

National Collegiate Dropout and Graduation Rates

2000

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 | SD* | Mean % |
|-----------------------------|------|------|--------|
| Two-year Public | 741 | 15.2 | 48.0 |
| Two-year Private | 139 | 19.7 | 31.5 |
| BA/BS Public | 80 | 12.0 | 31.8 |
| BA/BS Private | 476 | 14.8 | 28.2 |
| MA/1st Professional Public | 229 | 11.8 | 30.7 |
| MA/1st Professional Private | 490 | 11.5 | 24.4 |
| PhD Public | 204 | 9.4 | 23.5 |
| PhD Private | 166 | 9.9 | 16.6 |
| Total | 2525 | | 32.7 |

* Standard deviation

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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 | 122 | 4.5 | 8.1 |
| Selective | 22–27 | 1030–1220 | 416 | 7.9 | 18.8 |
| Traditional | 20–23 | 950–1070 | 706 | 9.9 | 27.3 |
| Liberal | 18–21 | 870– 990 | 386 | 14.5 | 34.7 |
| Open | 17–20 | 830– 950 | 891 | 16.4 | 45.8 |
| Number of Institutions | | | 2521 | | |

* 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 % = | | 11.5 | 10.3 | 8.8 |
| | N = | NA | 4 | 4 | 19 |
| | *SD = | | 4.7 | 3.4 | 4.5 |
| Selective | Mean % = | NA | 22.4 | 21.9 | 19.8 |
| | N = | 1 | 5 | 42 | 78 |
| | *SD = | | 10.0 | 7.7 | 7.1 |
| Traditional | Mean % = | 37.5 | 29.0 | 29.2 | 27.7 |
| | N = | 4 | 37 | 110 | 80 |
| | *SD = | 11.2 | 8.2 | 7.9 | 6.6 |
| Liberal | Mean % = | 47.4 | 31.6 | 33.1 | 31.6 |
| | N = | 43 | 13 | 35 | 20 |
| | *SD = | 13.7 | 11.1 | 9.1 | 9.3 |
| Open | Mean % = | 48.1 | 43.0 | 43.4 | 34.3 |
| | N = | 693 | 21 | 37 | 7 |
| | *SD = | 15.2 | 9.7 | 11.3 | 3.8 |
| Number of Institutions | | 741 | 80 | 228 | 204 |

* Standard deviation

Source: Compiled from ACT Institutional Data File, 2000.

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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 | 6.9 | 9.0 | 7.6 |
| | N = | 1 | 26 | 23 | 45 |
| | *SD = | | 3.1 | 4.2 | 5.2 |
| Selective | Mean % = | 26.5 | 18.3 | 19.0 | 14.9 |
| | N = | 4 | 99 | 130 | 57 |
| | *SD = | 38.1 | 6.7 | 7.3 | 5.2 |
| Traditional | Mean % = | 24.7 | 28.7 | 26.3 | 22.2 |
| | N = | 24 | 158 | 243 | 50 |
| | *SD = | 18.4 | 10.8 | 9.9 | 7.3 |
| Liberal | Mean % = | 31.3 | 36.1 | 29.8 | 34.7 |
| | N = | 68 | 130 | 65 | 12 |
| | *SD = | 16.8 | 13.9 | 13.5 | 11.3 |
| Open | Mean % = | 36.8 | 35.8 | 32.8 | 17.0 |
| | N = | 42 | 60 | 29 | 2 |
| | *SD = | 21.7 | 19.7 | 16.9 | 17.0 |
| Number of Institutions | | 139 | 473 | 490 | 166 |

* Standard deviation

Source: Compiled from ACT Institutional Data File, 2000.

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Table 5

by Type of Institution

| Degree Level/Control | N | Mean % |
|-----------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Two-year Public | 778 | 32.4 |
| Two-year Private | 153 | 59.9 |
| BA/BS Public | 63 | 41.6 |
| BA/BS Private | 394 | 53.3 |
| MA/1st Professional Public | 201 | 37.0 |
| MA/1st Professional Private | 443 | 54.7 |
| PhD Public | 194 | 45.6 |
| PhD Private | 162 | 63.4 |
| Total | 2394 | 45.4 |

* 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 % = | | 70.0 | 67.3 | 72.7 |
| | N = | NA | 5 | 4 | 20 |
| | **SD = | | 14.4 | 12.4 | 11.6 |
| Selective | Mean % = | NA | 59.0 | 42.0 | 50.4 |
| | N = | 1 | 4 | 42 | 73 |
| | **SD = | | 18.2 | 18.9 | 15.5 |
| Traditional | Mean % = | 34.8 | 41.5 | 39.1 | 38.2 |
| | N = | 5 | 33 | 102 | 77 |
| | **SD = | 22.0 | 14.4 | 14.2 | 12.1 |
| Liberal | Mean % = | 39.1 | 37.1 | 28.4 | 33.9 |
| | N = | 43 | 8 | 33 | 18 |
| | **SD = | 22.2 | 24.5 | 14.8 | 20.4 |
| Open | Mean % = | 31.9 | 28.5 | 31.4 | 27.0 |
| | N = | 729 | 13 | 20 | 6 |
| | **SD = | 19.8 | 15.0 | 15.1 | 14.8 |
| Number of Institutions | | 778 | 63 | 201 | 194 |

* 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 | 84.2 | 77.5 | 81.2 |
| | N = | 1 | 28 | 23 | 44 |
| | **SD = | | 7.5 | 8.5 | 11.4 |
| Selective | Mean % = | 75.8 | 65.5 | 61.8 | 64.6 |
| | N = | 4 | 94 | 126 | 58 |
| | **SD = | 4.3 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 11.0 |
| Traditional | Mean % = | 63.3 | 50.8 | 51.6 | 50.7 |
| | N = | 23 | 137 | 216 | 47 |
| | **SD = | 21.2 | 15.2 | 13.3 | 13.4 |
| Liberal | Mean % = | 62.0 | 40.2 | 45.7 | 45.8 |
| | N = | 75 | 94 | 57 | 11 |
| | **SD = | 19.0 | 16.5 | 17.4 | 21.8 |
| Open | Mean % = | 53.9 | 42.3 | 42.9 | 31.0 |
| | N = | 50 | 41 | 21 | 2 |
| | **SD = | 27.4 | 21.6 | 22.3 | 15.6 |
| Number of Institutions | | 153 | 394 | 443 | 162 |

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

** Standard deviation