

STANDARDIZED TESTING REVIEW

THE PLAN

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Purpose

The PLAN or Pre ACT is a standardized test that provides sophomores with formalized practice for the ACT. All sophomores are pre-registered for the PLAN and take the test at SI in January.

The PLAN was designed to measure four educational areas for college readiness:

1. English
2. Math
3. Reading
4. Science Reasoning

Sophomores will take the PLAN test in January, and results are sent home in approximately 6 weeks. PLAN results provide students a sense of how the ACT is constructed and whether or not the ACT is may be a good test to take. The score report also provides students with an individualized report with results from a career inventory provided within the PLAN test.

Counselors utilize PLAN results to assist students with future test planning. In general, we suggest that our students take the ACT in the Spring of Junior year &/or Fall of Senior year. Counselors are available to help the student decide if the ACT or SAT is a better test for them. Note that most colleges will accept results from both testing organizations.

Reasons for Taking the PLAN as a Sophomore

Preparation & Experience with the ACT

The PLAN gives students the opportunity for test practice using the same types of questions on the ACT and provides an estimated ACT score on the report.

Standardized Testing Experience

The PLAN helps students become more familiar with the pace/expectations of the ACT. According to the ACT, students who have taken the PLAN tend to score better on the ACT than those who do not.

Score Report & Test Booklet

Formal standardized test results will be mailed home which give students feedback on specific strengths and weaknesses on the test.

Academic Development

The PLAN provides a standardized interpretation of each student's current academic development. The results include academic strengths as well as areas for improvement.

Career Exploration

The PLAN encourages students to explore career options and begins the process of finding careers that match student interests as noted on the test.

Preparing for the PLAN

The best way for a student to prepare for the PLAN test is by focusing on school work and seeking help from teachers as needed.

Prior to the test, students should review the PLAN for content and pace. A sample may be found on the ACT website: www.planstudent.org. Additionally, students may also go to their Family Connection account where they may use 'Method Test Preparation' which offers free online SAT/ACT practice. The ACT is the test which corresponds to the PLAN.

PLAN Scoring

The PLAN is scored on a scale of 1 (lowest) to 32 (highest). Scoring is completed for each section and finally, as a total (Composite) score. Corresponding percentiles for each section and the Composite score provide understanding of how a student scored in comparison to the other students who took the test Nationwide on the same test date.

Score Report

A student's PLAN scores are shared with the student, parents and their counselor. Colleges do not see PLAN scores, nor are they considered for college admission.

PLAN scores will be mailed home once received by St. Ignatius College Preparatory. This typically occurs six weeks after the test date. A letter of explanation is also included in the mailing.