

Possible reasons for a disappointing ACT score after completing this course:

If a student engages in all class presentations, completes assignments, does the Guided Mock Test Experience, and has a good test site experience, he or she should see a 2-5 point increase in a composite ACT score.

If that progress is NOT achieved, we need to rule out these possible hindrances:

- 1) **Foundational skills** in English, math, or reading were not in place. The foundation must be in place in order for a student to then soar with our instruction and strategies. We offer 3 levels of comprehensive classes. The foundation skills must be put in place with PRIVATE TUTORING (\$55 - \$80 per hour) or online tutorials (FOUNDATION series for more independent learners – total of 4 hours instruction per subject. \$90 for Faye Nichols students, \$125 for new students). Private ASSESSMENTS available by appointment. \$75 for assessment with appropriate tutor referrals. If you want tutoring without an assessment, just email your request, and I'll send contact information ASAP.
- 2) **Focus Challenge:** Even a slight or mild focusing issue will sabotage an ACT score! During every run of classes, I see a few students with stellar academic records (with 4.2 GPA or above) who struggle with a standardized test like ACT. These outstanding students have mastered the classroom expectations and tests, but often flounder or exhibit much inconsistency on ACT practice test scores, mock test and the national test. Often there is an undiagnosed focus issue.
****If your student has ever been diagnosed with a focusing problem or IF a parent or a student has ever wondered if there could be a focusing challenge, even though no teacher has ever questioned that.... please hear what 2 local educational psychologists have observed about ACT testing and a student with focusing issues:
Dr. I : If there is a focusing challenge and it is addressed, students often raise a composite score as much as 5-6 points!!!!
Dr. K: If a student has even a slight focusing challenge, he/she will often hit a brick wall on a standardized test like ACT.
Often high-achieving students dismiss the idea of having a focusing problem because they have learned to accommodate. However, those accommodations rarely work on the ACT test.
Other students have been diagnosed with ADHD and maybe took medication at some time, but for different reasons have discontinued the medication.
If focusing issues are addressed with accommodations like extended time, not using the bubble answer sheet, multiple testing days or medication for a single test day, the score increase can sometimes mean the difference in college acceptance or rejection as well as scholarships or not.
- 3) **Testing Accommodations:** The diagnosis, documentation, and recommendations of a professional (within last 3 years) can open the door for testing accommodations for otherwise undiagnosed learning challenges such as processing issues, dyslexia or other reading challenges, and neurological disorders. Special testing accommodations usually help students achieve higher ACT scores that more closely line up with their high school achievement.
- 4) A personal "**bad test day**" can happen to anyone. Analyze the experience and forget it, continue to prep, and look forward to the next test date.
- 5) A **poor test site** or poorly conducted test experience can definitely affect your test score. Register early for a "good" test site that consistently conducts a quality test experience by beginning/ending on time, maintaining comfortable temperature, and preventing any disturbance during the test.

If you want additional information or referrals, please email me.

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