



ACT and Accommodations

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The ACT is approaching quickly and although most seniors may have already taken it, some seniors and most juniors, still might not have done so. The ACT can bring a lot of stress and worries. If you have a disability and are not sure how this may affect how you can take your ACT, you may even feel more stress than the average student. Hopefully this article can ease your stress.

Typically, you determine if you are eligible for accommodations if:

- Your disability is diagnosed and documented by a credentialed professional
- Your disability directly impacts performance on ACT's assessments

You will need to gather the appropriate documentation. There are three types of documentation:

1. Educational and/or neuropsychological testing completed by a school official
2. A record of the requested accommodation(s) implemented by the school
3. Optional teacher surveys that further prove the use of accommodations in the classroom

These documentations may not be older than 3 years for learning disabilities, autism, visual and hearing impairments, speech and language disorders, and any other medical condition. For psychiatric

disorders, the documentations must not be older than 1 year.

To submit the request for accommodations, you need to register for the test first. Approval for accommodations can take up to 8 weeks, so the sooner you make your request the better. During the registration process, you must specify the types of accommodations you will need. Once the registration is done, ACT will automatically email instructions explaining how to work with your school to complete the process. The school will not be notified, so this will require you to use your self-advocacy skills.

Requests are reviewed by a panel of ACT staff and experts, including testing specialists and neuropsychologists. Once a decision has been reached regarding the request, the Testing Accommodations Coordinator (TAC) will receive a notification that contains the following information:

- Examinee's name
- Examinee's personal identification number for Testing Accessibility and Accommodations (TAA)

- Accommodations approved, or not approved, if applicable
- Reason accommodations are not approved, if applicable

If you have been denied, you can appeal and it will restart the process and may take another 6 weeks.

After gathering your documentation, finishing your request and being approved, you are ready for test day! You should bring printed copies of your registration tickets to testing sites. To be safe, you should also bring a printed copy of the accommodations decision notification, which should have been distributed by TACs in the weeks prior to the test date. When you arrive to the testing site, your name should already be attached to specialized accommodations rosters, and on-site test coordinators should guide you to the appropriate testing rooms.

For more guidance on this follow this link to the ACT Policy for Accommodations Guide: <http://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/6368%20ACT%20Policy%20for%20Documentation-Web.pdf>