## ■ ACT Research & Policy

RESEARCH NOTE

OCTOBER 2009

The concordance tables are only applicable to SAT scores obtained after January 2005 and before March 2016.

## **ACT-SAT Concordance Tables**

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

Students who take the SAT receive three separate test scores: Critical Reading, Writing and Mathematics. Students who take the ACT receive a Composite ACT score and four subscores (Reading, English, Math and Science). Students who take the ACT Plus Writing receive the ACT Composite with the corresponding four subscores (Reading, English, Math and Science) and also receive a Writing 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 SAT with Writing and the optional Writing section on the ACT. The sample includes students who completed both tests and were matched across ACT and SAT files. While 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 College Board (www.collegeboard.org). 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.

Table 1. Concordance between ACT Composite Score and Sum of SAT Critical Reading and Mathematics Scores

|               | ACT       |                |
|---------------|-----------|----------------|
| SAT CR+M      | Composite | SAT CR+M       |
| (Score Range) | Score     | (Single Score) |
| 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            |

• Concordance tables are dependent upon the sample used to establish the relationship between the two sets of scores. The ACT-SAT tables are based on an entire cohort of students who completed both tests, but this sample is not representative of either all ACT or SAT test-takers. The tables, therefore, may not be appropriate for use with scores from students who take either ACT only or SAT only. Overall, a student who receives a score on one test will not necessarily obtain the concorded score on the other test.

Table 2. Concordance between ACT Combined English/Writing Score and SAT Writing Score

|                                 | 3                                 |                                  |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| SAT Writing<br>(Score<br>Range) | ACT Eng-<br>lish/Writing<br>Score | SAT Writing<br>(Single<br>Score) |
| 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                              |

## Notes

- 1. Derived using ACT sum.
- 2. Tables are only applicable to SAT scores obtained after January 2005 and before March 2016.