



Calculating Your ACT Score Target

Find out what's right for you

By the PrepScholar Team



Setting a Score Target

By now, you already know that your ACT score is vital for getting into college.

This leads most people to this important question: **how high does your ACT score need to be?**

Having a concrete target ACT score is really important. It gives us a goal to aim for and helps us track our progress during our study time.

Your score target needs to be different from everyone else's, because you have different goals from them. You need your own score target to aim for, based on data.

In this guide, we'll teach you how to research what your score target needs to be.

Instructions

Your ACT score target really depends on what schools you want to apply to. We've created a worksheet to guide you through the process. I highly recommend you print out the next page before going further.

ACT Score Target Worksheet

School Name	25 th Percentile (of 36)	75 th Percentile (of 36)
Average		

My ACT Score Target

Composite Score: _____

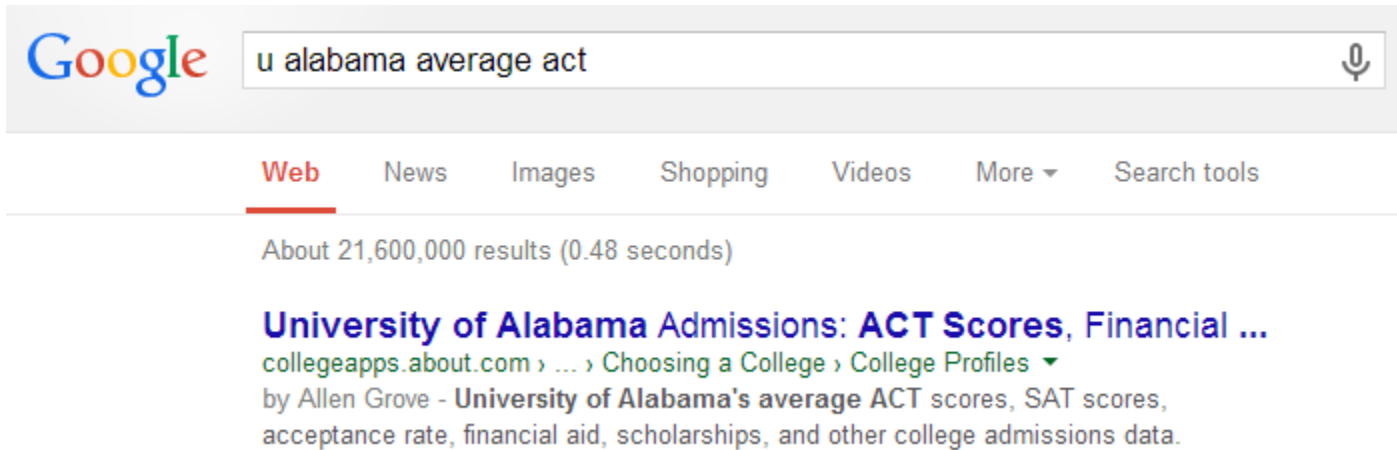
(we recommend you use the average 75th percentile score calculated above)

English: _____ Math: _____ Reading: _____ Science: _____

Got it printed out? We'll be filling out each line of this worksheet.

First, fill in the schools you want to get into on the left.

For each school, we're going to find out what ACT scores their students got. Google this phrase: "[name of school] average ACT." For example, I'll search for U of Alabama:



The screenshot shows a Google search interface. The search bar contains the text "u alabama average act". Below the search bar, there are navigation tabs for "Web", "News", "Images", "Shopping", "Videos", "More", and "Search tools". The "Web" tab is selected. Below the tabs, it says "About 21,600,000 results (0.48 seconds)". The first search result is titled "University of Alabama Admissions: ACT Scores, Financial ..." and is from collegeapps.about.com. The snippet below the title reads: "by Allen Grove - University of Alabama's average ACT scores, SAT scores, acceptance rate, financial aid, scholarships, and other college admissions data."

Most schools will have an about.com link, as shown here. Some schools will list scores on their own websites, which you can use to double check your numbers.

The about.com page lists the 25th/75th percentile scores for U Alabama. This basically covers the middle 50% of all students admitted to U Alabama. Sum up the scores across all 3 sections and enter them in the worksheet. For this example, the 25th percentile is 22, and the 75th percentile is 30.

Do this for each of the schools. Then, calculate your score target based on the instructions.

Here's an example of a sheet I filled out:

School Name	25 th Percentile (of 36)	75 th Percentile (of 36)
U Alabama	22	30
Georgia Southern University	21	24
Sanford University	23	29
U California, Santa Barbara	24	30
Average	22	28

My ACT Score Target

Composite Score: 28
(we recommend you use the average 75th percentile score calculated above)

English: 28 Math: 28 Reading: 28 Science: 28

Once you're done with this, I recommend you do two things:

- Share it with your parents. This will get everyone on the same page. Plus, they'll be impressed that you're taking the initiative to set your own goals.
- Tape it to your wall. I want you to think about your score target every time you study. This is your goal, and you're going to meet it.

Don't get stressed out by your score target. You can reach it. Every single student I've worked with has met his or her score target if he or she put in serious effort to study.

AND NOW WHAT?

Through this guide, you've learned how to find your own ACT score target. This is your personal target – not your friends', not your teammates'. So block out what everyone else is doing and focus on your own prep.

You might now be wondering how to best study for the ACT. If so, check out our free Ebook on that topic! **We survey the advantages and disadvantages of different methods of test prep including self-study, classroom, and tutoring.**

[Click here to get our Ebook Comparing Test Prep Methods!](#)

or **call us** at **1(866) 811-5546**, where one of our Academic Advisers will walk you through the best options for you and your family.

We'd love to hear from you.

Finally, if you found this guide helpful, please share it with any other people who might benefit.

-The PrepScholar Team