

# National Collegiate Dropout and Graduation Rates

2002

*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.

## National Dropout Rates

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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	738	14.9	48.2
Two-year Private	132	19.6	32.9
BA/BS Public	81	13.1	31.5
BA/BS Private	480	15.4	28.7
MA/1st Professional Public	220	11.4	30.8
MA/1st Professional Private	493	11.4	24.5
PhD Public	204	9.6	23.8
PhD Private	166	10.1	16.7
Total	2514		32.9

\* 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	127	5.0	8.4
Selective	22–27	1030–1220	404	8.1	18.7
Traditional	20–23	950–1070	711	9.8	27.6
Liberal	18–21	870– 990	382	14.5	35.0
Open	17–20	830– 950	886	16.1	46.3
Number of Institutions			2509		

\* Standard deviation

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Table 3

## Public Institutions: Freshman to Sophomore Year by Type and Selectivity

<b>Self-Reported Admissions Selectivity</b>		<b>Associate</b>	<b>BA</b>	<b>MA</b>	<b>PhD</b>
<b>Highly Selective</b>	Mean % =		11.4	11.5	8.4
	N =	NA	5	4	18
	*SD =		5.6	4.8	4.0
<b>Selective</b>	Mean % =		22.4	21.7	19.8
	N =	NA	5	36	78
	*SD =		8.2	6.6	7.2
<b>Traditional</b>	Mean % =	42.3	28.5	28.6	28.0
	N =	3	40	105	81
	*SD =	6.8	9.4	7.3	6.6
<b>Liberal</b>	Mean % =	45.1	32.8	34.6	31.8
	N =	42	12	39	21
	*SD =	14.5	10.9	8.7	8.5
<b>Open</b>	Mean % =	48.4	44.7	45.1	36.5
	N =	691	19	35	6
	*SD =	14.8	11.8	12.8	5.8
<b>Number of Institutions</b>		736	81	219	204

\* Standard deviation

Source: Compiled from ACT Institutional Data File, 2002.

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Table 4

## Private Institutions: Freshman to Sophomore Year by Type and Selectivity

<b>Self-Reported Admissions Selectivity</b>		<b>Associate</b>	<b>BA</b>	<b>MA</b>	<b>PhD</b>
<b>Highly Selective</b>	Mean % =	NA	7.3	10.2	7.7
	N =	1	30	23	46
	*SD =		3.8	5.8	5.2
<b>Selective</b>	Mean % =	28.0	18.2	18.4	14.9
	N =	3	93	127	60
	*SD =	34.0	7.5	6.5	5.1
<b>Traditional</b>	Mean % =	27.3	29.5	26.4	22.9
	N =	24	162	251	45
	*SD =	18.1	11.7	9.3	7.0
<b>Liberal</b>	Mean % =	32.3	36.7	28.8	34.9
	N =	62	130	61	14
	*SD =	16.5	14.6	13.9	11.2
<b>Open</b>	Mean % =	38.2	36.5	35.3	NA
	N =	41	61	31	1
	*SD =	22.7	19.1	17.7	
<b>Number of Institutions</b>		130	476	493	165

\* Standard deviation

Source: Compiled from ACT Institutional Data File, 2002.

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Table 5

by Type of Institution

<b>Degree Level/Control</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Mean %</b>
Two-year Public	776	31.6
Two-year Private	143	59.2
BA/BS Public	63	41.1
BA/BS Private	384	53.4
MA/1st Professional Public	198	37.5
MA/1st Professional Private	446	54.4
PhD Public	195	45.0
PhD Private	164	63.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>2369</b>	<b>45.1</b>

\* 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

<b>Self-Reported Admissions Selectivity</b>		<b>Associate</b>	<b>BA</b>	<b>MA</b>	<b>PhD</b>
<b>Highly Selective</b>	Mean % =		74.6	70.2	72.3
	N =	NA	5	5	20
	**SD =		9.1	7.4	12.0
<b>Selective</b>	Mean % =	NA	58.0	41.8	50.0
	N =	1	5	36	73
	**SD =		15.4	18.8	14.7
<b>Traditional</b>	Mean % =	36.0	40.5	39.6	38.0
	N =	4	35	101	77
	**SD =	25.2	13.4	13.7	11.9
<b>Liberal</b>	Mean % =	37.1	32.1	28.2	31.0
	N =	43	7	36	20
	**SD =	23.3	22.1	14.6	20.3
<b>Open</b>	Mean % =	31.3	25.8	27.9	28.2
	N =	729	11	20	5
	**SD =	19.5	14.6	15.1	18.9
<b>Number of Institutions</b>		776	63	198	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

<b>Self-Reported Admissions Selectivity</b>		<b>Associate</b>	<b>BA</b>	<b>MA</b>	<b>PhD</b>
<b>Highly Selective</b>	Mean % =	NA	82.9	76.9	80.8
	N =	1	32	23	45
	**SD =		8.5	9.2	11.2
<b>Selective</b>	Mean % =	75.8	66.2	61.8	63.9
	N =	4	85	118	60
	**SD =	4.3	11.1	11.2	11.2
<b>Traditional</b>	Mean % =	63.1	49.8	51.3	50.7
	N =	23	139	226	47
	**SD =	21.7	15.0	12.8	12.9
<b>Liberal</b>	Mean % =	60.7	41.2	47.0	45.8
	N =	67	90	54	12
	**SD =	19.1	17.2	17.5	20.5
<b>Open</b>	Mean % =	54.0	42.4	42.1	NA
	N =	49	38	25	1
	**SD =	28.0	22.0	23.2	
<b>Number of Institutions</b>		<b>143</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>164</b>

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

\*\* Standard deviation