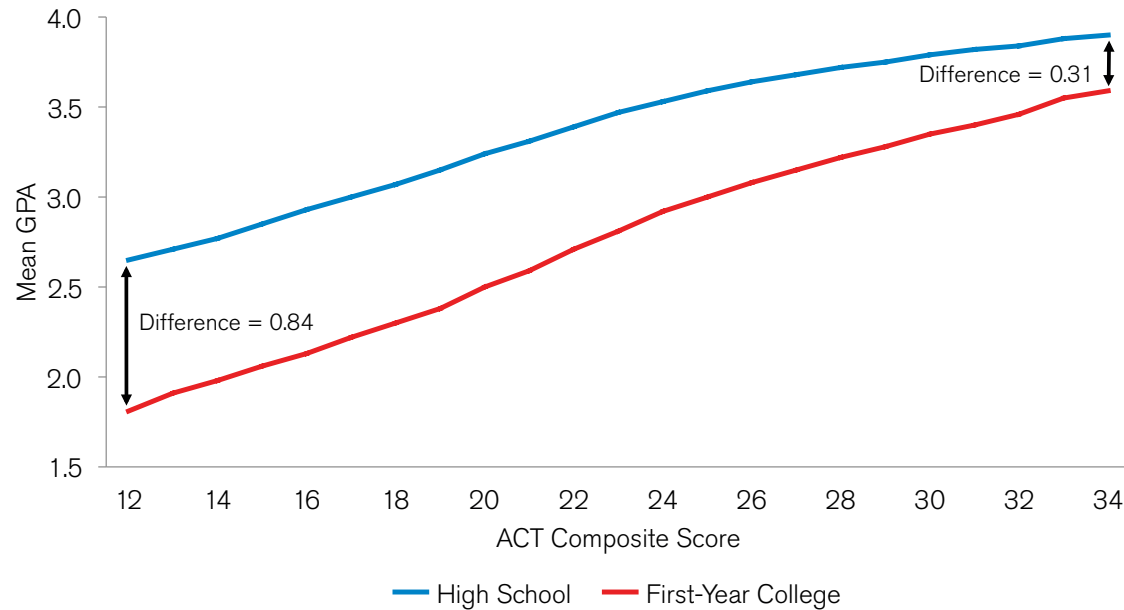


## Comparing High School Grade Point Average (GPA) to First-Year College GPA

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Average High School and First-Year College GPA, by ACT Composite Score



First-year college GPA data were collected for 392,635 ACT®-tested students from 289 postsecondary institutions. The students entered college between 2009 and 2012 and provided high school course grade information when they registered to take the ACT. High school GPA was calculated by averaging grades across 23 core high school courses. Analyses were conducted to compare high school GPA to first-year college GPA on the usual 4-point grading scale.

Students tend to earn lower GPAs in college than in high school. On average, high school GPA was 0.66 points higher than first-year college GPA (3.36 versus 2.70). As shown in the chart, the average difference decreases with ACT Composite score. For students with an ACT Composite score of 12, college GPA was 0.84 points lower than high school GPA. For students with an ACT Composite score of 34, college GPA was 0.31 points lower than high school GPA. ■

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