



2024 Graduating Class

This annual data release summarizes the preparation and performance of ACT-tested U.S. high school graduates.

2024 ACT-Tested U.S. Graduates

Students who take the ACT test are now more likely to do so as part of a school-day administration, as compared to ten years ago. Students' ACT scores have remained consistent over time in predicting postsecondary outcomes, including first-year retention and graduation rates.

2024 GRADUATES BY THE NUMBERS



More than one in three 2024 U.S. graduates took the ACT. 78% of test-takers took at least one ACT test as part of school-day testing.



The average ACT Composite score for all students was 19.4, compared to 19.5 in 2023. Among the 35% of graduates who tested multiple times, students improved their ACT Superscore by an average of 2.4 points, compared to their first test.



17 states tested more than 75% of their 2024 graduates with the ACT, with an average ACT Composite score of 18.5. 23 states offered the ACT on a school day at no cost to students.

Students who meet and exceed ACT College Readiness Benchmarks are more likely to persist beyond their first year of college and graduate with a degree than their peers who do not meet benchmarks. As more colleges return to requiring or recommending test scores, ACT scores continue to show that many students are not demonstrating academic readiness for postsecondary coursework.



More Colleges Reinstating Testing Requirements

"We believe a standardized testing requirement will improve - not detract from - our ability to bring the most promising and diverse students to our campus."

-Dartmouth College Testing Guidelines, 2024



Early Navigation Opportunities Make a Difference

Among tenth-grade students who took the PreACT and who indicated they had no plans to go to college, 26% enrolled in college after high school graduation.

"Now I'm in school in Florida - who ever would've guessed that?"

-Jojo, Class of 2024