

National Collegiate Dropout and Graduation Rates

2001

Compiled by ACT™

Since 1983, ACT has collected a comprehensive database of graduation rates and freshman to sophomore dropout rates. These dropout and graduation rates provide national benchmarks for institution type and level of selectivity. Data are compiled by ACT from the ACT Institutional Data Questionnaire, which is completed annually by more than 2,500 two-year and four-year institutions.

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For more information, contact ACT Office for the Enhancement of Educational Practices, (319) 341-2275

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Table 1

Freshman to Sophomore Year by Type of Institution

Degree Level/Control	N	Mean %
Two-year Public	737	48.2
Two-year Private	130	33.1
BA/BS Public	81	31.9
BA/BS Private	476	28.8
MA/1st Professional Public	220	30.8
MA/1st Professional Private	494	24.4
PhD Public	204	23.8
PhD Private	165	16.8
Total	2507	32.9

Source: Compiled from ACT Institutional Data File, 2001.

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Table 2

Freshman to Sophomore Year by Admissions Selectivity

Selectivity Level	Typical Test Scores		N	SD*	Mean %
	ACT	SAT			
Highly Selective	27–31	1220–1380	127	5.0	8.4
Selective	22–27	1030–1220	405	8.1	18.6
Traditional	20–23	950–1070	712	9.8	27.6
Liberal	18–21	870– 990	381	14.5	35.0
Open	17–20	830– 950	886	16.0	46.4
Number of Institutions			2511		

* Standard deviation

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Table 3

Public Institutions: Freshman to Sophomore Year by Type and Selectivity

Self-Reported Admissions Selectivity		Associate	BA	MA	PhD
Highly Selective	Mean % = N = *SD =	NA	11.4 5 5.6	11.5 4 4.8	8.4 18 4.0
Selective	Mean % = N = *SD =	NA 2	22.4 5 8.2	21.8 37 6.5	19.6 77 7.1
Traditional	Mean % = N = *SD =	42.3 3 6.8	28.5 40 9.4	28.6 105 7.3	28.0 81 6.6
Liberal	Mean % = N = *SD =	45.1 42 14.5	32.8 12 10.9	34.6 39 8.7	31.8 21 8.5
Open	Mean % = N = *SD =	48.4 692 14.8	44.7 19 11.8	45.1 35 12.8	36.0 7 5.5
Number of Institutions		737	81	220	204

* Standard deviation

Source: Compiled from ACT Institutional Data File, 2001.

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Table 4

Private Institutions: Freshman to Sophomore Year by Type and Selectivity

Self-Reported Admissions Selectivity		Associate	BA	MA	PhD
Highly Selective	Mean % =	NA	7.3	10.2	7.7
	N =	1	30	23	46
	*SD =		3.8	5.8	5.2
Selective	Mean % =	28.0	18.2	18.3	14.9
	N =	3	93	128	60
	*SD =	34.0	7.5	6.6	5.1
Traditional	Mean % =	27.3	29.5	26.4	22.9
	N =	24	162	252	45
	*SD =	18.1	11.7	9.3	7.0
Liberal	Mean % =	32.3	36.7	28.8	34.9
	N =	62	130	61	14
	*SD =	16.5	14.6	13.9	11.2
Open	Mean % =	38.2	36.5	36.1	NA
	N =	41	61	30	1
	*SD =	22.7	19.1	17.4	
Number of Institutions		130	476	494	165

* Standard deviation

Source: Compiled from ACT Institutional Data File, 2001.

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Table 5
by Type of Institution

Degree Level/Control	N	Mean %
Two-year Public	776	31.6
Two-year Private	143	59.2
BA/BS Public	63	46.1
BA/BS Private	383	53.3
MA/1st Professional Public	199	37.5
MA/1st Professional Private	447	53.5
PhD Public	195	45.0
PhD Private	164	63.4
Total	2370	45.3

* Graduation in 3 years for associate's degree; 5 years for BA/BS

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Table 6

Public Institutions by Type and Selectivity

Self-Reported Admissions Selectivity		Associate	BA	MA	PhD
Highly Selective	Mean % =		74.6	70.2	72.3
	N =	NA	5	5	20
	**SD =		9.1	7.4	12.0
Selective	Mean % =	NA	58.0	41.5	50.0
	N =	1	5	37	72
	**SD =		15.3	18.7	14.8
Traditional	Mean % =	36.0	40.5	39.6	38.2
	N =	4	35	101	77
	**SD =	25.2	13.4	13.6	11.8
Liberal	Mean % =	37.1	32.1	28.2	31.0
	N =	43	7	36	20
	**SD =	23.3	22.1	14.6	20.3
Open	Mean % =	31.3	25.8	27.9	27.5
	N =	729	11	20	6
	**SD =	19.5	14.6	15.1	17.0
Number of Institutions		776	63	199	195

* Graduation in 3 years for associate's degree; 5 years for BA/BS

** Standard deviation

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Table 7

Private Institutions by Type and Selectivity

Self-Reported Admissions Selectivity		Associate	BA	MA	PhD
Highly Selective	Mean % =	NA	82.9	76.9	80.8
	N =	1	32	23	45
	**SD =		8.5	9.2	11.2
Selective	Mean % =	75.8	66.2	62.0	63.9
	N =	4	85	119	60
	**SD =	4.3	11.1	11.3	11.2
Traditional	Mean % =	63.1	49.8	51.4	50.7
	N =	23	139	227	47
	**SD =	21.7	15.0	12.9	12.9
Liberal	Mean % =	60.7	41.3	47.0	45.8
	N =	67	89	54	12
	**SD =	19.1	17.2	17.5	20.5
Open	Mean % =	54.0	42.4	41.3	NA
	N =	49	38	24	1
	**SD =	27.4	22.0	23.4	
Number of Institutions		143	383	447	164

* Graduation in 3 years for associate's degree; 5 years for BA/BS

** Standard deviation