

# ACT/SAT Concordance

## What You Need to Know

### Speakers:

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# Thank you to our co-sponsors!

National Association of College Admission Counselors ([nacacnet.org](https://nacacnet.org))

American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers ([aacrao.org](https://aacrao.org))

# Agenda

- Background, materials, and roll out
- Concordance tables and explanatory notes
- Go over key considerations and limitations
- Q&A

# Tell us a little about yourself...

Please take a moment to tell us about your background via the polling function.

1. Higher education admission/enrollment
2. K12 (counselor, educator, and administrator)
3. Independent education consultant
4. Student or parent
5. Other

# Concordance Study: Background and Context

Researchers from the College Board and ACT collaborated to conduct a new concordance study to compare scores between the ACT and the new SAT.

ACT and the College Board agreed to:

- ✓ Use good psychometric standards
- ✓ Produce three concordances
- ✓ Standard language for documents, presentations, and communications
- ✓ Joint webinars on using the new concordance tables

# Concordance Tables Guide and Explanatory Notes

ACT and the College Board have produced this guide to house the concordance tables and accompanying public explanatory material.

Download the Guide and Resources:

- [\*\*collegeboard.org/concordance\*\*](https://collegeboard.org/concordance)
- [\*\*act.org/concordance\*\*](https://act.org/concordance)

**Guide to the 2018  
ACT®/SAT® Concordance**

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# What is Concordance?

The term “concordance” refers to establishing a relationship between scores on assessments that measure similar (but not identical) constructs.

- Concordance tables allow students, teachers, counselors, and higher education professionals compare scores between two tests that measure similar but not the same things.
- A technically sound concordance allows students and professionals to compare scores from similar assessments to inform decisions.
- A concorded score is **not** a perfect prediction of how a student would perform on the other test.

# Which Concordance Tables are Provided?

Tables are provided in both directions (SAT-to-ACT and ACT-to-SAT).

ACT score	to	SAT score
ACT Composite	↔	SAT Total
ACT Mathematics	↔	SAT Math
ACT English + Reading	↔	SAT ERW

Notes:

- Concordance tables for the ACT Composite were derived from concordances of the ACT sum score.
- ERW = Evidence-Based Reading and Writing.
- Each ACT score is related to a range of SAT scores (or vice versa). For users who want to concord an ACT score to a single SAT score point (or vice versa), the most appropriate score point within the range is also provided.



# How were the tables developed?

ACT and the College Board periodically produce ACT/SAT concordance tables to show how scores on each test compare.

- With the redesign of the SAT in 2016, researchers from the College Board and ACT, in collaboration with the NCAA Technical Advisory Board, developed updated concordance tables that will serve the needs of students and institutions going forward.
- The tables are based on data from 589,753 students who were **graduating seniors in 2017** and who took **both the ACT and the new SAT tests** between February 2016 (for the ACT) or March 2016 (for the SAT) and June 2017.
- The sample was statistically weighted to reflect the demographics, school attributes, and high school grade point average (GPA) of all students who are likely to take the ACT, SAT, or both tests.

# Potential Uses of Concordance

## Comparing SAT and ACT scores

- ✓ Helps institutions/stakeholders when they need to compare scores from either test

## Establishing a policy using comparable scores from both tests

- ✓ An institution, scholarship, or program may use a specific test score as one factor to establish eligibility

## Converting scores for use in a predictive model or index

- ✓ Helpful for colleges and universities with indices or models that predict application, enrollment or student success

# Key Considerations and Limitations

- ✓ **The ACT and SAT are different tests.** The ACT and SAT measure similar, but not identical, content and skills.
- ✓ **Concordances are used to compare individual scores, not aggregate scores.** Users should avoid converting aggregate scores (e.g., mean, median, ranges) using concordance tables, as this could introduce additional sources of error.
- ✓ **Users should avoid making decisions based on a single concorded score.** Admission and enrollment professionals should use multiple reliable and valid measures when making decisions.

# Key Considerations and Limitations

- ✓ **Note the prediction error.** Users should consider this when using the concordance tables to predict how a student would have performed on the ACT or SAT.
- ✓ **Concordances are sample-dependent.** The concordance tables are based on scores from a sample of students who completed the SAT and the ACT within a specific timeframe.
- ✓ **Institutions should not superscore across the SAT and ACT tests.** Superscoring across two different tests is an imprecise way of understanding whether a student meets a certain academic threshold and is strongly discouraged.

# Concordance Tables

## ACT Composite to SAT Total

**Note:** Concordance tables for the ACT Composite were derived from concordances of the ACT sum score.

\*Use this SAT score when a single score point comparison is needed.

SAT	ACT
1600	36
*1590	36
1580	36
1570	36
1560	35
1550	35
*1540	35
1530	35
1520	34
1510	34
*1500	34
1490	34
1480	33
1470	33
*1460	33
1450	33
1440	32
*1430	32
1420	32
1410	31
*1400	31
1390	31
1380	30
*1370	30
1360	30
1350	29
*1340	29
1330	29

SAT	ACT
1250	26
*1240	26
1230	26
1220	25
*1210	25
1200	25
1190	24
*1180	24
1170	24
1160	24
1150	23
*1140	23
1130	23
1120	22
*1110	22
1100	22
1090	21
*1080	21
1070	21
1060	21
1050	20
*1040	20
1030	20
1020	19
*1010	19
1000	19
990	19
980	18

SAT	ACT
910	16
900	16
*890	16
880	16
870	15
860	15
*850	15
840	15
830	15
820	14
810	14
*800	14
790	14
780	14
770	13
*760	13
750	13
740	13
730	13
720	12
*710	12
700	12
690	12
680	11
*670	11
660	11
650	11
640	10

ACT	SAT	SAT Range
36	1590	1570–1600
35	1540	1530–1560
34	1500	1490–1520
33	1460	1450–1480
32	1430	1420–1440
31	1400	1390–1410
30	1370	1360–1380
29	1340	1330–1350
28	1310	1300–1320
27	1280	1260–1290
26	1240	1230–1250
25	1210	1200–1220
24	1180	1160–1190
23	1140	1130–1150
22	1110	1100–1120
21	1080	1060–1090
20	1040	1030–1050
19	1010	990–1020
18	970	960–980
17	930	920–950
16	890	880–910
15	850	830–870
14	800	780–820
13	760	730–770
12	710	690–720
11	670	650–680
10	630	620–640
9	590	590–610

# Differences between 2016 and 2018 Concordance

Differences for policies set on ACT Composite scores						
	Comparable Single Point SAT Total			SAT Total Range		
ACT Composite	2016 Concordance	2018 Concordance	Change to SAT Total	2016 Concordance	2018 Concordance	Different SAT Range?
36	1600	1590	-10	1600-1600	1570-1600	Y
35	1570	1540	-30	1560-1590	1530-1560	Y
34	1540	1500	-40	1520-1550	1490-1520	Y
33	1500	1460	-40	1490-1510	1450-1480	Y
32	1470	1430	-40	1450-1480	1420-1440	Y
31	1430	1400	-30	1420-1440	1390-1410	Y
30	1400	1370	-30	1390-1410	1360-1380	Y
29	1360	1340	-20	1350-1380	1330-1350	Y
28	1320	1310	-10	1310-1340	1300-1320	Y
27	1290	1280	-10	1280-1300	1260-1290	Y
26	1260	1240	-20	1240-1270	1230-1250	Y
25	1220	1210	-10	1200-1230	1200-1220	Y
24	1180	1180	0	1160-1190	1160-1190	N
23	1140	1140	0	1130-1150	1130-1150	N
22	1110	1110	0	1100-1120	1100-1120	N
21	1070	1080	10	1060-1090	1060-1090	N
20	1030	1040	10	1020-1050	1030-1050	Y
19	990	1010	20	980-1010	990-1020	Y
18	950	970	20	940-970	960-980	Y
17	910	930	20	900-930	920-950	Y
16	870	890	20	860-890	880-910	Y

# Differences between 2016 and 2018 Concordance

Differences for policies set on ACT Composite scores						
	Comparable Single Point SAT Total			SAT Total Range		
ACT Composite	2016 Concordance	2018 Concordance	Change to SAT Total	2016 Concordance	2018 Concordance	Different SAT Range?
29	1360	1340	-20	1350-1380	1330-1350	Y
28	1320	1310	-10	1310-1340	1300-1320	Y
27	1290	1280	-10	1280-1300	1260-1290	Y
26	1260	1240	-20	1240-1270	1230-1250	Y
25	1220	1210	-10	1200-1230	1200-1220	Y
24	1180	1180	0	1160-1190	1160-1190	N
23	1140	1140	0	1130-1150	1130-1150	N
22	1110	1110	0	1100-1120	1100-1120	N
21	1070	1080	10	1060-1090	1060-1090	N

# Differences between 2016 and 2018 Concordance

Use this table for policies set on SAT scores

Comparable Single Point ACT Composite

SAT Total	2016 Concordance	2018 Concordance	Change to ACT Composite	SAT Total	2016 Concordance	2018 Concordance	Change to ACT Composite	SAT Total	2016 Concordance	2018 Concordance	Change to ACT Composite
1600	36	36	0	1470	32	33	1	1340	28	29	1
1590	35	36	1	1460	32	33	1	1330	28	29	1
1580	35	36	1	1450	32	33	1	1320	28	28	0
1570	35	36	1	1440	31	32	1	1310	28	28	0
1560	35	35	0	1430	31	32	1	1300	27	28	1
1550	34	35	1	1420	31	32	1	1290	27	27	0
1540	34	35	1	1410	30	31	1	1280	27	27	0
1530	34	35	1	1400	30	31	1	1270	26	27	1
1520	34	34	0	1390	30	31	1	1260	26	27	1
1510	33	34	1	1380	29	30	1	1250	26	26	0
1500	33	34	1	1370	29	30	1	1240	26	26	0
1490	33	34	1	1360	29	30	1	1230	25	26	1
1480	32	33	1	1350	29	29	0	1220	25	25	0



# Differences between 2016 and 2018 Concordance

Use this table for policies set on SAT scores			
Comparable Single Point ACT Composite			
SAT Total	2016 Concordance	2018 Concordance	Change to ACT Composite
1310	28	28	0
1300	27	28	1
1290	27	27	0
1280	27	27	0
1270	26	27	1
1260	26	27	1

# Q&A

# Tell us what you think

**Please use the polling function to provide more information so we can better serve your needs.**

What best characterizes how your organization is likely to respond to the release of the new concordance?

- A. No changes planned
- B. Plan to change some but not all related policies
- C. Plan to change all related policies as soon as possible
- D. Not sure

# Thank You.

Stay tuned for more information on a  
second ACT/SAT concordance  
webinar opportunity later this fall!