

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