

Average ACT Scores by State

The ACT Assessment comprises four curriculum-based achievement tests designed to assess critical reasoning and higher-order thinking skills in English, mathematics, reading and science. These tests reflect students' skills and achievement levels as products of their high school experience and serve as critical measures of their preparation for academic coursework beyond high school. ACT Assessment results are used by postsecondary institutions across the nation for admissions, academic advising, course placement and scholarship decisions.

The accompanying list of state average scores should not be interpreted as providing grounds for an explicit or implicit ranking of the various states' educational systems. Students who take the ACT Assessment are self-selected and do not represent the entire state's student population. Further, the percentages of students taking the ACT Assessment vary a great deal from state to state, as do those students' backgrounds and characteristics. Many factors--among them, motivation and the desire to learn, parental support, the quality of teaching, socioeconomic status and extracurricular experiences--contribute to individual and group student achievement. However, a core college-preparatory program can be identified as one significant precondition to success on the ACT Assessment and in postsecondary studies. ACT defines a core college-preparatory program as four years of English and three or more years each of mathematics (starting with Algebra I), science and social studies courses.

NOTICE: In April 2004 all public high school eleventh graders in the States of Colorado and Illinois were tested with the ACT Assessment as required by each state. The ACT Assessment was administered in each state in accordance with ACT's national test date administration guidelines. Consistent with ACT's reporting policies the test results for these students who are in the 2005 graduating class are included in the national, Colorado and Illinois state norms.

Average ACT Scores by State 2005 ACT-Tested Graduates

State	% of Graduates Tested †	Average Composite Score	Average English Score	Average Math Score	Average Reading Score	Average Science Score
Alabama	77	20.2	20.3	19.4	20.5	20.1
Alaska	26	21.3	20.5	21.3	22.0	21.1
Arizona	19	21.5	20.9	21.7	21.9	21.2
Arkansas	76	20.3	20.5	19.6	20.6	20.1
California	14	21.6	21.1	22.1	21.8	20.9
Colorado	100	20.2	19.3	20.0	20.6	20.2
Connecticut	10	22.8	22.5	22.7	23.4	22.0
Delaware	4	20.8	20.2	20.5	21.4	20.6
Washington DC	29	18.0	17.2	18.0	18.5	17.8
Florida	41	20.4	19.8	20.4	20.9	20.1
Georgia	29	20.0	19.4	19.8	20.3	19.8
Hawaii	16	21.9	21.0	22.7	21.9	21.6
Idaho	58	21.3	20.5	20.9	21.9	21.2
Illinois	100	20.3	19.9	20.2	20.3	20.4
Indiana	21	21.7	21.2	21.5	22.2	21.4
Iowa	66	22.0	21.5	21.7	22.4	22.1
Kansas	76	21.7	21.2	21.4	22.1	21.6
Kentucky	76	20.4	20.0	19.7	20.8	20.4
Louisiana	85	19.8	19.9	19.2	19.8	19.7
Maine	10	22.4	22.1	22.0	23.1	21.9
Maryland	12	21.0	20.5	20.8	21.5	20.7
Massachusetts	12	22.8	22.5	22.8	23.4	22.0
Michigan	69	21.4	20.7	21.2	21.8	21.6
Minnesota	68	22.3	21.6	22.1	22.7	22.4
Mississippi	94	18.7	18.8	17.8	18.9	18.6
Missouri	70	21.6	21.4	20.9	21.9	21.5

† Totals for graduating seniors were obtained from *Knocking at the College Door - December 2003, Projections of High School Graduates by State, Income and Race/Ethnicity, 1998-2018*, Copyright © December 2003 by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.

Average ACT Scores by State 2005 ACT-Tested Graduates

State	% of Graduates Tested †	Average Composite Score	Average English Score	Average Math Score	Average Reading Score	Average Science Score
Montana	57	21.8	21.0	21.5	22.4	21.8
Nebraska	76	21.8	21.4	21.6	21.9	21.7
Nevada	28	21.5	20.8	21.3	22.0	21.3
New Hampshire	10	22.3	21.9	22.1	23.0	21.8
New Jersey	6	21.3	20.9	21.5	21.7	20.8
New Mexico	61	20.0	19.4	19.4	20.6	20.1
New York	17	22.4	21.3	22.5	23.0	22.3
North Carolina	15	20.2	19.3	20.4	20.6	20.0
North Dakota	82	21.3	20.4	21.2	21.4	21.5
Ohio	66	21.4	20.7	21.2	21.9	21.5
Oklahoma	69	20.4	20.3	19.6	21.0	20.4
Oregon	12	22.6	21.8	22.4	23.4	22.2
Pennsylvania	9	21.7	21.2	21.5	22.3	21.4
Rhode Island	8	21.9	21.4	21.7	22.6	21.3
South Carolina	38	19.4	18.8	19.3	19.6	19.3
South Dakota	76	21.5	20.8	21.3	21.7	21.6
Tennessee	92	20.5	20.6	19.7	20.8	20.2
Texas	29	20.2	19.3	20.3	20.3	20.2
Utah	68	21.5	21.1	21.0	22.2	21.4
Vermont	16	22.6	22.3	22.1	23.5	22.1
Virginia	14	20.8	20.5	20.6	21.2	20.6
Washington	16	22.7	22.3	22.4	23.5	22.3
West Virginia	65	20.4	20.5	19.3	20.9	20.4
Wisconsin	69	22.2	21.5	22.0	22.4	22.3
Wyoming	69	21.4	20.6	21.0	22.0	21.4
National	40	20.9	20.4	20.7	21.3	20.9

† Totals for graduating seniors were obtained from *Knocking at the College Door - December 2003, Projections of High School Graduates by State, Income and Race/Ethnicity, 1998-2018*, Copyright © December 2003 by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.