

Average ACT Scores by State Graduating Class 2009

The ACT comprises four curriculum-based achievement tests designed to assess critical reasoning and higher-order thinking skills in English, mathematics, reading and science. These tests reflect students' skills and achievement levels as products of their high school experience and serve as critical measures of their preparation for academic coursework beyond high school. ACT results are used by postsecondary institutions across the nation for admissions, academic advising, course placement and scholarship decisions.

The accompanying list of state average scores should not be interpreted as providing grounds for an explicit or implicit ranking of the various states' educational systems. In most states, students who take the ACT are self-selected and do not represent the entire state's student population (see notice below). Further, the percentages of students taking the ACT vary a great deal from state to state, as do those students' backgrounds and characteristics. Many factors--among them, motivation and the desire to learn, parental support, the quality of teaching, socioeconomic status and extracurricular experiences--contribute to individual and group student achievement. However, a core college-preparatory program can be identified as one significant precondition to success on the ACT and in postsecondary studies. ACT defines a core college-preparatory program as four years of English and three or more years each of mathematics (starting with Algebra I), science and social studies courses.

NOTICE: In Spring 2008 all public high school eleventh graders in the states of Colorado, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan and Wyoming were tested with the ACT as required by each state. Colorado, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan and Wyoming students who met ACT's 2009 graduating class criteria are included in the 2009 graduating class average score results. Consistent with ACT's reporting policies, graduating class test results are reported only for students tested under standard time conditions.

Average ACT Scores by State Graduating Class 2009

State	% of Graduates Tested †	Average Composite Score	Average English Score	Average Math Score	Average Reading Score	Average Science Score
Alabama	76	20.3	20.5	19.5	20.7	20.1
Alaska	29	21.0	20.1	21.1	21.7	20.7
Arizona	15	21.9	21.3	22.1	22.4	21.3
Arkansas	73	20.6	20.6	20.1	21.0	20.2
California	19	22.2	21.8	22.8	22.4	21.4
Colorado	100	20.8	20.1	20.5	21.1	20.8
Connecticut	21	23.5	23.6	23.5	24.0	22.6
Delaware	11	22.6	22.2	22.5	23.1	22.0
Washington DC	30	19.4	19.1	19.5	19.7	18.6
Florida	62	19.5	18.7	19.7	20.2	19.0
Georgia	40	20.6	20.1	20.6	20.9	20.3
Hawaii	22	21.5	20.9	22.1	21.4	21.0
Idaho	58	21.6	20.9	21.3	22.3	21.4
Illinois	97	20.8	20.5	20.7	20.8	20.7
Indiana	24	22.2	21.6	22.4	22.6	21.6
Iowa	59	22.4	21.9	21.9	22.9	22.4
Kansas	74	21.9	21.4	21.7	22.4	21.8
Kentucky	100	19.4	18.8	19.0	19.8	19.7
Louisiana	89	20.1	20.3	19.6	20.2	20.0
Maine	9	23.1	23.0	23.0	23.6	22.3
Maryland	17	22.1	21.9	22.1	22.5	21.5
Massachusetts	18	23.9	23.9	24.3	24.3	22.8
Michigan	100	19.6	18.6	19.6	19.6	20.1
Minnesota	68	22.7	22.0	22.7	23.1	22.6
Mississippi	93	18.9	19.1	18.3	19.0	18.7
Missouri	67	21.6	21.5	20.9	22.1	21.5

† Totals for graduating seniors were obtained from *Knocking at the College Door - March 2008, Projections of High School Graduates by State and Race/Ethnicity 1992-2022*, Copyright © March 2008 by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.

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State	% of Graduates Tested †	Average Composite Score	Average English Score	Average Math Score	Average Reading Score	Average Science Score
Montana	54	22.0	21.2	21.7	22.7	21.7
Nebraska	72	22.1	21.9	21.8	22.5	22.0
Nevada	30	21.5	20.9	21.4	22.0	21.0
New Hampshire	15	23.5	23.3	23.4	24.1	22.6
New Jersey	16	23.1	22.9	23.5	23.2	22.1
New Mexico	65	20.0	19.3	19.6	20.7	20.0
New York	25	23.1	22.5	23.4	23.3	22.7
North Carolina	15	21.6	20.9	22.0	21.9	21.1
North Dakota	78	21.5	20.7	21.5	21.8	21.6
Ohio	64	21.7	21.1	21.4	22.2	21.7
Oklahoma	71	20.7	20.5	19.9	21.4	20.5
Oregon	33	21.4	20.5	21.5	21.9	21.1
Pennsylvania	14	22.1	21.7	22.2	22.4	21.5
Rhode Island	10	22.8	23.0	22.5	23.4	21.8
South Carolina	50	19.8	19.2	20.0	19.9	19.8
South Dakota	74	22.0	21.2	21.8	22.3	22.0
Tennessee	92	20.6	20.7	19.8	21.0	20.4
Texas	30	20.8	19.9	21.3	20.9	20.6
Utah	68	21.8	21.4	21.1	22.6	21.6
Vermont	24	23.1	22.9	22.9	23.7	22.5
Virginia	20	21.9	21.7	21.8	22.3	21.4
Washington	18	22.8	22.4	22.9	23.5	22.1
West Virginia	62	20.7	20.8	19.6	21.4	20.5
Wisconsin	67	22.3	21.7	22.2	22.6	22.3
Wyoming	99	20.0	18.9	19.8	20.4	20.2
National	45	21.1	20.6	21.0	21.4	20.9

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