



Magoosh

10-Week ACT Study Plan For School Partners

act.magoosh.com

Dear School Partner

We created this 10-week study schedule to offer you and your students some guidance in making the most of Magoosh ACT. We hope that, out of the box or with a few tweaks to suit your learning environment, this plan will help you to provide your students with a rich and comprehensive ACT study experience while avoiding the overwhelm that can come with the ACT's varied curriculum.

This ACT schedule is more streamlined and structured than the ones we typically suggest for individual students. It is divided into 3 sections spanning a total of 10 weeks, but can easily be extended up to about 12 weeks or trimmed down to 8 weeks as your situation requires. If the pacing is relaxed substantially, this schedule could also be adapted with relatively little effort to cover a 15- to 18-week semester.

This schedule is divided into chunks we call assignments, each of which consists of a lesson playlist and a set of associated practice problems. These assignments range in estimated length from 30 to 90 minutes. In all, we expect the material outlined here to take about 60 hours to complete, or 6 hours a week. This is lighter than our traditional self-study schedules but likely far too heavy for students who aren't enrolled in a class or getting class credit.

If you or your students need to **lighten this schedule**, we recommend keeping the Part A assignments intact and retaining 1 of the 2 practice exams. We also encourage students to keep an Error & Reflection log regardless of how many lessons they watch or problems they solve. What can be cut, then? That will depend on your cohort of students, but here are some considerations:

- If your students are consistently strong on their math fundamentals (for instance, if you teach in a science-and-technology-focused school or program), it will make sense to mark some of the arithmetic and algebra topics in Part B as optional.
- If your students are strong readers and writers in English, some of the more elementary English grammar topics can be marked optional. On the other hand, if your school or program serves a population of English language learners, it will likely be important to hold onto these topics and consider making cuts elsewhere.

If you wish to **extend this schedule** by a week or two, consider adding some of these activities for the gaps between sections:

- Intersperse short research assignments on colleges and college majors.
- Lead discussions or workshops on college applications.
- Devote time to teach general test-taking skills and stress reduction practices.
- Spread out the workload by moving practice exams and Error Log writeups into the gap weeks.
- Have students work in groups to discuss study habits and strategies (not scores!).

Magoosh 10-Week ACT Study Schedule

When your ACT date is in the distant future (three months can seem like forever), it can be tough to stay focused and not get distracted by other more pressing deadlines.

The best way to stay on track and reach your goal is with a study schedule—so voilà! Save the study schedule below on your computer or phone, print it out, tape it to your mirror, check it off—whatever you need to do to keep yourself accountable. You will thank yourself when you ace the test.

How This Study Plan Is Organized

This is a weekly schedule that is designed to give you some flexibility. The ACT is important, but it shouldn't be your entire life. You need time to do other things, and you'll want to decide which days to devote to studying. The ideal schedule is 2–3 times per week. Some of these study slots need to be long enough for your 3 practice exams, which take 4 hours each to complete.

One great option would be to set aside 1.5 hours on, say, Tuesday and Thursday, and 4 hours on Saturday. Most weeks, you won't need to use all of that time, but routines can do wonders for peace of mind and focus.

The point is to dedicate specific days to study, so whether that means regular study on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, or a marathon study session every Sunday, create your ACT study schedule as soon as possible.

Each week, your homework will consist of some combination of the following:

- **Magoosh Lessons:** View our lesson videos to learn strategies and review concepts. If you're completely comfortable with a topic already, you might want to skim through a lesson quickly. Never pass over a required lesson completely, though, because there might be helpful tips and tricks you didn't know.
- **Quizzes:** Short drills follow many of the lesson sets and are designed to help you practice the techniques you just learned.
- **Practice Questions:** Curated lists of practice questions test your conceptual knowledge a little more broadly and cumulatively than the quizzes do.
- **Video Explanations:** Watch the explanation videos for questions that you missed. The most important part of your ACT practice is learning how to identify where and why you make mistakes.
- **Practice Tests:** Twice during this study plan, you will need to set aside 3 to 4 hours to take practice exams. This is massively important for building up your stamina and getting used to the paper-pencil format.
- **Extra Practice and Review:** In the last third of the study plan, you will have seen nearly all of our lessons on the English, Reading, and Science tests. This means that you will have been exposed to the concepts, but it's still important to keep practicing them. Thus, we'll include some bonus practice sessions in each of these areas to help you stay in shape.

The items in **bold** are part of lesson-and-practice bundles we call assignments. You can think of these as similar to chapters in a traditional textbook. If you are working with an instructor, coach, or tutor, they will likely refer to the assignments by the titles used in your weekly schedule (e.g., "Factoring" or "Science Passage Types").

Jumping Ahead with Lessons

It's always okay to watch lessons earlier than they're scheduled or watch them out of order. You'll also notice that when you finish answering and reviewing a practice question, lesson titles pop up with links to the videos that teach topics related to the question you just answered. If you have time, take the opportunity to watch some! You can always skim the transcript and then decide if it's worth watching all the way through.

Materials

- Magoosh ACT Premium Account
- ACT Student Website
- Notebook with 3 sections:
 - Notes from lessons and videos
 - Error & Reflection Log (described in Week 1)
 - Class notes (if applicable)
- Calculator
- Pencils
- [Highly recommended] The Real ACT Prep Guide (a.k.a. “The Red Book”—contains full-length practice exams!) If you decide to purchase a used edition, make sure it's from 2016–2017 or later.

Part A: Learn Strategies and Review Fundamentals

We cover a lot of ground during the first 4 weeks of this course. You'll be watching quite a few lessons, but you'll also be jumping into a significant number of practice questions in all four sections.

It's fine to watch lessons on a higher speed, but please discipline yourself to stick with them.

If you are strong on these topics already—especially in math—you may feel that some of this material is “easy” and can be skipped. We advise against it! The lesson videos will not only give you a good conceptual refresher, they will also cover the material in a way that applies specifically to the exam. If you put in the time to review the basics at least once, you will avoid making “rookie” mistakes and will be better able to identify—and fix—your true knowledge gaps.

Assignments for Part A

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| Getting Started | 27 min | Math | 14:23 |
| | | Intro to ACT Math | 39 min |
| English | 2:07 | General Math Strategies I | 62 min |
| Intro + English Strategies | 17 min | General Math Strategies II | 38 min |
| Style | 17 min | Number and Quantity | 85 min |
| Rhetorical Strategy - Part I | 40 min | Fractions | 64 min |
| Rhetorical Strategy - Part II | 31 min | Integer Properties I | 51 min |
| Organization | 22 min | Integer Properties II | 51 min |
| | | Intro to Algebra | 58 min |
| Reading | 2:28 | Algebra I | 36 min |
| Intro + Reading Passage | 26 min | Algebra II | 52 min |
| Reading Question Strategies | 50 min | Algebra: Quadratics | 50 min |
| Literary Passages | 14 min | Powers and Roots I | 102 min |
| Humanities Passages | 19 min | Powers and Roots II | 104 min |
| Social Sciences Passages | 16 min | Percents | 39 min |
| Natural Sciences Passages | 21 min | Ratios | 32 min |
| Science | 1:33 | Practice Exam – Essay | 2:55 |
| Intro + Science Section | 51 min | | |
| Science Passage Strategies | 42 min | | |

Week 1: Introductory Lessons, Math, Practice Exam

Our goal this week is to get you acquainted with the basics of the ACT and to get you started on an area where many students struggle: math strategy. Before we even look at individual math topics like factoring or exponents, we're going to talk about how to think mathematically on the ACT. This will help you be more confident, and work more efficiently, on any kind of math you may see on the test.

Assignments

General

- Getting Started

Math

- Intro to ACT Math
- General Math Strategies I
- General Math Strategies II

Error & Reflection Log

- Set up a log to track practice questions or exam questions you struggled with.
- You can read more about how, and why, to use an error log here:
 - [How Do I Make an Error Log? Do I Need One?](#)
 - [Formatting and Organizing Your Error Log](#)

Practice Exam

This week, you will be taking the Magoosh downloadable exam. Unfortunately, the official ACT test makers only offer one full-length practice exam; you will take this in the final weeks of the course. We highly recommend purchasing the official ACT “red book” if you wish to take additional practice exams to test your knowledge as you go along. If you search for used copies, make sure to purchase something from 2016 or later, because the ACT was updated in 2015.

When you take practice exams, try to mimic the conditions of the test as closely as possible: no phone, no music, no internet, and no TV! You need 3.5 hours of complete solitude for this. For now, you can skip the essay, but you should definitely take a look at the prompt.

Week 2: English and Math

This week's big goal is to get comfortable with all the ACT English topics that aren't grammar. About half of the questions on the ACT English section involve grammar, and we'll get to those in due time. For now, the focus will be on broader ACT English issues like style, clarity, and word choice. We'll also begin our topic-by-topic review of the ACT Math section content, starting with the very basics and working our way up.

Assignments

English

- Introduction + English Strategies
- Style
- Rhetorical Strategy - Part I
- Rhetorical Strategy - Part II
- Organization

Math

- Fractions
- Number and Quantity

Optional reading/watching:

- [How to Guess on the ACT](#) (Video Post)
- [How to Get a Perfect 36 on ACT English: An Intergalactic Guide](#)

Practice questions are included in the assignments.

Continue to update your error log.

Week 3: Reading and Math

This week, we'll do for Reading what we've already done for English: get you set up with the basics and show you what to expect on this section of the test. On the Math front, we'll continue working on arithmetic and review some algebra fundamentals.

Assignments

Reading

- Introduction + Reading Passage Strategies
- Reading Question Strategies
- Literary Narrative Passages
- Humanities Passages
- Social Sciences Passages
- Natural Sciences Passages

Math

- Integer Properties I
- Integer Properties II
- Fractions
- Intro to Algebra
- Algebra I
- Algebra II

Optional reading/watching:

- [ACT Reading Strategies for Slow Readers](#) (Video Post)
- [ACT Reading: 6 Essential Tips and Strategies](#) (Video Post)

Practice questions are included in the assignments.
Continue to update your error log.

Week 4: Science and Math

In this week's assignments, we'll introduce the last remaining section of the test: **Science**. By the end of this week, you will have the basic "lay of the land" for every section of the ACT, leaving you well-positioned for the deeper dive in Weeks 5–7.

Assignments

Science

- Introduction + Science Section Strategies
- Science Passage Strategies

Math

- Algebra: Quadratics
- Powers and Roots I
- Powers and Roots II
- Percents
- Ratios

Optional reading/watching:

- [Top 10 Tips for the ACT Science Section](#) (Video Post)
- [ACT Science: What to Do When You're Running Out of Time](#)

Practice questions are included in the assignments.
Continue to update your error log.

Part B: A Deeper Dive

Now that you know the overall strategies for the ACT and have reviewed the fundamentals, we're going to delve into some of the more technical aspects of each section. In English, we'll be looking mainly at grammar and punctuation; in Science, we'll deal in detail with graphs and charts. The Reading assignments over the next few weeks will review some material that may be familiar from English, but each section tests this material differently, and it's important to be aware of the differences. Finally, we'll continue working our way up the ACT Math skill tree, focusing on word problems, geometry, and statistics.

Assignments for Part B

English

3:22

| | |
|------------------------------|--------|
| Nouns and Verbs | 37 min |
| Pronouns | 24 min |
| Other Parts of Speech | 25 min |
| Usage | 30 min |
| Sentence Structure - Part I | 37 min |
| Sentence Structure - Part II | 20 min |
| Punctuation - Part I | 26 min |
| Punctuation - Part II | 33 min |

Reading

2:35

| | |
|----------------------------|--------|
| Detail Questions - Part I | 19 min |
| Detail Questions - Part II | 26 min |
| Meaning of Words | 19 min |
| Author's Voice | 21 min |
| Author's Method (Purpose) | 25 min |
| Inferences | 13 min |
| Visual Quantitative Info | 16 min |
| Comparison Passages | 16 min |

Science

3:10

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| Science Question Strategies | 79 min |
| Interpretation of Data - Part I | 68 min |
| Interpretation of Data - Part II | 43 min |

Math

8:04

| | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Word Problems I | 34 min |
| Word Problems II | 48 min |
| Word Problems: Motion | 39 min |
| Intro to Geometry | 39 min |
| Geometry: Triangles I | 36 min |
| Geometry: Triangles II | 32 min |
| Quads & Other Polygons | 48 min |
| Geometry: Circles | 36 min |
| Coordinate Geometry I | 50 min |
| Statistics | 31 min |
| Data Interpretation | 31 min |
| Advanced Topics: Percents | 25 min |
| Advanced Topics: Algebra | 35 min |

*Optional item

Week 5: English and Math

This week, the focus returns to English. At the beginning of this study plan, we emphasized tone, content, and organization; now, we'll complete the puzzle by covering the various grammar topics that appear on this section. In Math, we'll forge ahead with the algebra and arithmetic needed to confidently answer word problems—a topic covered in even more detail next week.

Assignments

English

- Nouns and Verbs
- Pronouns
- Other Parts of Speech
- Usage
- Sentence Structure - Part I
- Sentence Structure - Part II
- Punctuation - Part I
- Punctuation - Part II

Math

- Integer Properties I
- Word Problems I
- Word Problems II

Optional reading/watching:

- [ACT English Grammar Rules](#)

Practice questions are included in the assignments.
Continue to update your error log.

Week 6: Reading and Math

Our goals for this week are twofold: get (re)acquainted with the geometry that appears on the ACT Math section, and revisit the Reading section on a deeper level. As you work through the Reading lessons, be sure to pay attention to both the similarities and the differences between the Reading and English sections.

Assignments

Reading

- Detail Questions - Part I
- Detail Questions - Part II
- Meaning of Words
- Author's Voice
- Author's Method (Purpose)
- Inferences
- Visual Quantitative Info
- Comparison Passages

Math

- Word Problems: Motion
- Intro to Geometry
- Geometry: Triangles I
- Geometry: Triangles II
- Geometry: Quads and Other Polygons
- Geometry: Circles

Optional reading/watching:

- [ACT Reading Strategy: Words in Context Questions](#) (Video Post)
- [ACT Math Tips: Similar Triangles](#) (Video Post)

Practice questions are included in the assignments.

Continue to update your error log.

Week 7: Science and Math

This week, we're wrapping up the Science lessons with special attention to how data graphics are used in the ACT Science section. Not coincidentally, this is also the week we cover statistics and data interpretation in the Math section. Just as with English and Reading, it's a good idea to be mindful of the overlap between ACT Science and Math material. Even though the sections and question types are distinct, there are several core skills—like data literacy and statistical thinking—that crop up in both.

Assignments

Science

- Science Question Strategies
- Interpretation of Data - Part I
- Interpretation of Data - Part II

Math

- Coordinate Geometry I
- Statistics
- Data Interpretation
- Advanced Topics: Percents
- Advanced Topics: Algebra

Optional reading/watching:

- [ACT Science Graphs and Tables](#)
- [The ACT Science Conflicting Viewpoints Passage](#) (Video Post)

Practice questions are included in the assignments.
Continue to update your error log.

Part C: Advanced Topics and Review

Now that we're in the last leg of the study plan, we're going to ramp up on the practice problems and scale back just a bit on the weekly lessons. You'll still be learning new ACT content (primarily math), but your main tasks are to review, consolidate, and apply what you've already learned. It's rewarding to see it all come together!

New in this part will be the use of the Custom Practice feature, which you can find by clicking on any of the section names at the top of your screen when logged into Magoosh. If you click "Math," for example, you will get a "Math Practice Questions" menu that lets you pick math subjects to practice, along with difficulty level and number of questions. For now, when you see a section-specific "Custom Practice" item, select "Unanswered" and consider using the default "Adaptive" difficulty setting, which will adjust the difficulty based on your level of performance. As for subjects—it's your choice! Pick the ones you want to brush up on, or hit "Select All" for a comprehensive challenge.

Remember to take care of your physical and mental wellbeing. If you're feeling wiped out, consider rewatching some introductory videos or search through the Magoosh blog for inspiration.

Assignments for Part C *Optional item

| | | Math cont'd | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| English | | Spatial Geometry I | 28 min |
| Custom Practice | 2 h | Spatial Geometry II | 40 min |
| | | Coordinate Geometry II | 37 min |
| Reading | | Adv Topics: Coordinate Geom. I | 25 min |
| Custom Practice | 2 h | Adv Topics: Coordinate Geom. II | 44 min |
| | | Counting and Probability | 51 min |
| Science | | Word Problems: Sequences | 47 min |
| Custom Practice | 2 h | Specific Functions | 33 min |
| | | Logarithms* | 49 min |
| Math Advanced Strategies | 9:51 | Trigonometry II | 57 min |
| Complex Numbers* | 39 min | Advanced Topics: Trigonometry | 33 min |
| Advanced Topics: Matrices | 36 min | Advanced Precalc* | 35 min |
| Trigonometry I | 37 min | | |
| | | Practice Exam + Essay | 3:55 |

Week 8: All-Section Review, Advanced Math

At this point, if you've been following the study plan, you have seen all of the basic English, Reading, and Science content you will be expected to know on the test, and you've learned some strategies for working through each section. As your test date approaches, it's important to keep practicing these strategies at least a little bit each week. Accordingly, this week and next week will focus on practice across all three of these sections. To really challenge yourself in these areas, check out the problem sets under "Optional Reading."

We'll also explore the last few Math topics that you'll need for the exam. These are not as fundamental as the topics covered in Parts A and B of the guide—if you are still struggling with anything from those weeks, it may be wise to review it before (or, time depending, instead of) moving on to these advanced topics. Definitely make sure you have shored up the basics—arithmetic, algebra, and plane geometry—before tackling anything starred as optional.

Assignments

English

- Custom Practice (15+ questions)

Reading

- Custom Practice (15+ questions)

Science

- Custom Practice (15+ questions)

Math

- Advanced Topics: Matrices
- Complex Numbers
- Trigonometry I
- Spatial Geometry I
- Spatial Geometry II
- Coordinate Geometry II
- Advanced Topics: Coordinate Geometry I

Optional reading/watching:

- [The Complete Guide to ACT Pacing and Time Management](#)

Practice questions are included in the assignments; optional (but recommended!) assignments are starred. Continue to update your error log.

Week 9: All-Section Review, Advanced Math

Just as with last week, the name of the game for English, Reading, and Science is “practice and review.” This is your chance to surface any weak areas that you haven’t had a chance to work on until now, and to review any lessons that can help you shore up your knowledge in those areas.

In Math, we are entering territory that might not be as familiar from your school’s algebra, geometry, or trig/precalc curriculum. There’s a good chance that some of these topics will be new to you. Again, if you are struggling with any of the Part A / Part B math topics, those should take precedence.

Assignments

English

- Custom Practice (15+ questions)

Reading

- Custom Practice (15+ questions)

Science

- Custom Practice (15+ questions)

Math

- Advanced Topics: Coordinate Geometry II
- Counting and Probability
- Word Problems: Sequences

Optional reading/watching:

- Video lessons on any topics that show up frequently in your error log.

Week 10: Last of the Math, Practice Exam

We're in the home stretch! There are two major goals for this week: block aside the time for your second full practice exam, and review the very last of the Math topics you'll likely encounter on test day. If you have additional study time beyond that, use it to do one last run-through of any English/Reading/Science topics that are still giving you trouble.

Assignments

Math

- Trigonometry II
- Advanced Topics: Trigonometry
- Logarithms*
- Adv. Pre Calc*

Practice Exam (with Essay)

- This time around, use an official exam from either the ACT website or the Red Book. Remember that Magoosh academic-help specialists are happy to answer questions about official materials.

Optional (but recommended!) assignments are starred.
Continue to update your error log.

The Day Before the Test

Review your notes, your entire error log, and any flashcards you may be working with. Then, make yourself a “cheat sheet” of final reminders to review the morning of the exam. This can include things like “Watch out for parallel sentence structure!” and “The area of a trapezoid is $(\text{base } 1 + \text{base } 2)/2 \times \text{height}$.”

Review last-minute test-day tips once more and pack your bag. Now, put away all your other ACT materials. Move your flashcards, books, and notebooks out of sight. Don't do searches online about the ACT unless you need to print your registration ticket or check the location.

Instead, watch a movie (avoid caffeine), play sports, do art, talk with friends ... you get the idea!

Test Day

It's test day ... which means no last-minute prep!

Do some light exercise, eat a full breakfast consisting of foods your body is used to digesting, and don't make sweeping changes to your caffeine intake. If you normally drink caffeine in the morning, go ahead, but dial it down a notch because you probably have more adrenaline in your system than usual. Give yourself plenty of time to get to the test center.

Don't forget:

- Admissions Ticket
- #2 Pencils (Not Mechanical)
- Calculator
- Jacket or Sweatshirt
- Photo ID
- Drink
- Watch
- Snack

Review your list of last-minute pointers before you go into the testing center so you can walk into the test confident that you have put in three months of hard work and are ready to show it!