

The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2019

Utah Key Findings

Performance of 2019 Graduates

- In the 2019 Utah graduating class, 43,790 graduates (an estimated 100 percent) took the ACT test with a Composite score average of 20.3. This compares to 40,629 (an estimated 100 percent) with an average of 20.2 in 2015. Nationally, an estimated 52 percent of 2019 graduates took the ACT with an average Composite score of 20.7.
- There were 572 African American graduates from Utah who took the ACT (1 percent) with an average Composite score of 16.6. This compares to 523 (1 percent) with an average of 16.3, and 452 (1 percent) with an average of 16.3, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
- There were 424 American Indian graduates from Utah who took the ACT (1 percent) with an average Composite score of 16.1. This compares to 429 (1 percent) with an average of 15.8, and 423 (1 percent) with an average of 15.8, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
- There were 29,101 White graduates from Utah who took the ACT (66 percent) with an average Composite score of 21.3. This compares to 29,460 (67 percent) with an average of 21.4, and 28,007 (69 percent) with an average of 21.2, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
- There were 7,109 Hispanic graduates from Utah who took the ACT (16 percent) with an average Composite score of 17.3. This compares to 6,702 (15 percent) with an average of 17.4, and 6,052 (15 percent) with an average of 17.2, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
- There were 783 Asian graduates from Utah who took the ACT (2 percent) with an average Composite score of 21.2. This compares to 881 (2 percent) with an average of 21.5, and 809 (2 percent) with an average of 20.6, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
- There were 576 Pacific Islander graduates from Utah who took the ACT (1 percent) with an average Composite score of 16.6. This compares to 526 (1 percent) with an average of 16.8, and 526 (1 percent) with an average of 17.0, for the 2018 and 2015 graduating classes, respectively.
- The 2019 Utah graduating class average English score was 19.5. This compares to 19.7 and 19.4 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
- The 2019 Utah graduating class average math score was 20.0. This compares to 19.9 and 19.8 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
- The 2019 Utah graduating class average reading score was 20.8. This compares to 20.9 and 20.9 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.
- The 2019 Utah graduating class average science score was 20.3. This compares to 20.5 and 20.4 in 2018 and 2015, respectively.

- In 2019, 24 percent of Utah graduates met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 24 and 23 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 38 percent of Utah graduates met zero ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 37 and 36 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 57 percent of Utah graduates met the ACT English College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 58 and 59 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 37 percent of Utah graduates met the ACT Math College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 36 and 34 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 42 percent of Utah graduates met the ACT Reading College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 43 and 44 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 34 percent of Utah graduates met the ACT Science College Readiness Benchmark. This compares to 34 and 34 percent of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively.
 - In 2019, 15,310 (35 percent) of Utah graduates met three or four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks. This compares to 15,477 and 14,175 (35 and 35 percent) out of 2018 and 2015 graduates, respectively. For reference, the national percentage of 2019 graduates meeting three or four benchmarks was 37 percent.

STEM

- In 2019, 16,951 Utah graduates (39 percent) indicated having an interest in STEM majors and/or careers.
- Compared to a 2019 Utah graduating class average ACT STEM score of 20.4, graduates in 2018 and 2015 had STEM averages of 20.5 and 20.3, respectively.
- Compared to 17 percent of 2019 Utah graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark, graduates in 2018 and 2015 had STEM Benchmark percentages of 17 and 16, respectively.
 - 2019 Utah graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average science score of 28.5. This compares to 28.3 in 2015.
 - 2019 Utah graduates meeting the ACT STEM College Readiness Benchmark had an average math score of 28.4. This compares to 28.0 in 2015.

Career Readiness Indicator

- In 2019, 16,618 Utah graduates (38 percent) were likely to attain the Gold ACT WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificate or higher based upon ACT Composite score, compared to 726,923 (41 percent) nationally.
 - The ACT Composite scores associated with a 50% chance of earning each ACT WorkKeys 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 would be classified as “Needs Improvement,” 13 to 16 as “Bronze,” 17 to 21 as “Silver,” and 22 or above as “Gold or Higher.”

Impact

- Based on the actual test volume and ACT score distributions of 2019 ACT-tested Utah high school graduates, ACT research estimates that an increase of 0.1 in state average ACT Composite score for the 2019 graduating class would result in:
 - 108 more students enrolling in college.
 - 120 more students persisting to year two.
 - 92 fewer students needing remedial English.
 - 138 fewer students needing remedial math.
 - 129 more students persisting to year four.
 - 136 more students earning a postsecondary degree within six years.

Behaviors that Impact Access and Opportunity

- In Utah, 16,807 of the 2019 graduates (38.4 percent) taking the ACT two or more times had an average Composite score of 23.5, compared to an average of 18.2 for 26,983 of the 2019 graduates (61.6 percent) who took the ACT only once.
- 117,016 score reports were sent to colleges by 2019 Utah ACT-tested graduates.
 - 84,071 score reports were sent to in-state public colleges by 2019 Utah ACT-tested graduates.
 - For Utah's 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top five schools to which scores were sent were the University of Utah, Utah Valley University, Utah State University, Weber State University, and Utah Tech University.
 - For Utah's 2019 ACT-tested graduates, the top three out-of-state schools to which scores were sent were Brigham Young University - Idaho, Brigham Young University - Hawaii Campus, and Arizona State University.
- In the 2018-2019 academic year, ACT issued 2,284 ACT fee waivers to qualified Utah students across all grades. However, 553 students (24.2 percent) did not take advantage of this opportunity to test for free. This compares to 487,749 waivers issued nationally, of which 135,569 (27.8 percent) students did not take advantage. Fee waivers represent a great opportunity for students of low socioeconomic status to retake without incurring any fees.

Postsecondary Aspirations

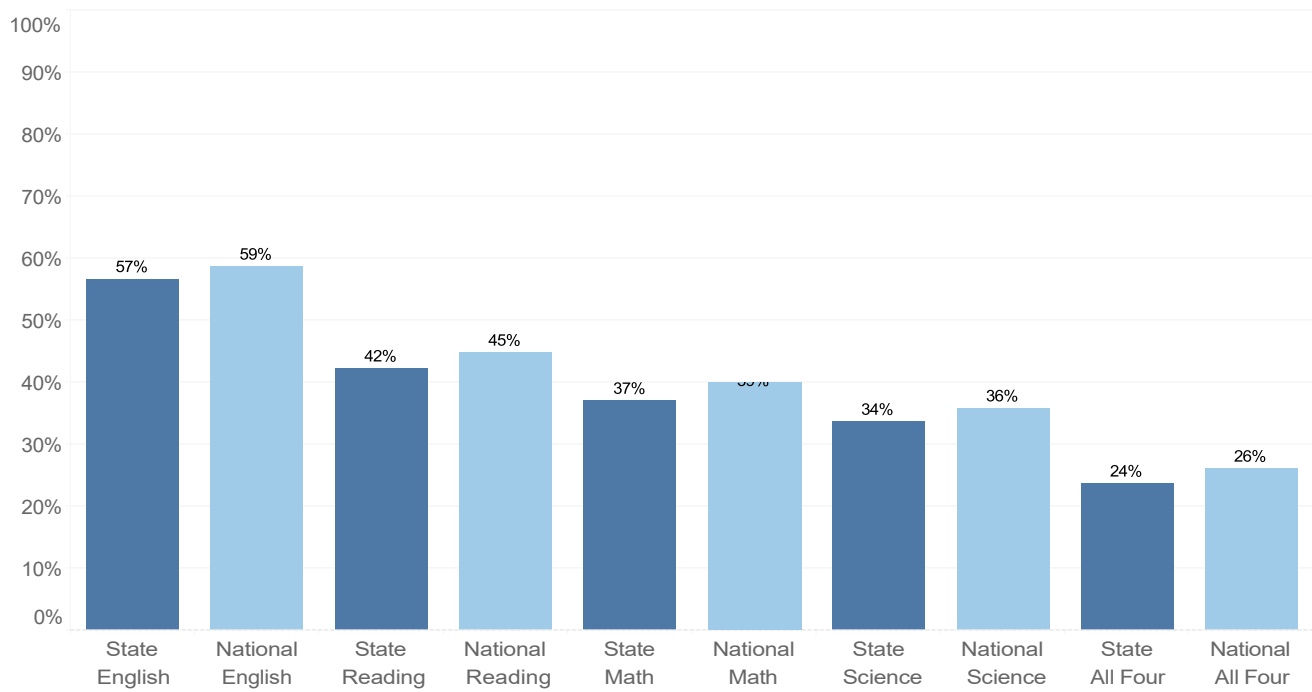
- Aspirations matter. Students who aspire to a higher level of postsecondary education typically achieve higher ACT Composite scores.
 - 11,359 students (26 percent) aspired to attain a graduate or professional degree. They had an average Composite score of 23.4.
 - 15,738 students (36 percent) aspired to attain a bachelor's degree. They had an average Composite score of 20.7.
 - 3,063 students (7 percent) aspired to attain a vocational/technical or associate's degree. They had an average Composite score of 16.7.
- In the Utah graduating class of 2019, 5,194 students (12 percent) had parents who did not attend college.

Additional Points

- The Utah ACT State Organization continues to grow in membership and in diversity, with roughly 200 members from across the state. The membership includes educators from state agencies, K-12, access, and postsecondary institutions, as well as members involved in workforce development.
- Each ACT State Organization recognizes individuals who make a positive impact on their communities as College and Career Readiness Champions. The 2019 Utah ACT Champions are:
 - High school senior: Sage Anderson, Dixie High School; K-12 professional: John Tripp, Executive Director, SUCCESS Academy; and postsecondary professional: Bonnie Mortensen, Undergraduate Talent Sourcing Coordinator, Utah Valley University.

UTAH College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

Percent of 2019 ACT-Tested High School Graduates Meeting ACT College Readiness Benchmarks* by Subject



Data From Graph Above

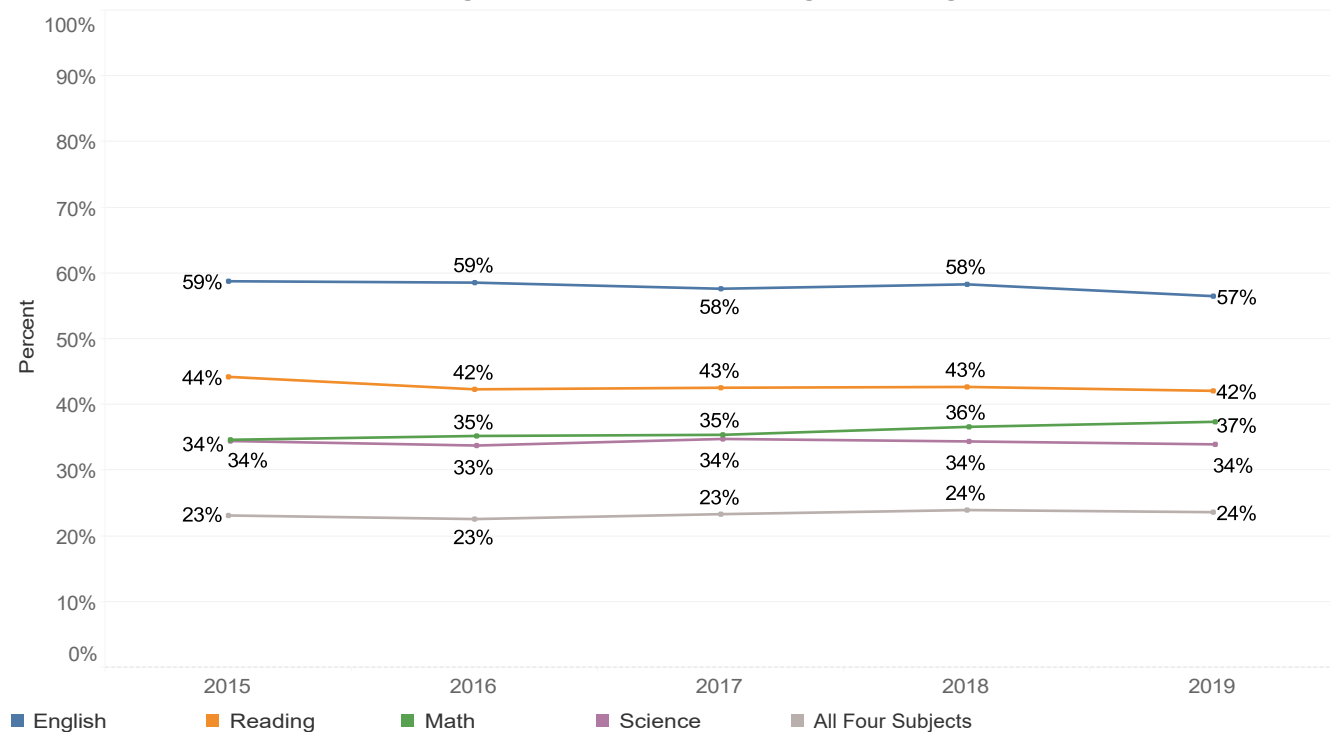
State English	National English	State Reading	National Reading	State Math	National Math	State Science	National Science	State All Four	National All Four
57%	59%	42%	45%	37%	39%	34%	36%	24%	26%

* The ACT College Readiness Benchmarks are scores on the ACT subject area tests that represent the level of achievement required for students to have a 50% chance of obtaining a B or higher or about a 75% chance of obtaining a C or higher in corresponding credit-bearing first-year college courses. Throughout this report, benchmark attainment corresponds with students meeting or exceeding 18 in English, 22 in Reading, 22 in Math and 23 in Science.

Note, missing data points in tables and graphs reflect insufficient data for reporting.

UTAH College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

Percent of 2015–2019 ACT-Tested High School Graduates Meeting ACT College Readiness Benchmarks*



Data From Graph Above

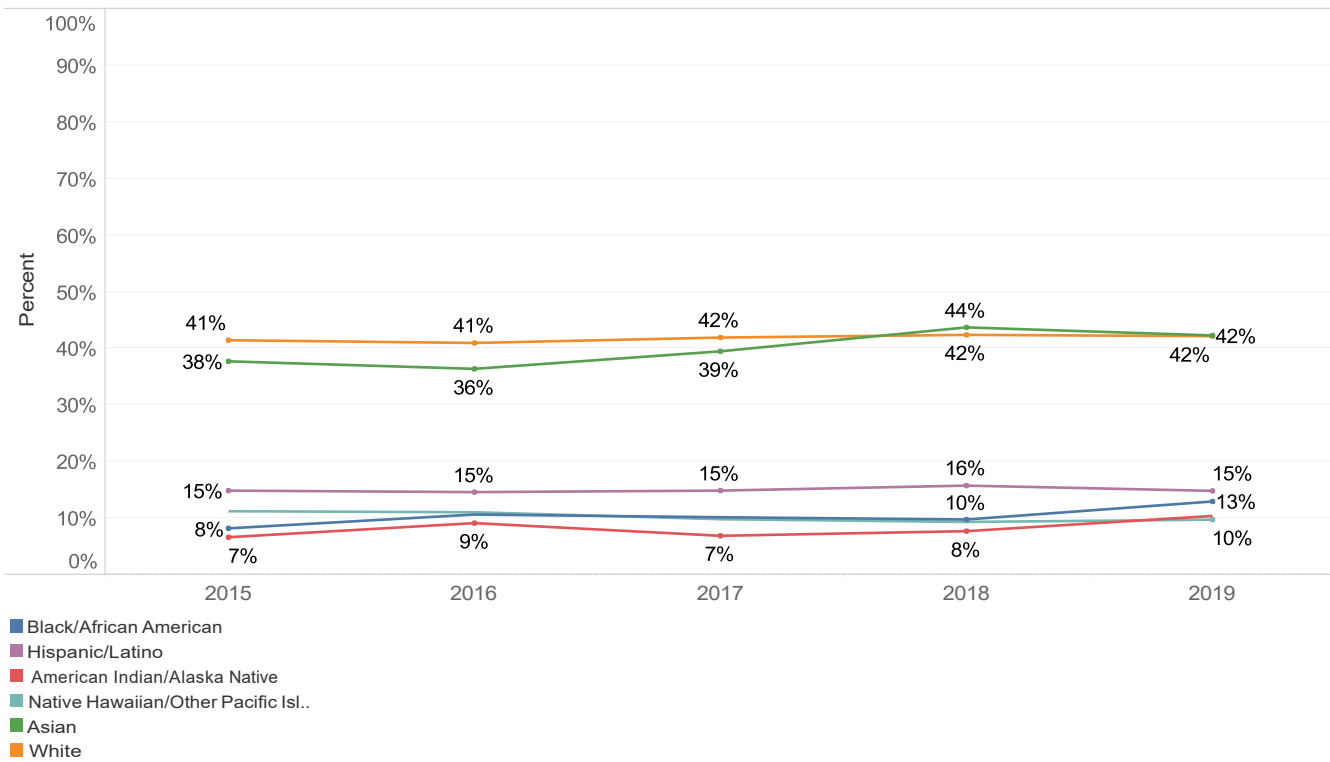
	English	Reading	Math	Science	All Four Subjects
2015	59%	44%	34%	34%	23%
2016	59%	42%	35%	33%	23%
2017	58%	43%	35%	34%	23%
2018	58%	43%	36%	34%	24%
2019	57%	42%	37%	34%	24%

* The ACT College Readiness Benchmarks are scores on the ACT subject area tests that represent the level of achievement required for students to have a 50% chance of obtaining a B or higher or about a 75% chance of obtaining a C or higher in corresponding credit-bearing first-year college courses. Throughout this report, benchmark attainment corresponds with students meeting or exceeding 18 in English, 22 in Reading, 22 in Math and 23 in Science.

Note, missing data points in tables and graphs reflect insufficient data for reporting.

UTAH College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

Percent of 2015-2019 ACT-Tested High School Graduates Meeting Three or More Benchmarks by Race/Ethnicity



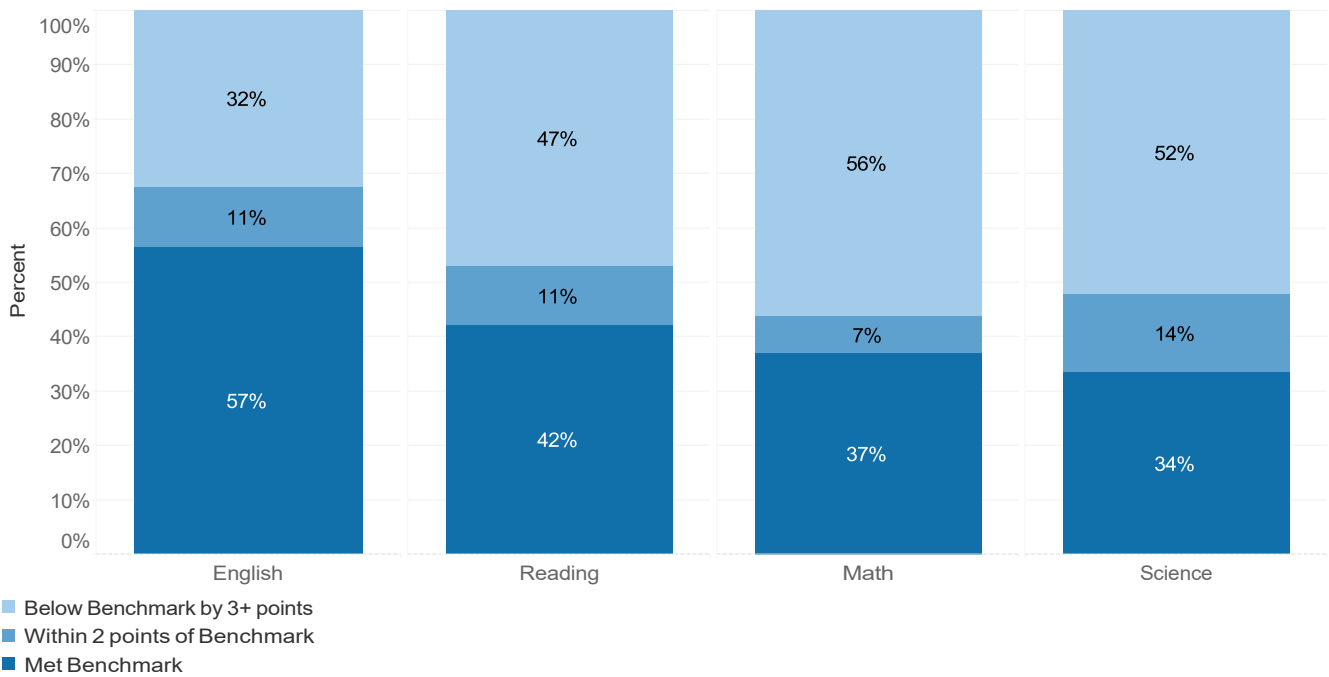
Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Asian	White
2015	8%	15%	7%	11%	38%	41%
2016	11%	15%	9%	11%	36%	41%
2017	10%	15%	7%	10%	39%	42%
2018	10%	16%	8%	9%	44%	42%
2019	13%	15%	10%	10%	42%	42%

Note, missing data points in tables and graphs reflect insufficient data for reporting.

UTAH College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

Percent of 2019 ACT-Tested High School Graduates by ACT College Readiness Benchmark Attainment and Subject



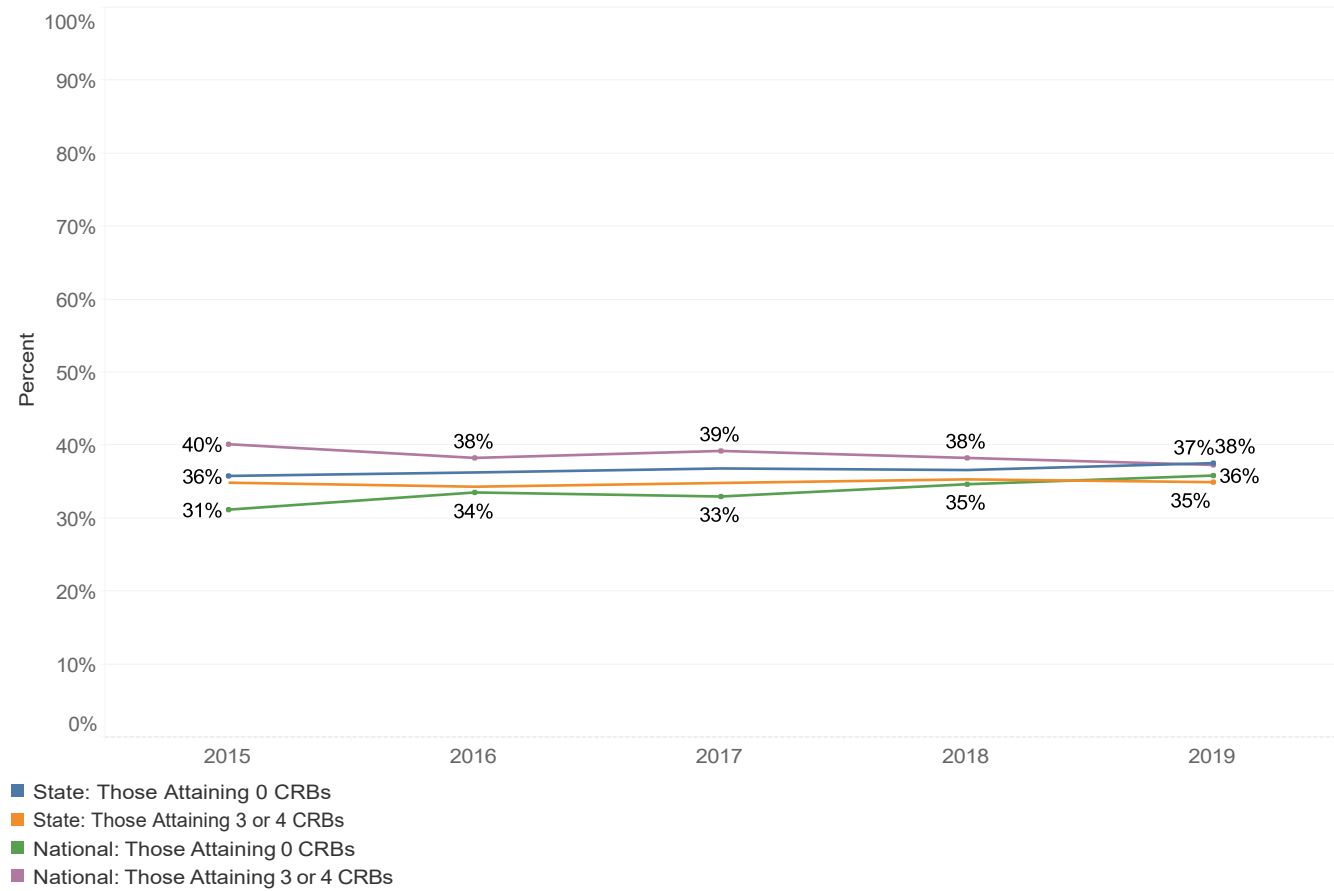
Data From Graph Above

	Below Benchmark by 3+ points	Within 2 points of Benchmark	Met Benchmark
English	32%	11%	57%
Math	56%	7%	37%
Reading	47%	11%	42%
Science	52%	14%	34%

Note, missing data points in tables and graphs reflect insufficient data for reporting.

UTAH College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

Percent of 2015–2019 ACT-Tested High School Graduates Meeting ACT College Readiness Benchmarks*



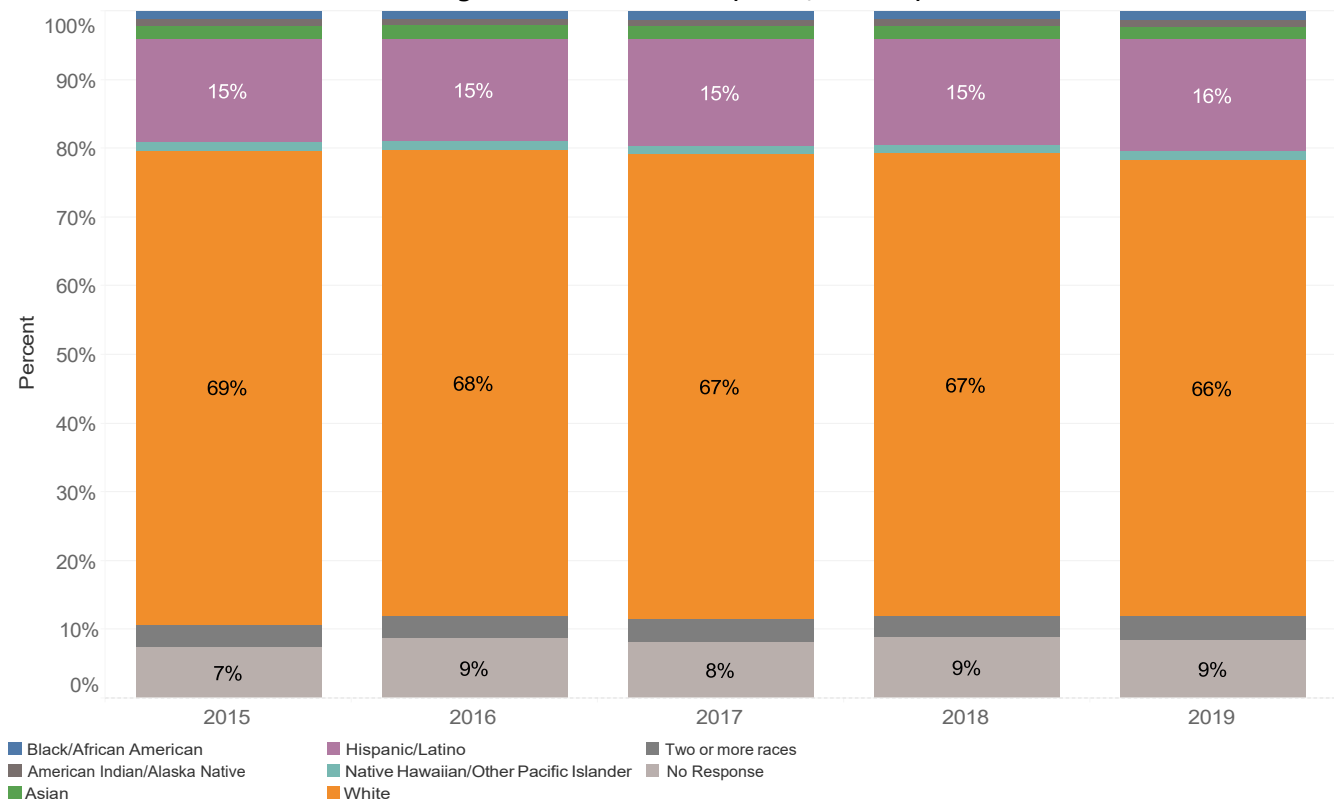
Data from Graph Above

	State: Those Attaining 0 CRBs	State: Those Attaining 3 or 4 CRBs	National: Those Attaining 0 CRBs	National: Those Attaining 3 or 4 CRBs
2015	36%	35%	31%	40%
2016	36%	34%	34%	38%
2017	37%	35%	33%	39%
2018	37%	35%	35%	38%
2019	38%	35%	36%	37%

*Note, missing data points in tables and graphs reflect insufficient data for reporting.

UTAH College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

Percent of 2015-2019 ACT-Tested High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity



Data From Graph Above

	Black/African American	American Indian/Alaska Native	Asian	Hispanic/Latino	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	White	Two or more races	No Response
2015	1%	1%	2%	15%	1%	69%	3%	7%
2016	1%	1%	2%	15%	1%	68%	3%	9%
2017	1%	1%	2%	15%	1%	67%	3%	8%
2018	1%	1%	2%	15%	1%	67%	3%	9%
2019	1%	1%	2%	16%	1%	66%	3%	9%

Note, missing data points in tables and graphs reflect insufficient data for reporting.

UTAH College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

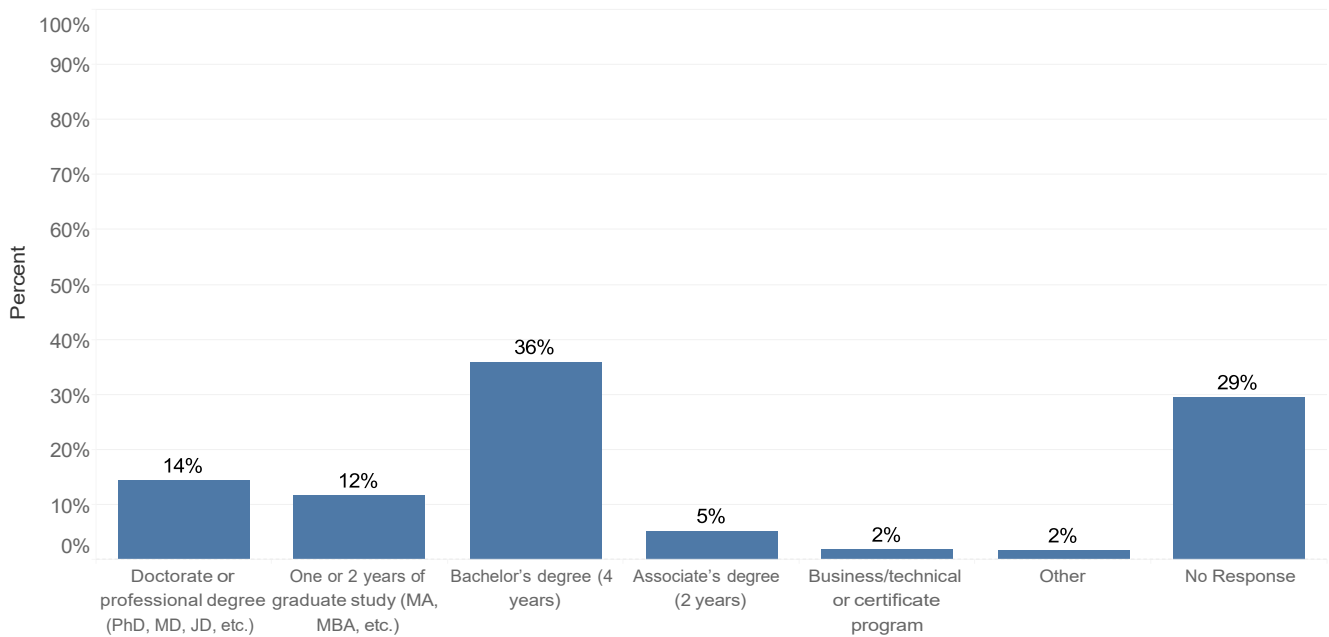
Student Data Trends: 2015-2019, State vs. Nation

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
State N-count	40,629	41,446	42,580	43,791	43,790
National N-count	1,924,436	2,090,342	2,030,038	1,914,817	1,782,820
Average ACT English Score - State	19.4	19.5	19.5	19.7	19.5
Average ACT English Score - National	20.4	20.1	20.3	20.2	20.1
Average ACT Reading Score - State	20.9	20.9	20.8	20.9	20.8
Average ACT Reading Score - National	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.2
Average ACT Math Score - State	19.8	19.7	19.9	19.9	20.0
Average ACT Math Score - National	20.8	20.6	20.7	20.5	20.4
Average ACT Science Score - State	20.4	20.3	20.6	20.5	20.3
Average ACT Science Score - National	20.9	20.8	21.0	20.7	20.6
Average ACT Composite Score - State	20.2	20.2	20.3	20.4	20.3
Average ACT Composite Score - National	21.0	20.8	21.0	20.8	20.7

Note, missing data points in tables and graphs reflect insufficient data for reporting.

UTAH College and Career Readiness Attainment, Participation, and Opportunity

Percent of 2019 ACT-Tested High School Graduates by Educational Aspirations



Data From Graph Above

	% of Graduates
Doctorate or professional degree (PhD, MD, JD, etc.)	14%
One or 2 years of graduate study (MA, MBA, etc.)	12%
Bachelor's degree (4 years)	36%
Associate's degree (2 years)	5%
Business/technical or certificate program	2%
Other	2%
No Response	29%

Note, missing data points in tables and graphs reflect insufficient data for reporting.

ACT®