

# **Profile Report - National**

Graduating Class 2021

National



ACT, INC. -- CONFIDENTIAL

### New to your 2021 Profile Report

For 2020-2021, contents of the ACT Profile Report remain consistent with last year.

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We are pleased to provide this 2021 Graduating Class ACT Profile Report. This report summarizes the preparation and performance of your 2021 graduates who took the ACT as sophomores, juniors, or seniors under standard- or extended-time conditions and achieved a college reportable composite score. The most recent set of test information is used in your report for students testing more than once.

This report focuses on:

Performance - student test performance in the context of college readiness

Access - number of your graduates exposed to college entrance testing and the percent of race/ethnicity participation

**Course Selection** - percent of students pursuing a core curriculum

Course Rigor - impact of rigorous coursework on achievement

College Readiness - percent of students meeting ACT College Readiness Benchmark Scores in each content area

Awareness - extent to which student aspirations match performance

Articulation - colleges and universities to which your students send test results

Each year, test data for a school, district, and the state represents a different cohort of students. ACT encourages educators to focus on trends (3, 5, 10 years), not year-to-year changes. Such changes can represent normal – even expected – fluctuations. On the other hand, trend lines offer more insight into what is happening in a school, district, or the state.

Furthermore, ACT encourages educators to measure student performance in the context of college readiness measures. The focus should be on the number and percentage of students who met or exceeded ACT's College Readiness Benchmark Scores, a measure that is much more meaningful and understandable than an average composite score for a group of students.

#### The ACT is a curriculum-based measure of college readiness. ACT components include:

Tests of academic achievement in English, math, reading, science, STEM, and (optional) ELA and writing High school grade and course information Student Profile Section Career Interest Inventory

#### The ACT:

Every few years, ACT conducts the **ACT National Curriculum Survey** to ensure its curriculum-based assessment tools accurately measure the skills high school teachers teach and instructors of entry-level college courses expect. The ACT is the only college readiness test designed to reflect the results of such a survey.

ACT's **College and Career Readiness Standards** are sets of statements intended to help students, parents and educators understand the meaning of test scores. The standards relate test scores to the types of skills needed for success in high school and beyond. They serve as a direct link between what students have learned and what they are ready to do next. The ACT is the only college readiness test for which scores can be tied directly to standards. College and Career Readiness Standards to the Classroom interpretive guides can be found at <a href="http://www.act.org/content/act/en/education-and-career-planning/college-and-career-readiness-standards.html">www.act.org/content/act/en/education-and-career-planning/college-and-career-readiness-standards.html</a>.

The ACT reports **College Readiness Benchmark Scores** – A benchmark score is the minimum score needed on an ACT subjectarea test to indicate a 50% chance of obtaining a B or higher or about a 75% chance of obtaining a C or higher in the corresponding credit-bearing college courses, which include English Composition, Algebra, Social Science, Biology, STEM and ELA. These scores were empirically derived based on the actual performance of students in college.

College Course/Course Area	ACT Score	Benchmark Score
English Composition	English	18
Algebra	Mathematics	22
Social Sciences	Reading	22
Biology	Science	23
STEM	STEM	26
ELA	ELA	20

For more information, go to www.act.org

#### How to Improve Scores and Increase College Readiness

25% of your students met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmark Scores (Table 1.1). To improve students' scores and increase the percentage of students identified as college ready, ACT suggests:

PROVIDING ACCESS FOR ALL STUDENTS TO TAKE THE ACT: 1,295,349 of your students are included in this report (the 'cohort'). Increasing access insures that more students have the opportunity to consider college and allows the reader to use this report to evaluate how well courses and instructional programs are preparing students for college and work.

MAKING CORE CURRICULUM A PRIORITY: Emphasize the need for all students to develop college and work ready skills, regardless of postsecondary aspirations. 46% of the students in the cohort reported taking courses that would be considered 'Core or More' (Table 1.4).

MAKING SURE STUDENTS ARE TAKING THE RIGHT KINDS OF COURSES: Table 3.8 reports 3% of the cohort took less than three years of math courses. Of these students, 9% were college ready. 8% of the cohort reported taking a course sequence of Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry. 9% of these students were college ready. In comparison, 50% of the students who took 3 or more years of math beyond Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry were college ready. Getting more students ready for Algebra prior to 9th grade will increase the chances that students will be prepared for and take advanced-level math courses.

Similarly, Table 3.8 reports 10% of the cohort took less than three years of natural science courses. 22% of these students were college ready. In comparison, 46% of students who took at least three years of science coursework were college ready.

EVALUATING RIGOR OF COURSES: Table 3.1 reports the percentage of students falling in each of the ACT College and Career Readiness Standards score ranges. For example, approximately 57% of the cohort fall into the lowest three Mathematics score ranges. To increase these students' achievement, identify the standards they should focus on next by accessing ACT's College and Career Readiness Standards at at www.act.org/content/act/en/education-and-career-planning/college-and-career-readiness-standards.html.

PLAN GUIDANCE ACTIVITIES BASED ON STUDENTS' CAREER AND COLLEGE ASPIRATIONS: Data in Tables 4.1 and 4.2 enable the reader to determine if aspirations are consistent with academic performance and whether, among students with similar aspirations, academic performance is consistent across racial/ethnic groups.

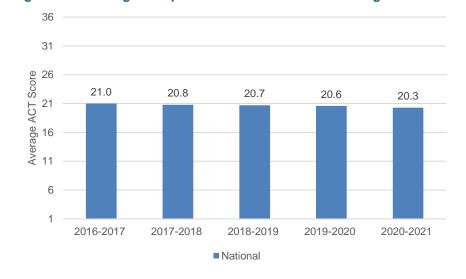
For more information on interpreting data in this report, or to learn how ACT can help your students improve their readiness for college and the workplace, contact ACT Customer Service at 319-337-1365 or customerservices@act.org.

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## Section I Executive Summary

#### ACT PROFILE REPORT - National: SECTION I, EXECUTIVE SUMMARY Graduating Class 2021

Total Students in Report: 1,295,349



#### Figure 1.1. Average Composite Scores: 5 Years of Testing\*

#### Figure 1.2. Percent Meeting 3 or 4 Benchmarks: 5 Years of Testing\*



#### Figure 1.3. Percent Meeting STEM Benchmark: 5 Years of Testing\*

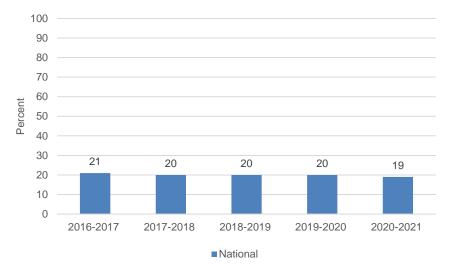
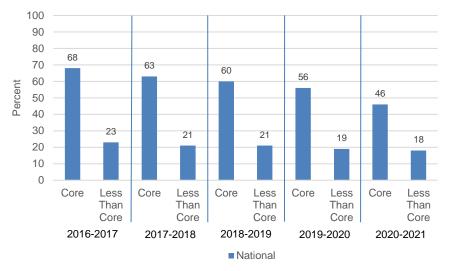


Figure 1.4. Percent Taking A Core Curriculum: 5 Years of Testing\*



#### ACT PROFILE REPORT - National: SECTION I, EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Graduating Class 2021

Table 1.1. The real fields i referred bladents who met conege readiness benchmarks											
	Number of Students	Percent Who Met Benchmarks									
	Tested	English	Mathematics	Reading	Science	Met All Four					
Year	National	National	National	National	National	National					
2017	2,030,038	61	41	47	37	27					
2018	1,914,817	60	40	46	36	27					
2019	1,782,820	59	39	45	36	26					
2020	1,670,497	58	37	45	36	26					
2021	1,295,349	56	36	44	35	25					

#### Table 1.1. Five Year Trends—Percent of Students Who Met College Readiness Benchmarks

Table 1.2. Five Year Trends—Average ACT Scores (table omitted for this report)

#### Table 1.3. Five Year Trends—Average ACT Scores Nationwide

	Number of Students	Average ACT Scores								
Year	Tested	English	Mathematics	Reading	Science	Composite				
2017	2,030,038	20.3	20.7	21.4	21.0	21.0				
2018	1,914,817	20.2	20.5	21.3	20.7	20.8				
2019	1,782,820	20.1	20.4	21.2	20.6	20.7				
2020	1,670,497	19.9	20.2	21.2	20.6	20.6				
2021	1,295,349	19.6	19.9	20.9	20.4	20.3				

#### ACT PROFILE REPORT - National: SECTION I, EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Graduating Class 2021

#### Total Students in Report: 1,295,349

			_						Average A	ACT Scores					
	Num	ber of													
	Student	s Tested	Perc	cent <sup>2</sup>	English		Mathematics		Reading		Science		Composite		
			Core	Less											
	Core or	Less than	or	than	Core or	Less than	Core or	Less than	Core or	Less than	Core or	Less than	Core or	Less than	
Year	More <sup>1</sup>	Core	More	Core	More	Core	More	Core	More	Core	More	Core	More	Core	
2017	1,376,479	464,989	68	23	21.6	17.9	21.7	18.8	22.6	19.3	21.9	19.1	22.1	18.9	
2018	1,200,072	402,680	63	21	21.8	18.1	21.7	18.8	22.7	19.4	21.9	19.0	22.2	19.0	
2019	1,070,445	369,318	60	21	21.8	18.1	21.6	18.7	22.7	19.4	21.9	19.0	22.2	18.9	
2020	928,969	316,044	56	19	21.9	18.3	21.7	18.9	23.0	19.7	22.1	19.2	22.3	19.2	
2021	599,682	229,759	46	18	22.1	18.4	21.8	18.8	23.2	19.8	22.4	19.4	22.5	19.2	

#### Table 1.4. Five Year Trends—Average ACT Scores by Level of Preparation

<sup>1</sup>"Core or More" results correspond to students taking four or more years of English AND three or more years each of math, social studies, and natural science.

<sup>2</sup>Percent of all students tested. Numbers will not add up to 100% due to student non-response.

#### Table 1.5. Five Year Trends—Percent and Average Composite Score by Race/Ethnicity

	2017			2018		2019		2020			2021				
Race/Ethnicity	N	%	Avg	N	%	Avg	Ν	%	Avg	N	%	Avg	Ν	%	Avg
All Students	2,030,038	100	21.0	1,914,817	100	20.8	1,782,820	100	20.7	1,670,497	100	20.6	1,295,349	100	20.3
Black/African American	256,756	13	17.1	243,080	13	16.9	220,627	12	16.8	203,517	12	16.7	153,641	12	16.3
American Indian/Alaska Native	16,135	1	17.5	15,449	1	17.3	15,496	1	17.0	14,597	1	16.7	10,094	1	16.9
White	1,062,439	52	22.4	996,712	52	22.2	918,937	52	22.1	860,496	52	22.0	698,565	54	21.7
Hispanic/Latino	347,906	17	18.9	307,358	16	18.8	293,100	16	18.7	277,796	17	18.5	181,958	14	18.3
Asian	96,097	5	24.3	91,899	5	24.5	83,507	5	24.6	78,707	5	24.9	54,272	4	24.9
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	6,503	0	18.4	5,753	0	18.2	4,965	0	17.9	4,726	0	17.5	3,450	0	17.2
Two or more races	86,119	4	21.2	85,316	4	21.1	80,629	5	21.0	76,782	5	20.9	58,528	5	20.6
Prefer not to respond/No response	158,083	8	20.3	169,250	9	19.8	165,559	9	19.7	153,876	9	19.7	134,841	10	19.2

#### ACT PROFILE REPORT - National: SECTION I, EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Graduating Class 2021

#### Table 1.6. Five Year Trends—Achievement in STEM<sup>1</sup>

		All Tested Stud	ents	Students Meeting STEM Benchmarks			
	Number of						
	Students Tested	Avg. STEM Score	Percent Meeting STEM Benchmark	Avg. Mathematics Score	Avg. Science Score		
Year	National	National	National	National	National		
2017	2,030,038	21.1	21	28.7	28.7		
2018	1,914,817	20.9	20	28.8	28.8		
2019	1,782,820	20.7	20	28.9	29.0		
2020	1,670,497	20.6	20	28.9	29.1		
2021	1,295,349	20.4	19	28.9	29.2		

<sup>1</sup>The STEM score describes students' overall proficiency in mathematics and science.

#### Table 1.7. Proficiency In Understanding Complex Texts<sup>1</sup>

				Text Co	mplexity Proficien	cy Level				
		<b>Below Proficient</b>			Proficient		Above Proficient			
N Percent Avg. Reading				N	Percent	Avg. Reading	N Percent Avg. Reading			
Year	National	National	National	National	National	National	National	National	National	
2017	999,708	49	16.2	596,096	29	23.4	427,075	21	30.8	
2018	1,010,339	53	16.3	492,937	26	23.6	411,541	21	31.0	
2019	950,826	53	16.2	455,611	26	23.6	376,383	21	31.0	
2020	903,921	54	16.1	398,982	24	23.6	367,594	22	31.1	
2021	711,705	55	15.8	318,182	25	23.8	265,462	20	31.3	

<sup>1</sup>The text complexity indicator, beginning in Fall 2015, represents students' progress toward understanding complex written material often encountered in college and careers.

ACT PROFILE REPORT - National: SECTION I, EXECUTIVE SUMMARY Graduating Class 2021

Total Students in Report: 1,295,349

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# Section II Academic Achievement

### ACT PROFILE REPORT - National: SECTION II, ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Graduating Class 2021

Total Students in Report: 1,295,349

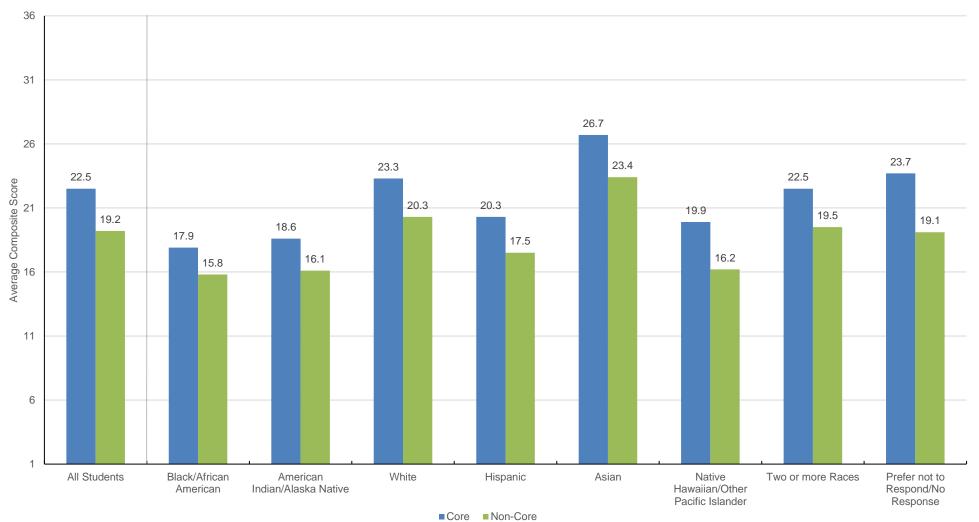


Figure 2.1. Average ACT Composite Scores by Race and Core Curriculum Status\*

\*Missing columns reflect combinations of race/ethnicity and core course-taking status in which one or both indicators are missing.

#### ACT PROFILE REPORT- National: SECTION II, ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT Graduating Class 2021

Total Students in Report: 1,295,349

#### Table 2.1. ACT Score Distributions, Cumulative Percents (CP<sup>1</sup>), and Score Averages

ACT Scale	Englis	sh	Mathem	atics	Readi	ng	Scien	ce	Compo	site	STEM	1	ELA	2	ACT Scale
Score	Ν	CP	N	CP	Ν	CP	N	СР	N	CP	N	CP	N	CP	Score
36	13,177	100	5,045	100	28,448	100	10,148	100	4,055	100	5,936	100	76	100	36
35	38,339	99	13,731	99	29,624	98	12,428	99	11,983	99	10,033	99	280	99	35
34	26,783	96	11,229	99	29,499	96	14,480	98	15,875	99	11,673	99	1,252	99	34
33	17,518	94	11,460	98	29,851	93	17,142	97	18,424	98	14,118	98	3,470	99	33
32	16,666	93	12,160	97	30,726	91	14,577	96	21,369	96	16,494	97	6,810	99	32
31	15,665	91	18,994	96	30,557	89	19,554	95	23,717	94	19,817	96	10,426	97	31
30	18,684	90	19,396	94	32,118	86	22,010	93	27,760	93	23,154	94	10,569	95	30
29	18,899	89	27,209	93	23,885	84	25,659	91	29,781	90	27,203	92	10,517	93	29
28	29,045	87	29,978	91	34,407	82	23,128	90	33,389	88	32,390	90	10,978	91	28
27	23,701	85	49,405	88	28,000	79	30,328	88	38,653	86	38,702	88	11,933	88	27
26	34,829	83	58,595	85	28,799	77	37,827	85	43,591	83	48,783	85	13,223	86	26
25	46,054	80	50,644	80	39,659	75	60,143	82	49,667	79	57,569	81	14,559	83	25
24	59,799	77	54,944	76	58,031	72	81,891	78	55,972	75	61,048	76	16,665	80	24
23	53,466	72	52,975	72	66,760	67	87,342	71	61,457	71	61,506	72	19,256	76	23
22	57,452	68	44,411	68	74,949	62	73,910	65	66,689	66	63,300	67	21,468	72	22
21	76,257	64	44,792	64	63,876	56	76,486	59	71,177	61	69,076	62	23,220	67	21
20	71,410	58	45,071	61	67,664	51	83,043	53	74,815	56	77,729	57	24,260	62	20
19	58,987	52	60,576	58	66,736	46	84,487	47	76,371	50	86,969	51	25,379	57	19
18	47,760	48	81,705	53	66,078	41	84,195	40	79,201	44	97,164	44	26,253	52	18
17	50,636	44	112,213	47	51,735	36	82,473	34	80,300	38	104,465	36	26,788	46	17
16	65,585	40	161,600	38	60,787	32	83,853	27	81,806	32	105,033	28	26,641	40	16
15	85,005	35	146,947	25	55,482	27	61,198	21	83,341	25	94,052	20	27,038	34	15
14	77,924	29	104,803	14	73,787	23	53,969	16	84,113	19	78,018	13	25,840	29	14
13	57,718	23	49,359	6	67,946	17	49,146	12	79,293	12	54,744	7	24,756	23	13
12	55,150	18	16,978	2	63,521	12	39,262	8	53,202	6	24,201	3	21,910	18	12
11	70,610	14	5,560	1	49,994	7	35,048	5	20,485	2	7,692	1	18,758	13	11
10	58,203	8	2,475	1	21,109	3	17,892	2	5,574	1	2,534	1	14,620	9	10
9	23,941	4	1,313	1	10,101	2	7,327	1	1,820	1	979	1	10,790	6	9
8	13,233	2	765	1	5,278	1	2,721	1	758	1	430	1	9,137	3	8
7	7,340	1	442	1	2,824	1	1,944	1	385	1	273	1	4,557	1	7
6	3,109	1	126	1	1,560	1	859	1	182	1	125	1	1,547	1	6
5	1,334	1	203	1	589	1	370	1	92	1	68	1	494	1	5
4	547	1	78	1	504	1	183	1	35	1	40	1	172	1	4
3	328	1	89	1	88	1	195	1	15	1	22	1	70	1	3
2	127	1	21	1	250	1	24	1	2	1	7	1	18	1	2
1	68	1	57	1	127	1	107	1	0	1	2	1	3	1	1
Avg (SD)	19.6 (7	.2)	19.9 (5	5.7)	20.9 (7	.2)	20.4 (5	.9)	20.3 (6	5.0)	20.4 (5	.6)	18.8 (6	.4)	Avg (SD)

<sup>1</sup> CP is the cumulative percent of students at or below a score point.

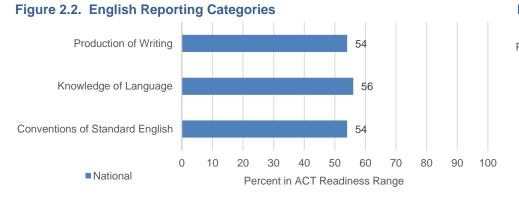
<sup>2</sup> ELA scores are derived only for students with a valid writing score.

Note: Shaded portions of columns identify the students who met/exceeded the ACT College Readiness Benchmark Scores.

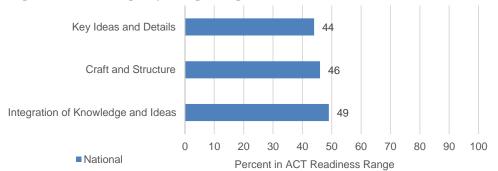
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#### ACT PROFILE REPORT - National: SECTION II, ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT Graduating Class 2021

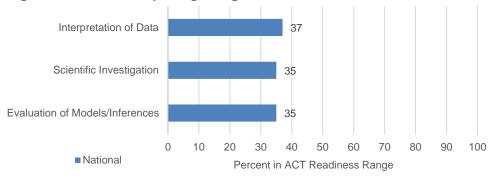
#### Total Students in Report: 1,295,349



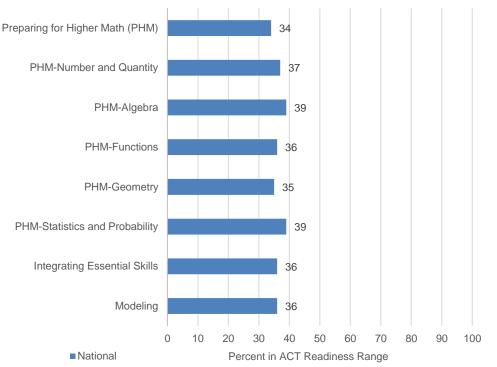
#### Figure 2.4. Reading Reporting Categories



#### Figure 2.5. Science Reporting Categories



#### Figure 2.3. Math Reporting Categories



The charts on this page show the percent of students whose reporting category scores fall within associated ACT Readiness Ranges. ACT Readiness Ranges reflect where a student who has met a particular subject area's ACT College Readiness Benchmark would typically perform within the associated reporting category.

#### ACT PROFILE REPORT- National: SECTION II, ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Graduating Class 2021

Total Students in Report: 1,295,349

#### Table 2.2. Average ACT Composite Scores for Race/Ethnicity by Level of Preparation

Student		Number of	Percent Taking	Average ACT C	omposite Score
Group	Race/Ethnicity	Students Tested	Core or More <sup>1</sup>	Core or More	Less Than Core
	All Students	1,295,349	46	22.5	19.2
	Black/African American	153,641	39	17.9	15.8
	American Indian/Alaska Native	10,094	38	18.6	16.1
	White	698,565	53	23.3	20.3
National	Hispanic/Latino	181,958	42	20.3	17.5
	Asian	54,272	63	26.7	23.4
	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	3,450	34	19.9	16.2
	Two or More Races	58,528	48	22.5	19.5
	Prefer not/No Response	134,841	21	23.7	19.1

"Core or More" results correspond to students taking four or more years of English AND three or more years each of math, social studies, and natural science.

#### Table 2.3. Average ACT Scores by Race/Ethnicity

Student									
Group	Race/Ethnicity	N	Percent	English	Mathematics	Reading	Science	Composite	STEM
	All Students	1,295,349	100	19.6	19.9	20.9	20.4	20.3	20.4
	Black/African American	153,641	12	15.2	16.3	16.6	16.7	16.3	16.8
	American Indian/Alaska Native	10,094	1	15.4	16.8	17.3	17.3	16.9	17.3
	White	698,565	54	21.1	21.0	22.4	21.7	21.7	21.6
National	Hispanic/Latino	181,958	14	17.1	18.2	18.7	18.6	18.3	18.6
	Asian	54,272	4	24.5	25.1	24.9	24.5	24.9	25.0
	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	3,450	0	16.0	17.4	17.3	17.5	17.2	17.7
	Two or More Races	58,528	5	19.8	20.0	21.4	20.7	20.6	20.6
	Prefer not/No Response	134,841	10	18.2	19.0	19.6	19.4	19.2	19.4

#### ACT PROFILE REPORT- National: SECTION II, ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Graduating Class 2021

Total Students in Report: 1,295,349

#### Table 2.4. Average ACT Composite Scores for Gender by Level of Preparation

Student Group	Condor <sup>1</sup>	Number of	Percent Taking	Average ACT Composite Score			
Student Group	Gender <sup>1</sup>	Students Tested	Core or More <sup>2</sup>	Core or More	Less Than Core		
	Males	589,971	46	22.8	18.9		
National	Females	635,458	51	22.3	19.5		
	Other Responses	69,920	12	21.7	18.5		

#### Table 2.5. Average ACT Scores by Gender

Student Group	Gender <sup>1</sup>	Ν	Percent	English	Mathematics	Reading	Science	Composite	STEM
	Males	589,971	46	19.1	20.4	20.6	20.6	20.3	20.8
National	Females	635,458	49	20.2	19.7	21.5	20.4	20.6	20.3
	Other Responses	69,920	5	17.4	18.2	19.0	18.8	18.5	18.8

#### Table 2.6. ACT Score Quartile Values

Quartile	English	Mathematics	Reading	Science	Composite
Q3 (75th Percentile)	24	24	26	24	24
Q2 (50th Percentile)	19	18	20	20	20
Q1 (25th Percentile)	14	15	15	16	15

<sup>1</sup> 'Other Responses' include 'Another Gender', 'Prefer Not to Respond', and missing values.

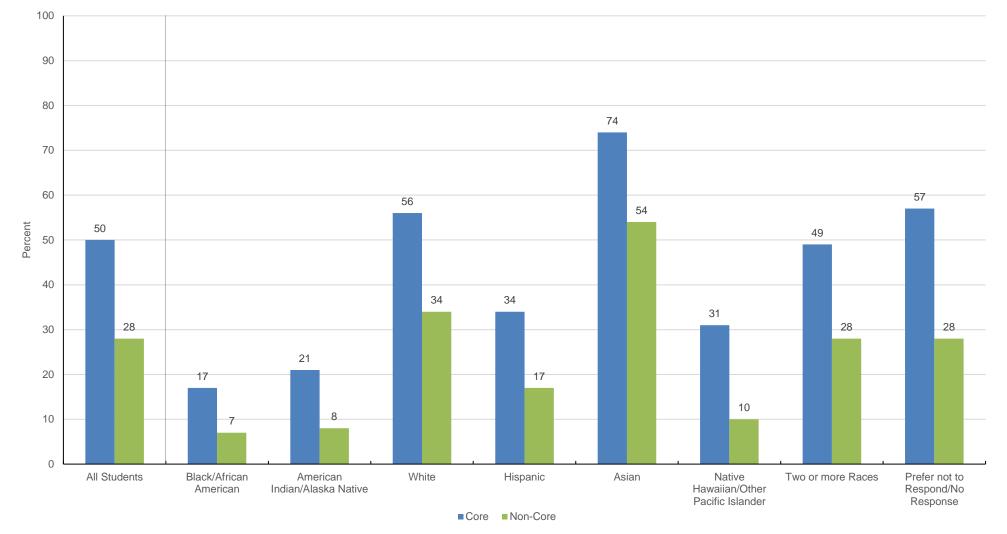
<sup>2</sup> "Core or More" results correspond to students taking four or more years of English AND three or more years each of math, social studies, and natural science.

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# Section III College and Career Readiness and the Impact of Course Rigor

Graduating Class 2021

Total Students in Report: 1,295,349



#### Figure 3.1. Percent of Students Meeting 3 or 4 College Readiness Benchmarks by Core College Curriculum Status\*

\*Missing columns reflect combinations of race/ethnicity and core course-taking status in which one or both indicators are missing.

Graduating Class 2021

Total Students in Report: 1,295,349

Student	CCRS	Eng	lish	Mathe	matics	Rea	ding	Science		
Group	Range	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
	33 to 36	95,817	7	41,465	3	117,422	9	54,198	4	
	28 to 32	98,959	8	107,737	8	151,693	12	104,928	8	
	24 to 27	164,383	13	213,588	16	154,489	12	210,189	16	
National	20 to 23	258,585	20	187,249	14	273,249	21	320,781	25	
	16 to 19	222,968	17	416,094	32	245,336	19	335,008	26	
	13 to 15	220,647	17	301,109	23	197,215	15	164,313	13	
	01 to 12	233,990	18	28,107	2	155,945	12	105,932	8	

#### Table 3.1. Percent of Students in College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS) Score Ranges

#### Table 3.2. Percent of Students Who Met College Readiness Benchmark Scores by Gender

Student Group	Condon <sup>1</sup>		Met			
Student Group	Gender '	English	Mathematics	Reading	Science	All Four
	Males	53	38	42	37	27
National	Females	60	34	46	34	25
	Other Responses	43	23	33	25	15

<sup>1</sup> 'Other Responses' include 'Another Gender', 'Prefer Not to Respond', and missing values.

Graduating Class 2021

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National

Total Students in Report: 1,295,349

Table 3.3. Percent of Students Who Met ACT College Readiness Benchmark Scores by Race/Ethnicity

Student			English	Mathematics	Reading	Science	All Four	STEM
Group	Race/Ethnicity	N	%	%	%	%	%	%
	All Students	1,295,349	56	36	44	35	25	19
	Black/African American	153,641	28	10	18	11	6	3
	American Indian/Alaska Native	10,094	30	13	22	14	7	5
	White	698,565	67	44	53	44	31	24
National	Hispanic/Latino	181,958	41	22	31	22	14	10
	Asian	54,272	76	67	64	61	52	48
	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	3,450	33	18	23	16	11	8
	Two or More Races	58,528	58	35	46	36	25	19
	Prefer Not to Respond	134,841	46	29	36	29	20	16

#### Table 3.4. Likely ACT National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) Level Based Upon ACT Composite Score<sup>1</sup>

Student				Average
Group	ACT NCRC Level	N	%	Composite
	Platinum	225,006	17	30.3
	Gold	277,376	21	23.8
National	Silver	381,864	29	18.9
	Bronze	328,553	25	14.5
	Needs Improvement	82,550	6	11.5

<sup>1</sup> The ACT Composite scores associated with at least a 50% chance of earning each ACT NCRC level or higher are: 13 for Bronze, 17 for Silver, 22 for Gold, and 27 for Platinum. Based on those cut scores, students who earned an ACT Composite score of less than 13 are classified as 'Needs improvement' as they are unlikely to obtain an ACT NCRC. Students with an ACT Composite score of 13 to 16 are classified as 'Bronze' as they are likely to obtain a Bronze NCRC, 17 to 21 as 'Silver', 22 to 26 as 'Gold', and 27 or above as 'Platinum'. Visit www.act.org/NCRC-indicator to learn more.

Graduating Class 2021

National

Total Students in Report: 1,295,349

								0							
Student	Curriculum	N	Eng	lish	Mathe	matics	Rea	ding	Scie	ence	Comp	oosite <sup>4</sup>	ST	EM	
Group	Taken <sup>1</sup>		%	Avg	%	Avg	%	Avg	%	Avg	%	Avg	%	Avg	
	Core or More <sup>2</sup>	599,682	72	22.1	49	21.8	57	23.2	48	22.4	36	22.5	28	22.4	
National	Less than Core	229,759	48	18.4	27	18.8	36	19.8	27	19.4	18	19.2	13	19.3	
	Missing <sup>3</sup>	465,908	39	16.8	22	18.1	30	18.5	22	18.5	14	18.1	10	18.5	

#### Table 3.5. College Readiness Benchmark Percent and Average ACT Scores by Overall High School Curriculum

<sup>1</sup> "Curriculum Taken" reflects overall high school curriculum in this table.

<sup>2</sup> "Core or More" results correspond to students taking four or more years of English AND three or more years each of math, social studies, and natural science.

<sup>3</sup> Zero years or no coursework information reported in one or more content areas.

<sup>4</sup> Composite College Readiness Benchmark % results reflect students who met all four subject-area benchmarks.

#### Table 3.6. College Readiness Benchmark Percent and Average ACT Scores by Content-Specific Curriculum

Student	Curriculum		English			Mathematics			Reading			Science		
Group	Taken <sup>1</sup>	N	%	Avg	N	%	Avg	Ν	%	Avg	Ν	%	Avg	
	Core or More <sup>2</sup>	789,281	67	21.3	793,620	45	21.2	738,095	53	22.6	705,623	46	22.1	
National	Less than Core	56,980	38	16.6	44,627	9	16.0	99,996	36	19.8	131,559	22	18.5	
	Missing <sup>3</sup>	449,088	39	16.8	457,102	22	18.1	457,258	30	18.5	458,167	23	18.5	

<sup>1</sup> "Curriculum Taken" reflects content-specific curriculum in this table.

<sup>2</sup> "Core or More" results correspond to students taking four or more years of English or three or more years of math, social studies, or natural science, respectively.

For instance, Reading "Core or More" results correspond to students taking three or more years of social studies, regardless of courses taken in other content areas.

<sup>3</sup> Zero years or no coursework information reported in the specified content area.

Graduating Class 2021

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#### Total Students in Report: 1,295,349

#### Table 3.7. College Readiness Benchmark (CRB) Percent and Average ACT Scores by Common Course Patterns

Course Pattern	(		National	,
		Percent Taking	Avg ACT	Percent Who Met
ENGLISH COURSE PATTERN	Ν	Pattern	English	Benchmark
Eng 9, Eng 10, Eng 11, Eng 12, & Other English	165,958	13	22.3	72
Eng 9, Eng 10, Eng 11, Eng 12	623,323	48	21.1	65
Less than 4 years of English	56,980	4	16.6	38
Zero years / no English courses reported	449,088	35	16.8	39
		Percent Taking	Avg ACT	Percent Who Met
MATHEMATICS COURSE PATTERN	Ν	Pattern	Math	Benchmark
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, Trig, & Calc	41,584	3	23.2	61
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, Trig, & Other Adv Math	58,940	5	21.4	49
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, & Trig	38,353	3	18.8	26
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, & Other Adv Math	179,211	14	19.1	28
Other comb of 4 or more years of Math	326,953	25	24.1	66
Alg 1, Alg 2, & Geom	98,409	8	16.5	9
Other comb of 3 or 3.5 years of Math	50,170	4	19.5	32
Less than 3 years of Math	44,627	3	16.0	9
Zero years / no Math courses reported	457,102	35	18.1	22
				<b>D</b>
	Ν	Percent Taking	Avg ACT	Percent Who Met
SOCIAL SCIENCE COURSE PATTERN		Pattern	Reading	Benchmark
US Hist, World Hist, Am Gov, & Other Hist	25,929	2	22.6	53
Other comb of 4 or more years Social Science	400,925	31	23.3	57
US Hist, World Hist, & Am Gov	63,786	5	19.9	37
Other comb of 3 or 3.5 years of Social Science	247,455	19	22.1	50
Less than 3 years of Social Science	99,996	8	19.8	36
Zero years / no Social Science courses reported	457,258	35	18.5	30
		Percent Taking	Avg ACT	Percent Who Met
NATURAL SCIENCE COURSE PATTERN	Ν	Pattern	Science	Benchmark
Gen Sci <sup>1</sup> , Bio, Chem, & Phys	326,363	25	22.9	52
Bio, Chem, Phys	109,874	8	24.0	60
Gen Sci <sup>1</sup> , Bio, Chem	244,298	19	20.4	33
Other comb of 3 years of Natural Science	25,088	2	19.2	26
Less than 3 years of Natural Science	131,559	10	18.5	22
Zero years / no Natural Science courses reported	458,167	35	18.5	23

<sup>1</sup>Includes General, Physical and Earth Sciences.

Graduating Class 2021

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#### Total Students in Report: 1,295,349

Table 3.8. College Readiness Benchmark (CRB) Percent and Average ACT Scores for Gender by Common Course Patterns

Course Pattern			Males			F	emales			Other	Response	s '
			ACT	% Who Met			ACT	% Who Met			ACT	% Who Met
ENGLISH COURSE PATTERN	Ν	Percent	English	Benchmark	N	Percent	English	Benchmark	Ν	Percent	English	Benchmark
Eng 9, Eng 10, Eng 11, Eng 12, & Other English	67,788	11	21.9	70	95,990	15	22.5	74	2,180	3	22.7	73
Eng 9, Eng 10, Eng 11, Eng 12	286,635	49	20.7	63	325,896	51	21.4	67	10,792	15	19.8	57
Less than 4 years of English	28,553	5	16.1	34	26,410	4	17.3	43	2,017	3	15.9	33
Zero years / no English courses reported	206,995	35	16.3	36	187,162	29	17.3	43	54,931	79	16.8	39
	N		ACT	% Who Met	N		ACT	% Who Met	N		ACT	% Who Met
MATHEMATICS COURSE PATTERN	N	Percent	Math	Benchmark	N	Percent	Math	Benchmark	N	Percent	Math	Benchmark
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, Trig, & Calc	18,470	3	24.0	67	22,558	4	22.7	57	556	1	21.9	52
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, Trig, & Other Adv Math	21,372	4	21.9	55	36,690	6	21.1	47	878	1	21.1	46
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, & Trig	17,125	3	19.1	30	20,427	3	18.5	23	801	1	18.2	21
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, & Other Adv Math	68,497	12	19.4	31	107,299	17	18.9	27	3,415	5	18.7	25
Other comb of 4 or more years of Math	160,528	27	24.8	69	162,355	26	23.4	62	4,070	6	23.3	59
Alg 1, Alg 2, & Geom	46,364	8	16.7	11	49,374	8	16.4	7	2,671	4	16.3	8
Other comb of 3 or 3.5 years of Math	23,734	4	19.8	34	25,487	4	19.2	30	949	1	18.5	24
Less than 3 years of Math	22,804	4	16.1	9	20,462	3	16.0	8	1,361	2	15.8	8
Zero years / no Math courses reported	211,077	36	18.2	24	190,806	30	17.9	21	55,219	79	17.9	21
			ACT	% Who Met			ACT	% Who Met			ACT	% Who Met
SOCIAL SCIENCE COURSE PATTERN	Ν	Percent	Reading	Benchmark	N	Percent	Reading	Benchmark	Ν	Percent	Reading	Benchmark
US Hist, World Hist, Am Gov, & Other Hist	13,583	2	22.2	50	11,876	2	23.2	55	470	1	21.2	43
Other comb of 4 or more years Social Science	171,010	29	23.1	57	224,515	35	23.4	58	5,400	8	22.8	54
US Hist, World Hist, & Am Gov	32,682	6	19.7	36	29,654	5	20.2	37	1,450	2	19.3	33
Other comb of 3 or 3.5 years of Social Science	110,741	19	22.0	49	132,466	21	22.3	51	4,248	6	21.5	47
Less than 3 years of Social Science	50,458	9	19.4	34	46,433	7	20.4	39	3,105	4	18.7	30
Zero years / no Social Science courses reported	211,497	36	18.1	28	190,514	30	19.0	32	55,247	79	18.5	30
			ACT	% Who Met	N		ACT	% Who Met			ACT	% Who Met
NATURAL SCIENCE COURSE PATTERN	Ν	Percent	Science	Benchmark	N	Percent	Science	Benchmark	N	Percent	Science	Benchmark
Gen Sci <sup>2</sup> , Bio, Chem, & Phys	159,034	27	23.4	56	162,829	26	22.5	49	4,500	6	21.9	45
Bio, Chem, Phys	52,004	9	24.8	65	56,172	9	23.4	56	1,698	2	22.9	53
Gen Sci <sup>1</sup> , Bio, Chem	94,948	16	20.3	33	144,813	23	20.4	33	4,537	6	19.8	29
Other comb of 3 years of Natural Science	13,807	2	19.7	30	10,573	2	18.6	22	708	1	18.6	24
Less than 3 years of Natural Science	58,396	10	18.1	20	69,994	11	18.8	23	3,169	5	18.0	19
Zero years / no Natural Science courses reported	211,782	36	18.5	24	191,077	30	18.5	21	55,308	79	18.4	22

<sup>1</sup> 'Other Responses' include 'Another Gender', 'Prefer Not to Respond', and missing values.

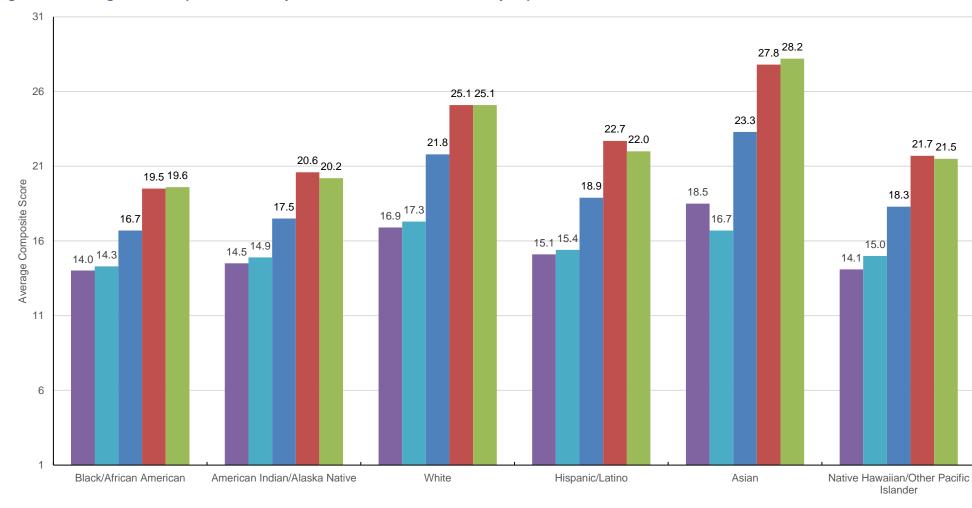
<sup>2</sup> Includes General, Physical and Earth Sciences.

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# Section IV Career and Educational Aspirations

#### ACT PROFILE REPORT - National: SECTION IV, CAREER AND EDUCATIONAL ASPIRATIONS Graduating Class 2021

Total Students in Report: 1,295,349



#### Figure 4.1. Average ACT Composite Scores by Race and Student Postsecondary Aspirations\*

Voc-Tech 2-yr College Degree Bachelors Degree Graduate Study Prof. Level Degree

\*Missing columns reflect combinations of race/ethnicity and postsecondary aspiration in which one or both indicators are missing.

#### ACT PROFILE REPORT - National: SECTION IV, CAREER AND EDUCATIONAL ASPIRATIONS

Graduating Class 2021

Total Students in Report: 1,295,349

		All Students		Plan on 2	Years or Less	of College	Plan on 4 Years or More of College			
Planned Educational Major	N <sup>1</sup>	Percent <sup>2</sup>	Avg ACT Comp	N	Percent	Avg ACT Comp	N	Percent	Avg ACT Comp	
Agriculture & Natural Resources Conservation	14,255	1	19.9	2,209	4	16.4	10,979	2	20.8	
Architecture	9,637	1	21.3	648	1	16.0	8,203	1	21.9	
Area, Ethnic, & Multidisciplinary Studies	932	0	21.7	90	0	15.0	739	0	22.9	
Arts: Visual & Performing	40,003	3	20.8	4,392	7	16.5	32,016	5	21.6	
Business	86,323	7	21.7	6,224	11	16.4	74,450	11	22.2	
Communications	10,604	1	22.1	404	1	16.6	9,621	1	22.4	
Community, Family, & Personal Services	16,791	1	17.9	3,505	6	16.0	11,769	2	18.7	
Computer Science & Mathematics	31,477	2	25.0	1,541	3	18.3	27,733	4	25.3	
Education	31,403	2	20.4	1,049	2	15.5	28,632	4	20.7	
Engineering	68,528	5	24.3	3,372	6	16.2	60,808	9	24.9	
Engineering Technology & Drafting	10,452	1	20.1	1,926	3	16.2	7,564	1	21.4	
English & Foreign Languages	6,406	0	24.4	268	0	17.0	5,660	1	24.9	
Health Administration & Assisting	21,382	2	18.1	2,360	4	15.8	17,227	3	18.5	
Health Sciences & Technologies	137,635	11	21.4	6,105	10	16.8	124,879	19	21.7	
Philosophy, Religion, & Theology	2,429	0	22.1	138	0	17.8	2,082	0	22.6	
Repair, Production, & Construction	12,753	1	17.1	6,929	12	16.5	4,123	1	18.4	
Sciences: Biological & Physical	62,483	5	24.7	667	1	17.5	58,478	9	24.8	
Social Sciences & Law	57,516	4	22.8	1,367	2	16.6	52,772	8	23.0	
Undecided	129,713	10	22.1	8,544	15	16.5	96,710	15	22.8	
No Response	542,913	42	18.0	6,482	11	15.0	15,489	2	17.9	

<sup>1</sup>2-Year and 4-Year "N" counts do not reflect "Missing" and "Other" college plans, therefore they may not add up to the N count for All Students.

<sup>2</sup>Percent of students tested within College Plan groups (All Students, 2-Year, 4-Year).

#### ACT PROFILE REPORT - National: SECTION IV, CAREER AND EDUCATIONAL ASPIRATIONS

Graduating Class 2021

#### Total Students in Report: 1,295,349

 Table 4.2. Average ACT Composite Scores for Racial/Ethnic Groups by Post-Secondary Educational Aspirations

Educational Degree		hnic Groups bined	Black/Africa	n American	American India	n/ Alaska Native	w	nite	Hispani	c/Latino
Aspirations	Ν	Average	Ν	Average	N	Average	Ν	Average	N	Average
Voc-Tech	17,987	16.1	2,767	14.0	236	14.5	10,086	16.9	2,709	15.1
2-yr College Degree	40,846	16.4	6,155	14.3	548	14.9	22,816	17.3	6,578	15.4
Bachelors Degree	348,010	20.8	37,074	16.7	2,536	17.5	220,862	21.8	44,931	18.9
Graduate Study	139,517	24.6	10,328	19.5	628	20.6	91,256	25.1	15,070	22.7
Prof. Level Degree	163,256	24.3	18,463	19.6	910	20.2	90,451	25.1	21,649	22.0
Other	16,270	17.2	2,166	14.6	176	14.8	8,740	18.0	2,591	15.7
No Response	569,463	18.4	76,688	15.2	5,060	15.8	254,354	19.8	88,430	16.6

Educational Degree		All Racial/Ethnic Groups Combined Asian d		Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander		Two or more races		Prefer not to respond/ No Response		
Aspirations	Ν	Average	N	Average	N	Average	N	Average	N	Average
Voc-Tech	17,987	16.1	321	18.5	66	14.1	714	16.5	1,088	16.0
2-yr College Degree	40,846	16.4	682	16.7	150	15.0	1,749	16.6	2,168	15.7
Bachelors Degree	348,010	20.8	12,654	23.3	873	18.3	15,846	20.7	13,234	20.9
Graduate Study	139,517	24.6	8,932	27.8	245	21.7	6,295	24.7	6,763	25.3
Prof. Level Degree	163,256	24.3	14,844	28.2	310	21.5	8,365	24.2	8,264	25.8
Other	16,270	17.2	474	20.8	45	14.9	784	17.2	1,294	17.7
No Response	569,463	18.4	16,365	22.1	1,761	15.6	24,775	18.7	102,030	18.1

Table 4.3. Students' Score Report Preferences at Time of Testing (table omitted for this report)

ACT PROFILE REPORT - National : SECTION IV, CAREER AND EDUCATIONAL ASPIRATIONS Graduating Class 2021

Total Students in Report: 1,295,349

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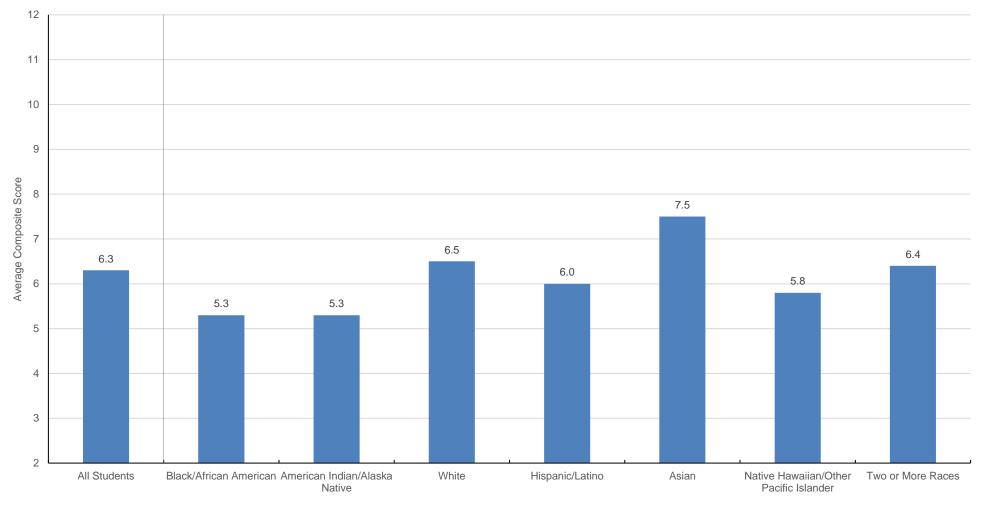
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# Section V Optional Writing Test Results

#### ACT PROFILE REPORT - National: SECTION V, OPTIONAL WRITING TEST RESULTS Graduating Class 2021

Total Students in Report: 1,295,349

#### Figure 5.1. Average ACT Writing Scores by Race/Ethnicity\*



National

\*Missing columns reflect race/ethnicity groupings that are missing.

#### ACT PROFILE REPORT - National: SECTION V, OPTIONAL WRITING TEST RESULTS

Graduating Class 2021

Total Students in Report: 1,295,349

		Average ACT Scores			
	<b>N</b> National	<b>English</b> National	<b>Reading</b> National	<b>Writing</b> National	
All Students	463,733	19.3	20.9	6.3	
Black/African American	57,714	14.7	16.4	5.3	
American Indian/Alaska Native	4,031	14.8	16.9	5.3	
White	222,801	21.0	22.6	6.5	
Hispanic/Latino	79,176	16.7	18.4	6.0	
Asian	27,716	24.7	25.2	7.5	
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	1,944	15.2	16.6	5.8	
Two or More Races	24,007	19.6	21.3	6.4	
Prefer not/No Response	46,344	18.4	19.9	6.0	
Males	211,057	18.9	20.5	6.0	
Females	226,886	20.0	21.4	6.6	
Other Responses	25,790	17.3	18.9	5.8	

#### Table 5.1. Average ACT English Language Arts Constituent Scores by Race/Ethnicity and Gender<sup>1</sup> for Students Who Took ACT Writing

Table 5.2. Average ACT English Language Arts Outcomes by Race/Ethnicity and Gender<sup>1</sup> for Students Who Took ACT Writing

	Average A		CT Scores	
		Average	Percent Who Met	
	Ν	ELA Score	ELA Benchmark	
	National	National	National	
All Students	463,733	18.8	43	
Black/African American	57,714	14.6	16	
American Indian/Alaska Native	4,031	14.8	16	
White	222,801	20.3	53	
Hispanic/Latino	79,176	16.8	29	
Asian	27,716	23.4	69	
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	1,944	15.5	20	
Two or More Races	24,007	19.2	45	
Prefer not/No Response	46,344	17.9	37	
Males	211,057	18.1	39	
Females	226,886	19.6	48	
Other Responses	25,790	16.9	31	

<sup>1</sup> 'Other Responses' include 'Another Gender', 'Prefer Not to Respond', and missing values.