

ACT Research and Policy

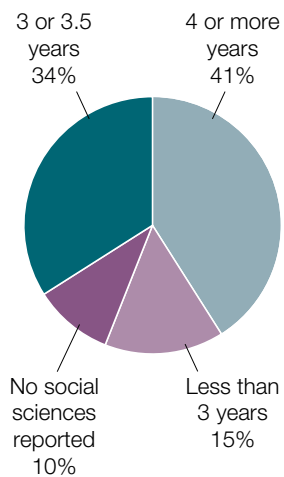
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Information Brief

Social Sciences Courses Taken and ACT College Readiness Benchmark Performance in Reading

June 2013

High School Social Sciences Courses Taken for 2012 ACT-Tested High School Graduates

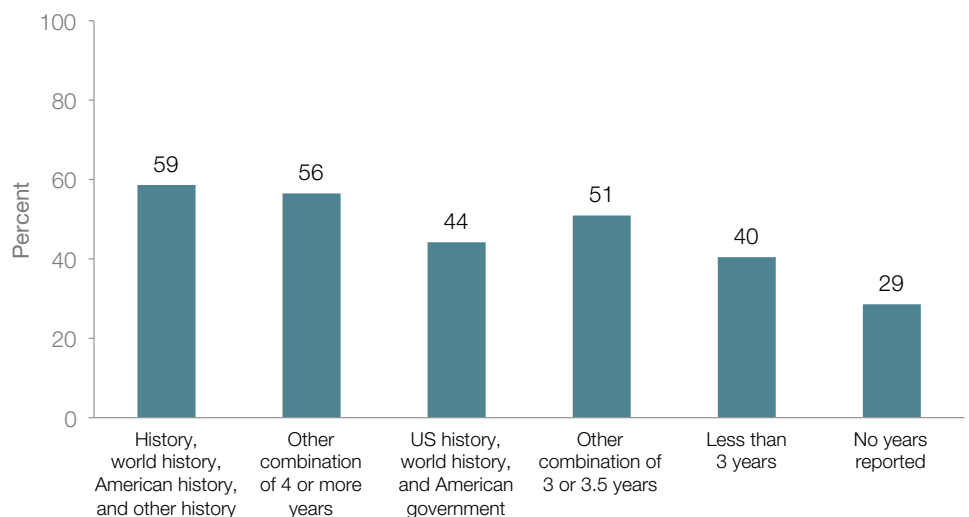


As part of a core curriculum, ACT recommends that students complete three or more years of social sciences courses. Seventy-five percent of 2012 ACT-tested high school graduates took at least three years of social sciences courses.

A greater percentage of students who took three years of history met the ACT College Readiness Benchmark in Reading (44% who completed US history, world history, and American government, and 51% who completed some other combination of three or three-and-a-half years) compared to those with less than three years of history (40%).

However, students who completed at least four years of history had the highest Benchmark performance: 59% of students who completed history, world history, American history, and another history and 56% of students who took some other combination of four years or more of history.

Percent Meeting the Reading Benchmark by Social Sciences Courses Taken



Note: Data are based on 1,666,017 ACT-tested 2012 high school graduates.

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