



# Profile Report - State

Graduating Class 2021

South Dakota



## New to your 2021 Profile Report

For 2020-2021, contents of the ACT Profile Report remain consistent with last year.

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We are pleased to provide this 2021 Graduating Class ACT Profile Report. This report summarizes the preparation and performance of your 2021 graduates who took the ACT as sophomores, juniors, or seniors under standard- or extended-time conditions and achieved a college reportable composite score. The most recent set of test information is used in your report for students testing more than once.

This report focuses on:

**Performance** - student test performance in the context of college readiness

**Access** - number of your graduates exposed to college entrance testing and the percent of race/ethnicity participation

**Course Selection** - percent of students pursuing a core curriculum

**Course Rigor** - impact of rigorous coursework on achievement

**College Readiness** - percent of students meeting ACT College Readiness Benchmark Scores in each content area

**Awareness** - extent to which student aspirations match performance

**Articulation** - colleges and universities to which your students send test results

Each year, test data for a school, district, and the state represents a different cohort of students. ACT encourages educators to focus on trends (3, 5, 10 years), not year-to-year changes. Such changes can represent normal – even expected – fluctuations. On the other hand, trend lines offer more insight into what is happening in a school, district, or the state.

Furthermore, ACT encourages educators to measure student performance in the context of college readiness measures. The focus should be on the number and percentage of students who met or exceeded ACT's College Readiness Benchmark Scores, a measure that is much more meaningful and understandable than an average composite score for a group of students.

**The ACT is a curriculum-based measure of college readiness. ACT components include:**

- Tests of academic achievement in English, math, reading, science, STEM, and (optional) ELA and writing
- High school grade and course information
- Student Profile Section
- Career Interest Inventory

**The ACT:**

Every few years, ACT conducts the **ACT National Curriculum Survey** to ensure its curriculum-based assessment tools accurately measure the skills high school teachers teach and instructors of entry-level college courses expect. The ACT is the only college readiness test designed to reflect the results of such a survey.

ACT's **College and Career Readiness Standards** are sets of statements intended to help students, parents and educators understand the meaning of test scores. The standards relate test scores to the types of skills needed for success in high school and beyond. They serve as a direct link between what students have learned and what they are ready to do next. The ACT is the only college readiness test for which scores can be tied directly to standards. College and Career Readiness Standards to the Classroom interpretive guides can be found at [www.act.org/content/act/en/education-and-career-planning/college-and-career-readiness-standards.html](http://www.act.org/content/act/en/education-and-career-planning/college-and-career-readiness-standards.html).

The ACT reports **College Readiness Benchmark Scores** – A benchmark score is the minimum score needed on an ACT subject-area test to indicate a 50% chance of obtaining a B or higher or about a 75% chance of obtaining a C or higher in the corresponding credit-bearing college courses, which include English Composition, Algebra, Social Science, Biology, STEM and ELA. These scores were empirically derived based on the actual performance of students in college.

College Course/Course Area	ACT Score	Benchmark Score
English Composition	English	18
Algebra	Mathematics	22
Social Sciences	Reading	22
Biology	Science	23
STEM	STEM	26
ELA	ELA	20

For more information, go to [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

## How to Improve Scores and Increase College Readiness

30% of your students met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmark Scores (Table 1.1). To improve students' scores and increase the percentage of students identified as college ready, ACT suggests:

**PROVIDING ACCESS FOR ALL STUDENTS TO TAKE THE ACT:** 5,467 of your students are included in this report (the 'cohort'). Increasing access insures that more students have the opportunity to consider college and allows the reader to use this report to evaluate how well courses and instructional programs are preparing students for college and work.

**MAKING CORE CURRICULUM A PRIORITY:** Emphasize the need for all students to develop college and work ready skills, regardless of postsecondary aspirations. 83% of the students in the cohort reported taking courses that would be considered 'Core or More' (Table 1.4).

**MAKING SURE STUDENTS ARE TAKING THE RIGHT KINDS OF COURSES:** Table 3.8 reports 3% of the cohort took less than three years of math courses. Of these students, 8% were college ready. 13% of the cohort reported taking a course sequence of Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry. 16% of these students were college ready. In comparison, 54% of the students who took 3 or more years of math beyond Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry were college ready. Getting more students ready for Algebra prior to 9th grade will increase the chances that students will be prepared for and take advanced-level math courses.

Similarly, Table 3.8 reports 7% of the cohort took less than three years of natural science courses. 29% of these students were college ready. In comparison, 47% of students who took at least three years of science coursework were college ready.

**EVALUATING RIGOR OF COURSES:** Table 3.1 reports the percentage of students falling in each of the ACT College and Career Readiness Standards score ranges. For example, approximately 44% of the cohort fall into the lowest three Mathematics score ranges. To increase these students' achievement, identify the standards they should focus on next by accessing ACT's College and Career Readiness Standards at [www.act.org/content/act/en/education-and-career-planning/college-and-career-readiness-standards.html](http://www.act.org/content/act/en/education-and-career-planning/college-and-career-readiness-standards.html).

**PLAN GUIDANCE ACTIVITIES BASED ON STUDENTS' CAREER AND COLLEGE ASPIRATIONS:** Data in Tables 4.1 and 4.2 enable the reader to determine if aspirations are consistent with academic performance and whether, among students with similar aspirations, academic performance is consistent across racial/ethnic groups.

For more information on interpreting data in this report, or to learn how ACT can help your students improve their readiness for college and the workplace, contact ACT Customer Service at 319-337-1365 or [customerservices@act.org](mailto:customerservices@act.org).

# Section I

## Executive Summary

Total Students in Report: 5,467

Figure 1.1. Average Composite Scores: 5 Years of Testing\*

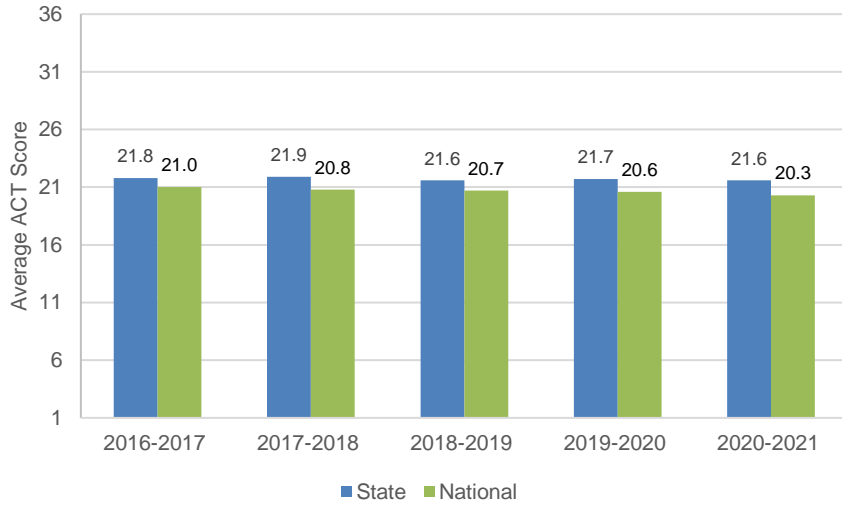


Figure 1.2. Percent Meeting 3 or 4 Benchmarks: 5 Years of Testing\*

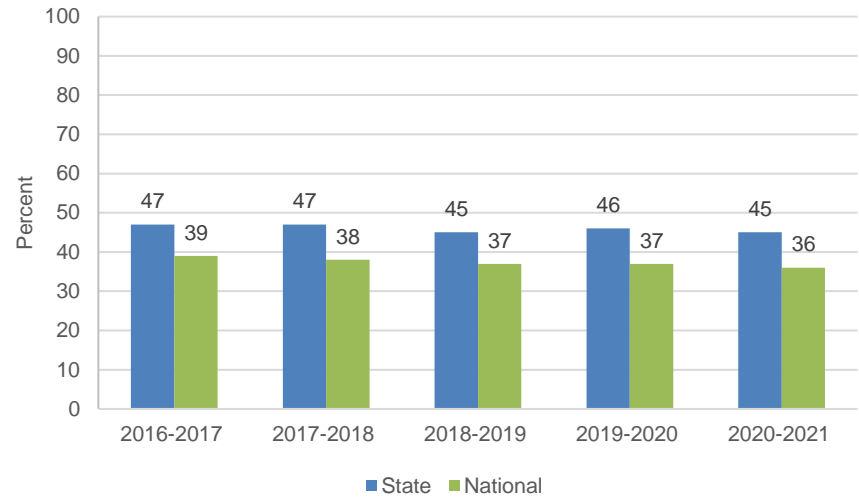


Figure 1.3. Percent Meeting STEM Benchmark: 5 Years of Testing\*

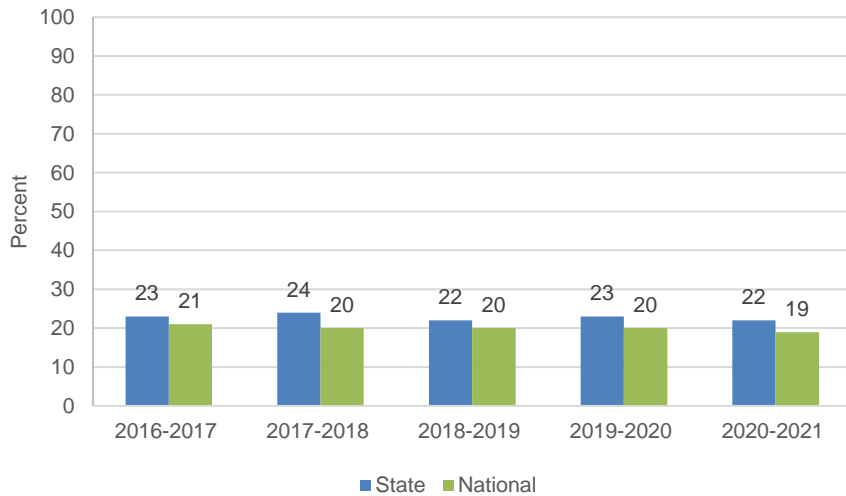
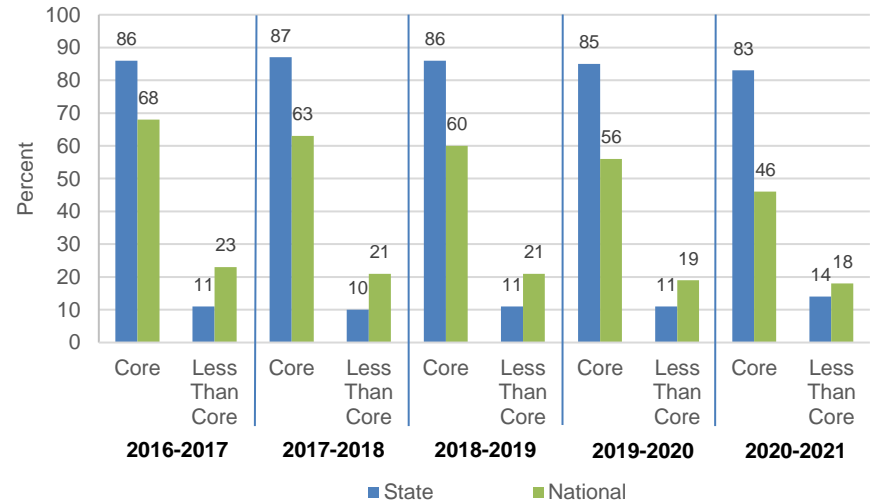


Figure 1.4. Percent Taking A Core Curriculum: 5 Years of Testing\*



\* Missing columns in above graphs reflect years in which no students were tested.



Total Students in Report: 5,467

**Table 1.1. Five Year Trends—Percent of Students Who Met College Readiness Benchmarks**

Year	Number of Students Tested		Percent Who Met Benchmarks									
	State	National	English		Mathematics		Reading		Science		Met All Four	
			State	National	State	National	State	National	State	National	State	National
2017	6,698	2,030,038	68	61	49	41	54	47	46	37	33	27
2018	6,730	1,914,817	68	60	49	40	54	46	46	36	32	27
2019	6,374	1,782,820	66	59	47	39	52	45	45	36	30	26
2020	6,049	1,670,497	67	58	48	37	53	45	44	36	31	26
<b>2021</b>	<b>5,467</b>	<b>1,295,349</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>25</b>

**Table 1.2. Five Year Trends—Average ACT Scores**

Year	Number of Students Tested		Average ACT Scores									
	State	National	English		Mathematics		Reading		Science		Composite	
			State	National	State	National	State	National	State	National	State	National
2017	6,698	2,030,038	20.7	20.3	21.5	20.7	22.3	21.4	22.0	21.0	21.8	21.0
2018	6,730	1,914,817	20.8	20.2	21.6	20.5	22.4	21.3	22.2	20.7	21.9	20.8
2019	6,374	1,782,820	20.7	20.1	21.3	20.4	22.2	21.2	21.9	20.6	21.6	20.7
2020	6,049	1,670,497	20.7	19.9	21.5	20.2	22.4	21.2	21.9	20.6	21.7	20.6
<b>2021</b>	<b>5,467</b>	<b>1,295,349</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>20.4</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>20.3</b>

**Table 1.3. Five Year Trends—Average ACT Scores Nationwide**

Year	Number of Students Tested	Average ACT Scores				
		English	Mathematics	Reading	Science	Composite
2017	2,030,038	20.3	20.7	21.4	21.0	21.0
2018	1,914,817	20.2	20.5	21.3	20.7	20.8
2019	1,782,820	20.1	20.4	21.2	20.6	20.7
2020	1,670,497	19.9	20.2	21.2	20.6	20.6
<b>2021</b>	<b>1,295,349</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>20.4</b>	<b>20.3</b>

Total Students in Report: 5,467

**Table 1.4. Five Year Trends—Average ACT Scores by Level of Preparation**

Year	Number of Students Tested		Percent <sup>2</sup>		Average ACT Scores									
	Core or More <sup>1</sup>	Less than Core	Core or More	Less than Core	English		Mathematics		Reading		Science		Composite	
					Core or More	Less than Core	Core or More	Less than Core	Core or More	Less than Core	Core or More	Less than Core	Core or More	Less than Core
2017	5,769	757	86	11	21.3	17.8	22.0	19.1	22.8	19.7	22.5	19.7	22.3	19.2
2018	5,868	662	87	10	21.3	18.0	22.0	19.1	22.8	20.0	22.6	19.9	22.3	19.4
2019	5,469	703	86	11	21.2	18.2	21.7	19.1	22.7	20.2	22.3	19.8	22.1	19.5
2020	5,155	683	85	11	21.3	18.5	21.9	19.4	22.8	20.5	22.3	20.1	22.2	19.8
<b>2021</b>	<b>4,527</b>	<b>748</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>21.8</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>20.1</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>19.6</b>

<sup>1</sup>"Core or More" results correspond to students taking four or more years of English AND three or more years each of math, social studies, and natural science.

<sup>2</sup>Percent of all students tested. Numbers will not add up to 100% due to student non-response.

**Table 1.5. Five Year Trends—Percent and Average Composite Score by Race/Ethnicity**

Race/Ethnicity	2017			2018			2019			2020			2021		
	N	%	Avg	N	%	Avg	N	%	Avg	N	%	Avg	N	%	Avg
<b>All Students</b>	<b>6,698</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>21.8</b>	<b>6,730</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>6,374</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>6,049</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>21.7</b>	<b>5,467</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>21.6</b>
Black/African American	120	2	18.0	116	2	18.0	125	2	17.7	103	2	18.2	91	2	18.6
American Indian/Alaska Native	509	8	16.4	439	7	16.2	535	8	16.0	410	7	15.9	319	6	16.3
White	5,249	78	22.6	5,226	78	22.7	4,827	76	22.5	4,754	79	22.5	4,364	80	22.2
Hispanic/Latino	232	3	20.0	291	4	19.7	240	4	20.0	231	4	20.3	224	4	19.7
Asian	97	1	21.7	109	2	20.6	113	2	21.8	104	2	21.9	97	2	22.4
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	3	0	14.0	5	0	17.2	3	0	19.7	4	0	18.3	0	0	.
Two or more races	294	4	20.6	323	5	21.0	312	5	20.9	259	4	20.5	261	5	20.7
Prefer not to respond/No response	194	3	21.3	221	3	21.5	219	3	22.0	184	3	21.4	111	2	22.6

Total Students in Report: 5,467

**Table 1.6. Five Year Trends—Achievement in STEM<sup>1</sup>**

Year	All Tested Students						Students Meeting STEM Benchmarks			
	Number of Students Tested		Avg. STEM Score		Percent Meeting STEM Benchmark		Avg. Mathematics Score		Avg. Science Score	
	State	National	State	National	State	National	State	National	State	National
2017	6,698	2,030,038	22.0	21.1	23	21	27.9	28.7	28.2	28.7
2018	6,730	1,914,817	22.1	20.9	24	20	27.9	28.8	28.4	28.8
2019	6,374	1,782,820	21.8	20.7	22	20	28.1	28.9	28.5	29.0
2020	6,049	1,670,497	21.9	20.6	23	20	28.1	28.9	28.4	29.1
<b>2021</b>	<b>5,467</b>	<b>1,295,349</b>	<b>21.8</b>	<b>20.4</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>28.1</b>	<b>28.9</b>	<b>28.5</b>	<b>29.2</b>

<sup>1</sup>The STEM score describes students' overall proficiency in mathematics and science.

**Table 1.7. Proficiency In Understanding Complex Texts<sup>1</sup>**

Year	Text Complexity Proficiency Level																	
	Below Proficient						Proficient						Above Proficient					
	N		Percent		Avg. Reading		N		Percent		Avg. Reading		N		Percent		Avg. Reading	
State	National	State	National	State	National	State	National	State	National	State	National	State	National	State	National	State	National	
2017	2,879	999,708	43	49	17.3	16.2	2,351	596,096	35	29	23.5	23.4	1,442	427,075	22	21	30.3	30.8
2018	3,088	1,010,339	46	53	17.5	16.3	2,227	492,937	33	26	23.9	23.6	1,415	411,541	21	21	30.7	31.0
2019	2,973	950,826	47	53	17.4	16.2	1,969	455,611	31	26	23.6	23.6	1,432	376,383	22	21	30.5	31.0
2020	2,738	903,921	45	54	17.4	16.1	1,847	398,982	31	24	23.5	23.6	1,464	367,594	24	22	30.4	31.1
<b>2021</b>	<b>2,526</b>	<b>711,705</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>1,717</b>	<b>318,182</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>23.9</b>	<b>23.8</b>	<b>1,224</b>	<b>265,462</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>30.6</b>	<b>31.3</b>

<sup>1</sup>The text complexity indicator, beginning in Fall 2015, represents students' progress toward understanding complex written material often encountered in college and careers.

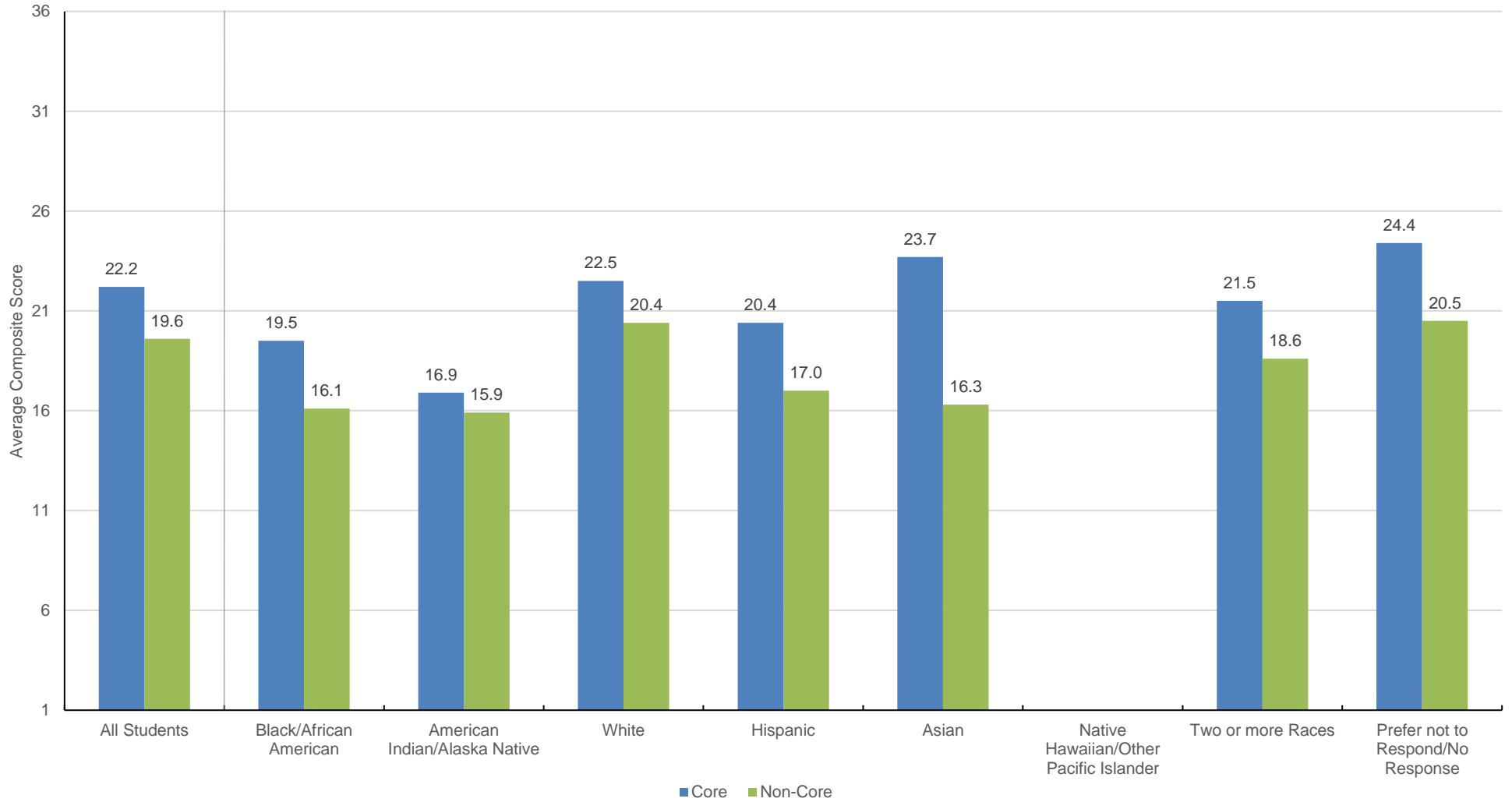
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# Section II

## Academic Achievement

Total Students in Report: 5,467

Figure 2.1. Average ACT Composite Scores by Race and Core Curriculum Status\*



\*Missing columns reflect combinations of race/ethnicity and core course-taking status in which one or both indicators are missing.

Total Students in Report: 5,467

Table 2.1. ACT Score Distributions, Cumulative Percents (CP<sup>1</sup>), and Score Averages

ACT Scale Score	English		Mathematics		Reading		Science		Composite		STEM		ELA <sup>2</sup>		ACT Scale Score
	N	CP	N	CP	N	CP	N	CP	N	CP	N	CP	N	CP	
36	32	100	10	100	63	100	34	100	8	100	12	100	0	100	36
35	103	99	30	99	104	99	33	99	16	99	19	99	1	100	35
34	63	98	21	99	134	97	41	99	40	99	29	99	2	99	34
33	79	96	51	99	122	94	73	98	59	99	46	99	2	99	33
32	60	95	34	98	155	92	52	97	68	98	70	98	7	99	32
31	73	94	65	97	124	89	65	96	103	97	79	97	17	99	31
30	59	93	89	96	211	87	103	95	116	95	98	95	37	96	30
29	97	91	144	95	123	83	137	93	135	93	139	94	25	92	29
28	148	90	178	92	190	81	127	90	214	90	168	91	30	89	28
27	105	87	283	89	173	78	194	88	187	86	254	88	41	85	27
26	159	85	355	83	208	74	223	84	267	83	285	83	31	80	26
25	234	82	296	77	246	71	374	80	314	78	372	78	42	76	25
24	335	78	366	72	271	66	481	73	372	72	366	71	39	71	24
23	342	72	332	65	373	61	503	65	314	65	380	65	55	66	23
22	316	65	262	59	368	54	441	55	382	60	400	58	51	59	22
21	443	60	297	54	413	48	398	47	455	53	391	50	62	53	21
20	379	52	226	49	313	40	417	40	372	44	428	43	51	46	20
19	320	45	355	44	311	34	368	32	447	37	424	35	49	39	19
18	230	39	423	38	352	29	375	26	411	29	420	28	48	33	18
17	267	35	466	30	247	22	287	19	338	22	363	20	59	27	17
16	351	30	547	22	239	18	267	14	266	16	303	13	43	20	16
15	367	23	366	12	177	13	128	9	221	11	206	8	41	15	15
14	294	17	189	5	174	10	94	6	163	7	116	4	24	10	14
13	167	11	65	1	143	7	107	5	130	4	69	2	17	7	13
12	134	8	14	1	131	4	59	3	52	1	23	1	15	5	12
11	141	6	1	1	57	2	51	2	14	1	5	1	10	3	11
10	122	3	2	1	31	1	22	1	2	1	2	1	5	2	10
9	33	1	0	1	9	1	7	1	0	1	0	1	4	1	9
8	9	1	0	1	2	1	4	1	1	1	0	1	2	1	8
7	4	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	7
6	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	6
5	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	5
4	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	4
3	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	3
2	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	2
1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1
Avg (SD)	20.5 (6.0)		21.2 (5.0)		22.4 (6.2)		21.9 (5.0)		21.6 (5.0)		21.8 (4.7)		21.3 (5.4)		Avg (SD)

<sup>1</sup> CP is the cumulative percent of students at or below a score point.

<sup>2</sup> ELA scores are derived only for students with a valid writing score.

Note: Shaded portions of columns identify the students who met/exceeded the ACT College Readiness Benchmark Scores.

Figure 2.2. English Reporting Categories

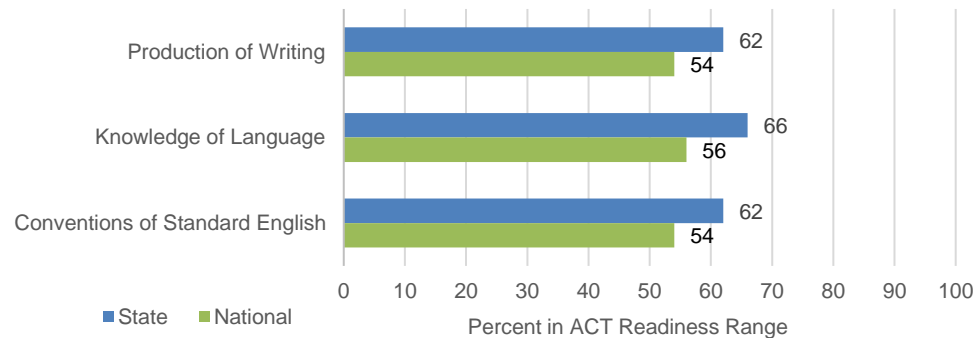


Figure 2.3. Math Reporting Categories

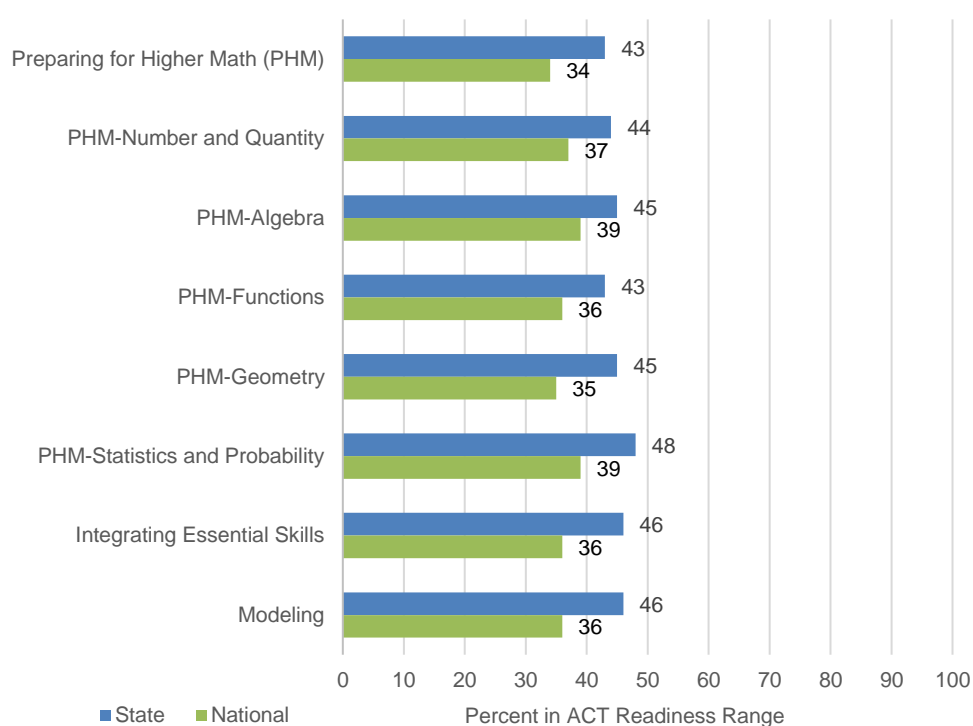


Figure 2.4. Reading Reporting Categories

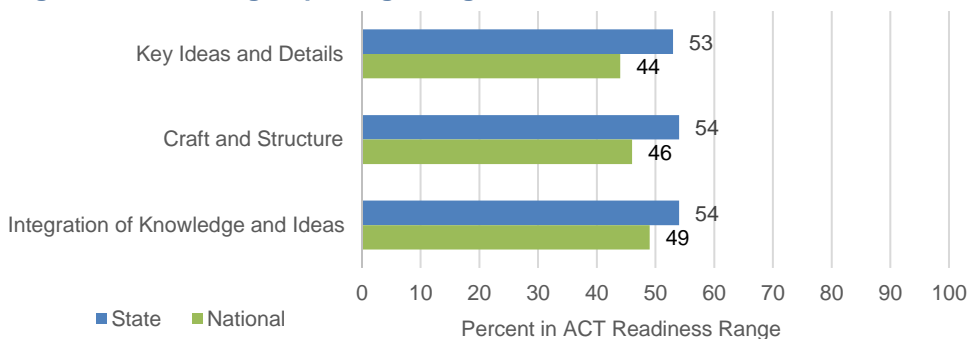
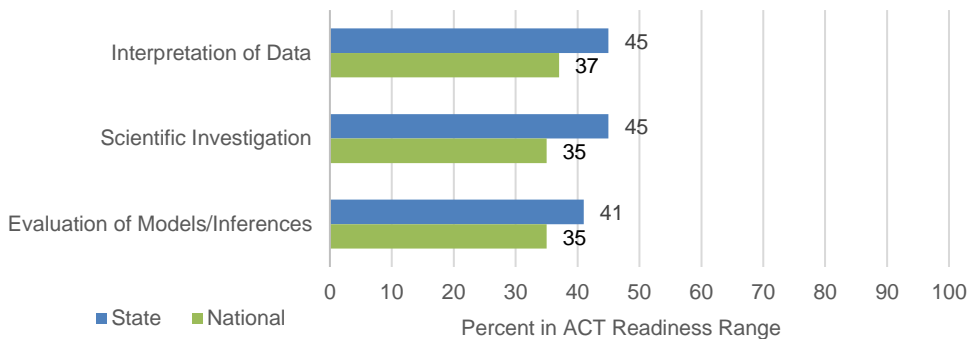


Figure 2.5. Science Reporting Categories



The charts on this page show the percent of students whose reporting category scores fall within associated ACT Readiness Ranges. ACT Readiness Ranges reflect where a student who has met a particular subject area's ACT College Readiness Benchmark would typically perform within the associated reporting category.



Total Students in Report: 5,467

**Table 2.2. Average ACT Composite Scores for Race/Ethnicity by Level of Preparation**

Student Group	Race/Ethnicity	Number of Students Tested	Percent Taking Core or More <sup>1</sup>	Average ACT Composite Score	
				Core or More	Less Than Core
State	All Students	5,467	83	22.2	19.6
	Black/African American	91	74	19.5	16.1
	American Indian/Alaska Native	319	61	16.9	15.9
	White	4,364	86	22.5	20.4
	Hispanic/Latino	224	80	20.4	17.0
	Asian	97	81	23.7	16.3
	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0	.	.	.
	Two or More Races	261	77	21.5	18.6
	Prefer not/No Response	111	67	24.4	20.5
National	All Students	1,295,349	46	22.5	19.2
	Black/African American	153,641	39	17.9	15.8
	American Indian/Alaska Native	10,094	38	18.6	16.1
	White	698,565	53	23.3	20.3
	Hispanic/Latino	181,958	42	20.3	17.5
	Asian	54,272	63	26.7	23.4
	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	3,450	34	19.9	16.2
	Two or More Races	58,528	48	22.5	19.5
	Prefer not/No Response	134,841	21	23.7	19.1

<sup>1</sup> "Core or More" results correspond to students taking four or more years of English AND three or more years each of math, social studies, and natural science.

**Table 2.3. Average ACT Scores by Race/Ethnicity**

Student Group	Race/Ethnicity	N	Percent	English	Mathematics	Reading	Science	Composite	STEM
State	All Students	5,467	100	20.5	21.2	22.4	21.9	21.6	21.8
	Black/African American	91	2	17.3	18.2	19.0	19.2	18.6	19.0
	American Indian/Alaska Native	319	6	14.4	16.3	17.4	16.5	16.3	16.6
	White	4,364	80	21.1	21.8	23.0	22.4	22.2	22.4
	Hispanic/Latino	224	4	18.3	19.3	20.8	20.0	19.7	19.9
	Asian	97	2	21.6	22.3	22.5	22.5	22.4	22.7
	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0	0	.	.	.	.	.	.
	Two or More Races	261	5	19.3	20.7	21.4	21.0	20.7	21.1
	Prefer not/No Response	111	2	22.0	21.8	23.4	22.7	22.6	22.5
National	All Students	1,295,349	100	19.6	19.9	20.9	20.4	20.3	20.4
	Black/African American	153,641	12	15.2	16.3	16.6	16.7	16.3	16.8
	American Indian/Alaska Native	10,094	1	15.4	16.8	17.3	17.3	16.9	17.3
	White	698,565	54	21.1	21.0	22.4	21.7	21.7	21.6
	Hispanic/Latino	181,958	14	17.1	18.2	18.7	18.6	18.3	18.6
	Asian	54,272	4	24.5	25.1	24.9	24.5	24.9	25.0
	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	3,450	0	16.0	17.4	17.3	17.5	17.2	17.7
	Two or More Races	58,528	5	19.8	20.0	21.4	20.7	20.6	20.6
	Prefer not/No Response	134,841	10	18.2	19.0	19.6	19.4	19.2	19.4

Total Students in Report: 5,467

**Table 2.4. Average ACT Composite Scores for Gender by Level of Preparation**

Student Group	Gender <sup>1</sup>	Number of Students Tested	Percent Taking Core or More <sup>2</sup>	Average ACT Composite Score	
				Core or More	Less Than Core
State	Males	2,328	82	22.5	19.6
	Females	3,093	83	21.8	19.6
	Other Responses	46	76	24.7	20.8
National	Males	589,971	46	22.8	18.9
	Females	635,458	51	22.3	19.5
	Other Responses	69,920	12	21.7	18.5

**Table 2.5. Average ACT Scores by Gender**

Student Group	Gender <sup>1</sup>	N	Percent	English	Mathematics	Reading	Science	Composite	STEM
State	Males	2,328	43	20.1	22.1	22.4	22.5	21.9	22.5
	Females	3,093	57	20.7	20.6	22.4	21.4	21.4	21.2
	Other Responses	46	1	23.2	21.5	25.3	23.6	23.5	22.7
National	Males	589,971	46	19.1	20.4	20.6	20.6	20.3	20.8
	Females	635,458	49	20.2	19.7	21.5	20.4	20.6	20.3
	Other Responses	69,920	5	17.4	18.2	19.0	18.8	18.5	18.8

**Table 2.6. ACT Score Quartile Values**

Quartile	English	Mathematics	Reading	Science	Composite
Q3 (75th Percentile)	24	25	27	25	25
Q2 (50th Percentile)	20	21	22	22	21
Q1 (25th Percentile)	16	17	18	18	18

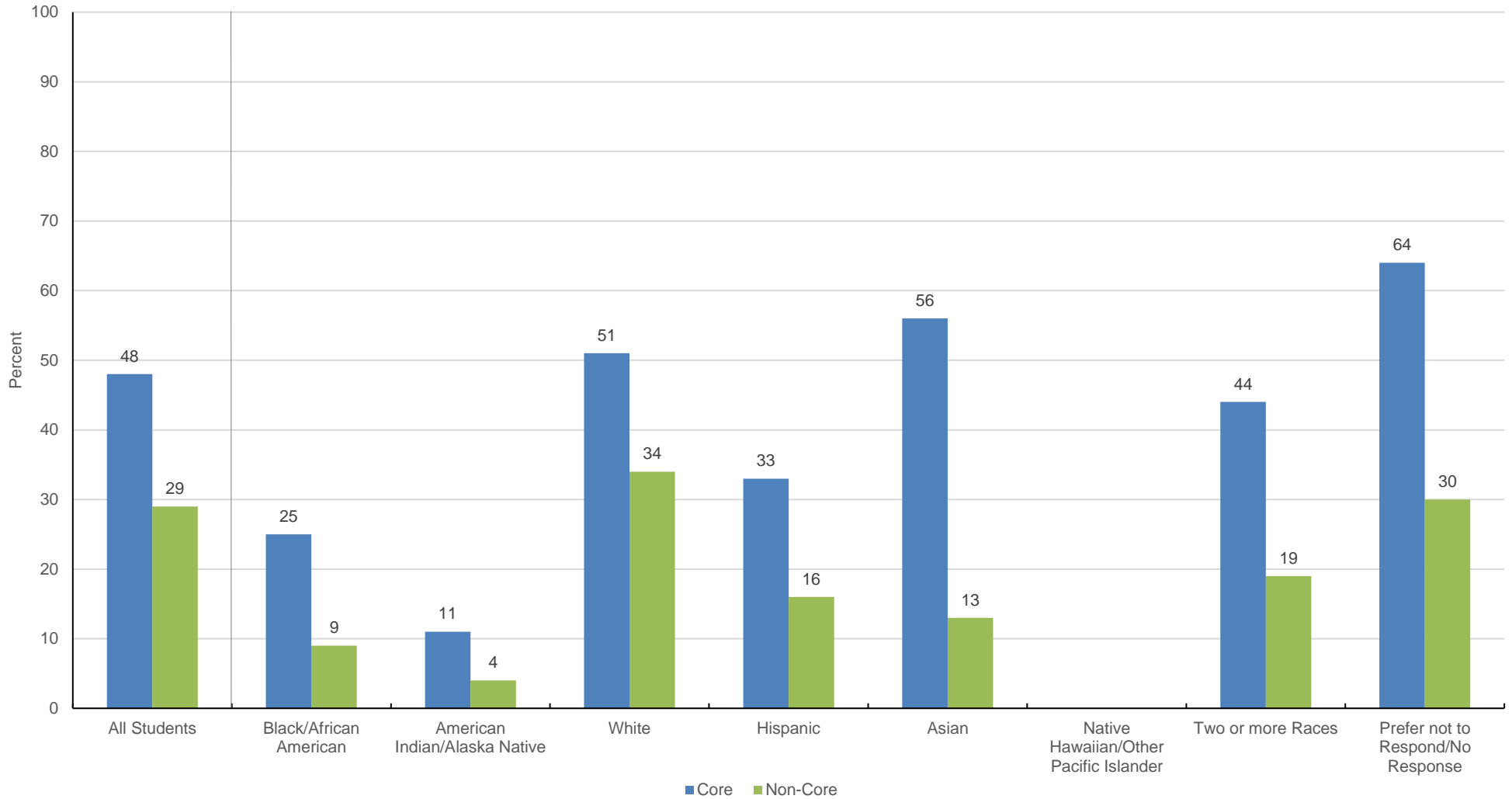
<sup>1</sup> 'Other Responses' include 'Another Gender', 'Prefer Not to Respond', and missing values.

<sup>2</sup> "Core or More" results correspond to students taking four or more years of English AND three or more years each of math, social studies, and natural science.

# Section III

## College and Career Readiness and the Impact of Course Rigor

Figure 3.1. Percent of Students Meeting 3 or 4 College Readiness Benchmarks by Core College Curriculum Status\*



\*Missing columns reflect combinations of race/ethnicity and core course-taking status in which one or both indicators are missing.

Total Students in Report: 5,467

**Table 3.1. Percent of Students in College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS) Score Ranges**

Student Group	CCRS Range	English		Mathematics		Reading		Science	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
State	33 to 36	277	5	112	2	423	8	181	3
	28 to 32	437	8	510	9	803	15	484	9
	24 to 27	833	15	1,300	24	898	16	1,272	23
	20 to 23	1,480	27	1,117	20	1,467	27	1,759	32
	16 to 19	1,168	21	1,791	33	1,149	21	1,297	24
	13 to 15	828	15	620	11	494	9	329	6
	01 to 12	444	8	17	0	233	4	145	3
National	33 to 36	95,817	7	41,465	3	117,422	9	54,198	4
	28 to 32	98,959	8	107,737	8	151,693	12	104,928	8
	24 to 27	164,383	13	213,588	16	154,489	12	210,189	16
	20 to 23	258,585	20	187,249	14	273,249	21	320,781	25
	16 to 19	222,968	17	416,094	32	245,336	19	335,008	26
	13 to 15	220,647	17	301,109	23	197,215	15	164,313	13
	01 to 12	233,990	18	28,107	2	155,945	12	105,932	8

**Table 3.2. Percent of Students Who Met College Readiness Benchmark Scores by Gender**

Student Group	Gender <sup>1</sup>	Percent of Students				Met All Four
		English	Mathematics	Reading	Science	
State	Males	63	52	52	51	34
	Females	67	41	52	40	28
	Other Responses	85	46	72	57	37
National	Males	53	38	42	37	27
	Females	60	34	46	34	25
	Other Responses	43	23	33	25	15

<sup>1</sup> 'Other Responses' include 'Another Gender', 'Prefer Not to Respond', and missing values.

Total Students in Report: 5,467

**Table 3.3. Percent of Students Who Met ACT College Readiness Benchmark Scores by Race/Ethnicity**

Student Group	Race/Ethnicity	N	English %	Mathematics %	Reading %	Science %	All Four %	STEM %
State	All Students	5,467	65	46	52	45	30	22
	Black/African American	91	41	22	27	21	13	12
	American Indian/Alaska Native	319	19	9	20	9	3	2
	White	4,364	70	50	56	49	33	24
	Hispanic/Latino	224	54	29	42	30	20	12
	Asian	97	62	53	46	46	35	32
	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0	.	.	.	.	.	.
	Two or More Races	261	58	41	43	38	24	17
	Prefer Not to Respond	111	69	45	65	51	35	24
National	All Students	1,295,349	56	36	44	35	25	19
	Black/African American	153,641	28	10	18	11	6	3
	American Indian/Alaska Native	10,094	30	13	22	14	7	5
	White	698,565	67	44	53	44	31	24
	Hispanic/Latino	181,958	41	22	31	22	14	10
	Asian	54,272	76	67	64	61	52	48
	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	3,450	33	18	23	16	11	8
	Two or More Races	58,528	58	35	46	36	25	19
	Prefer Not to Respond	134,841	46	29	36	29	20	16

**Table 3.4. Likely ACT National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) Level Based Upon ACT Composite Score<sup>1</sup>**

Student Group	ACT NCRC Level	N	%	Average Composite
State	Platinum	946	17	29.6
	Gold	1,649	30	23.9
	Silver	2,023	37	19.1
	Bronze	780	14	14.8
	Needs Improvement	69	1	11.7
National	Platinum	225,006	17	30.3
	Gold	277,376	21	23.8
	Silver	381,864	29	18.9
	Bronze	328,553	25	14.5
	Needs Improvement	82,550	6	11.5

<sup>1</sup> The ACT Composite scores associated with at least a 50% chance of earning each ACT NCRC level or higher are: 13 for Bronze, 17 for Silver, 22 for Gold, and 27 for Platinum. Based on those cut scores, students who earned an ACT Composite score of less than 13 are classified as 'Needs improvement' as they are unlikely to obtain an ACT NCRC. Students with an ACT Composite score of 13 to 16 are classified as 'Bronze' as they are likely to obtain a Bronze NCRC, 17 to 21 as 'Silver', 22 to 26 as 'Gold', and 27 or above as 'Platinum'.

Visit [www.act.org/NCRC-indicator](http://www.act.org/NCRC-indicator) to learn more.

Total Students in Report: 5,467

**Table 3.5. College Readiness Benchmark Percent and Average ACT Scores by Overall High School Curriculum**

Student Group	Curriculum Taken <sup>1</sup>	N	English		Mathematics		Reading		Science		Composite <sup>4</sup>		STEM	
			%	Avg	%	Avg	%	Avg	%	Avg	%	Avg	%	Avg
State	Core or More <sup>2</sup>	4,527	70	21.0	50	21.8	56	23.0	48	22.3	33	22.2	24	22.3
	Less than Core	748	50	18.2	29	19.2	38	20.3	31	20.1	18	19.6	11	19.9
	Missing <sup>3</sup>	192	28	15.8	16	17.5	24	18.3	20	18.0	10	17.5	7	18.0
National	Core or More	599,682	72	22.1	49	21.8	57	23.2	48	22.4	36	22.5	28	22.4
	Less than Core	229,759	48	18.4	27	18.8	36	19.8	27	19.4	18	19.2	13	19.3
	Missing	465,908	39	16.8	22	18.1	30	18.5	22	18.5	14	18.1	10	18.5

<sup>1</sup> "Curriculum Taken" reflects overall high school curriculum in this table.

<sup>2</sup> "Core or More" results correspond to students taking four or more years of English AND three or more years each of math, social studies, and natural science.

<sup>3</sup> Zero years or no coursework information reported in one or more content areas.

<sup>4</sup> Composite College Readiness Benchmark % results reflect students who met all four subject-area benchmarks.

**Table 3.6. College Readiness Benchmark Percent and Average ACT Scores by Content-Specific Curriculum**

Student Group	Curriculum Taken <sup>1</sup>	English			Mathematics			Reading			Science		
		N	%	Avg	N	%	Avg	N	%	Avg	N	%	Avg
State	Core or More <sup>2</sup>	5,108	67	20.7	5,126	48	21.5	5,169	54	22.7	4,911	47	22.2
	Less than Core	199	57	19.0	168	8	16.4	120	32	20.0	386	29	19.8
	Missing <sup>3</sup>	160	23	15.2	173	15	17.3	178	23	18.0	170	18	17.7
National	Core or More	789,281	67	21.3	793,620	45	21.2	738,095	53	22.6	705,623	46	22.1
	Less than Core	56,980	38	16.6	44,627	9	16.0	99,996	36	19.8	131,559	22	18.5
	Missing	449,088	39	16.8	457,102	22	18.1	457,258	30	18.5	458,167	23	18.5

<sup>1</sup> "Curriculum Taken" reflects content-specific curriculum in this table.

<sup>2</sup> "Core or More" results correspond to students taking four or more years of English or three or more years of math, social studies, or natural science, respectively.

For instance, Reading "Core or More" results correspond to students taking three or more years of social studies, regardless of courses taken in other content areas.

<sup>3</sup> Zero years or no coursework information reported in the specified content area.

Total Students in Report: 5,467

**Table 3.7. College Readiness Benchmark (CRB) Percent and Average ACT Scores by Common Course Patterns**

Course Pattern	State				National			
	N	Percent Taking Pattern	Avg ACT English	Percent Who Met Benchmark	N	Percent Taking Pattern	Avg ACT English	Percent Who Met Benchmark
<b>ENGLISH COURSE PATTERN</b>								
Eng 9, Eng 10, Eng 11, Eng 12, & Other English	1,464	27	21.6	71	165,958	13	22.3	72
Eng 9, Eng 10, Eng 11, Eng 12	3,644	67	20.3	65	623,323	48	21.1	65
Less than 4 years of English	199	4	19.0	57	56,980	4	16.6	38
Zero years / no English courses reported	160	3	15.2	23	449,088	35	16.8	39
<b>MATHEMATICS COURSE PATTERN</b>								
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, Trig, & Calc	171	3	23.7	66	41,584	3	23.2	61
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, Trig, & Other Adv Math	373	7	21.8	51	58,940	5	21.4	49
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, & Trig	231	4	20.9	45	38,353	3	18.8	26
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, & Other Adv Math	1,479	27	20.8	42	179,211	14	19.1	28
Other comb of 4 or more years of Math	1,768	32	23.9	68	326,953	25	24.1	66
Alg 1, Alg 2, & Geom	734	13	17.7	16	98,409	8	16.5	9
Other comb of 3 or 3.5 years of Math	370	7	20.0	35	50,170	4	19.5	32
Less than 3 years of Math	168	3	16.4	8	44,627	3	16.0	9
Zero years / no Math courses reported	173	3	17.3	15	457,102	35	18.1	22
<b>SOCIAL SCIENCE COURSE PATTERN</b>								
US Hist, World Hist, Am Gov, & Other Hist	33	1	21.4	45	25,929	2	22.6	53
Other comb of 4 or more years Social Science	3,704	68	23.0	56	400,925	31	23.3	57
US Hist, World Hist, & Am Gov	58	1	19.5	26	63,786	5	19.9	37
Other comb of 3 or 3.5 years of Social Science	1,374	25	21.8	48	247,455	19	22.1	50
Less than 3 years of Social Science	120	2	20.0	32	99,996	8	19.8	36
Zero years / no Social Science courses reported	178	3	18.0	23	457,258	35	18.5	30
<b>NATURAL SCIENCE COURSE PATTERN</b>								
Gen Sci <sup>1</sup> , Bio, Chem, & Phys	2,099	38	23.0	54	326,363	25	22.9	52
Bio, Chem, Phys	656	12	23.7	59	109,874	8	24.0	60
Gen Sci <sup>1</sup> , Bio, Chem	1,983	36	20.9	36	244,298	19	20.4	33
Other comb of 3 years of Natural Science	173	3	20.5	35	25,088	2	19.2	26
Less than 3 years of Natural Science	386	7	19.8	29	131,559	10	18.5	22
Zero years / no Natural Science courses reported	170	3	17.7	18	458,167	35	18.5	23

<sup>1</sup>Includes General, Physical and Earth Sciences.



Total Students in Report: 5,467

**Table 3.8. College Readiness Benchmark (CRB) Percent and Average ACT Scores for Gender by Common Course Patterns**

Course Pattern	Males				Females				Other Responses <sup>1</sup>			
	N	Percent	ACT English	% Who Met Benchmark	N	Percent	ACT English	% Who Met Benchmark	N	Percent	ACT English	% Who Met Benchmark
<b>ENGLISH COURSE PATTERN</b>												
Eng 9, Eng 10, Eng 11, Eng 12, & Other English	535	23	21.2	69	916	30	21.8	72	13	28	24.0	92
Eng 9, Eng 10, Eng 11, Eng 12	1,630	70	20.2	64	1,986	64	20.4	66	28	61	23.9	86
Less than 4 years of English	85	4	17.9	51	111	4	19.8	61	3	7	21.3	100
Zero years / no English courses reported	78	3	14.1	15	80	3	16.4	31	2	4	10.5	0
<b>MATHEMATICS COURSE PATTERN</b>												
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, Trig, & Calc	82	4	24.6	73	88	3	22.8	59	1	2	35.0	100
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, Trig, & Other Adv Math	138	6	22.9	62	233	8	21.2	45	2	4	18.5	0
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, & Trig	104	4	21.8	52	121	4	20.0	37	6	13	24.0	67
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, & Other Adv Math	511	22	21.4	47	963	31	20.5	40	5	11	21.2	20
Other comb of 4 or more years of Math	840	36	24.9	74	912	29	23.0	62	16	35	22.4	63
Alg 1, Alg 2, & Geom	326	14	18.5	23	401	13	17.1	10	7	15	17.7	14
Other comb of 3 or 3.5 years of Math	175	8	20.1	34	190	6	19.9	36	5	11	21.6	40
Less than 3 years of Math	68	3	16.9	10	99	3	16.0	5	1	2	22.0	100
Zero years / no Math courses reported	84	4	17.0	11	86	3	17.6	19	3	7	18.3	33
<b>SOCIAL SCIENCE COURSE PATTERN</b>												
US Hist, World Hist, Am Gov, & Other Hist	21	1	22.4	57	12	0	19.7	25	0	0	.	.
Other comb of 4 or more years Social Science	1,504	65	23.1	57	2,167	70	23.0	56	33	72	26.5	76
US Hist, World Hist, & Am Gov	28	1	19.5	32	30	1	19.5	20	0	0	.	.
Other comb of 3 or 3.5 years of Social Science	624	27	21.7	47	739	24	21.8	49	11	24	24.0	73
Less than 3 years of Social Science	61	3	20.5	36	59	2	19.4	27	0	0	.	.
Zero years / no Social Science courses reported	90	4	17.9	23	86	3	18.2	23	2	4	13.0	0
<b>NATURAL SCIENCE COURSE PATTERN</b>												
Gen Sci <sup>2</sup> , Bio, Chem, & Phys	1,007	43	23.8	60	1,076	35	22.3	48	16	35	23.3	50
Bio, Chem, Phys	292	13	24.2	62	359	12	23.3	57	5	11	25.6	80
Gen Sci <sup>1</sup> , Bio, Chem	694	30	21.3	41	1,271	41	20.7	32	18	39	24.4	67
Other comb of 3 years of Natural Science	91	4	21.3	43	81	3	19.6	26	1	2	23.0	100
Less than 3 years of Natural Science	158	7	19.7	27	224	7	19.8	31	4	9	21.8	25
Zero years / no Natural Science courses reported	86	4	17.6	21	82	3	17.8	15	2	4	16.5	0

<sup>1</sup> 'Other Responses' include 'Another Gender', 'Prefer Not to Respond', and missing values.

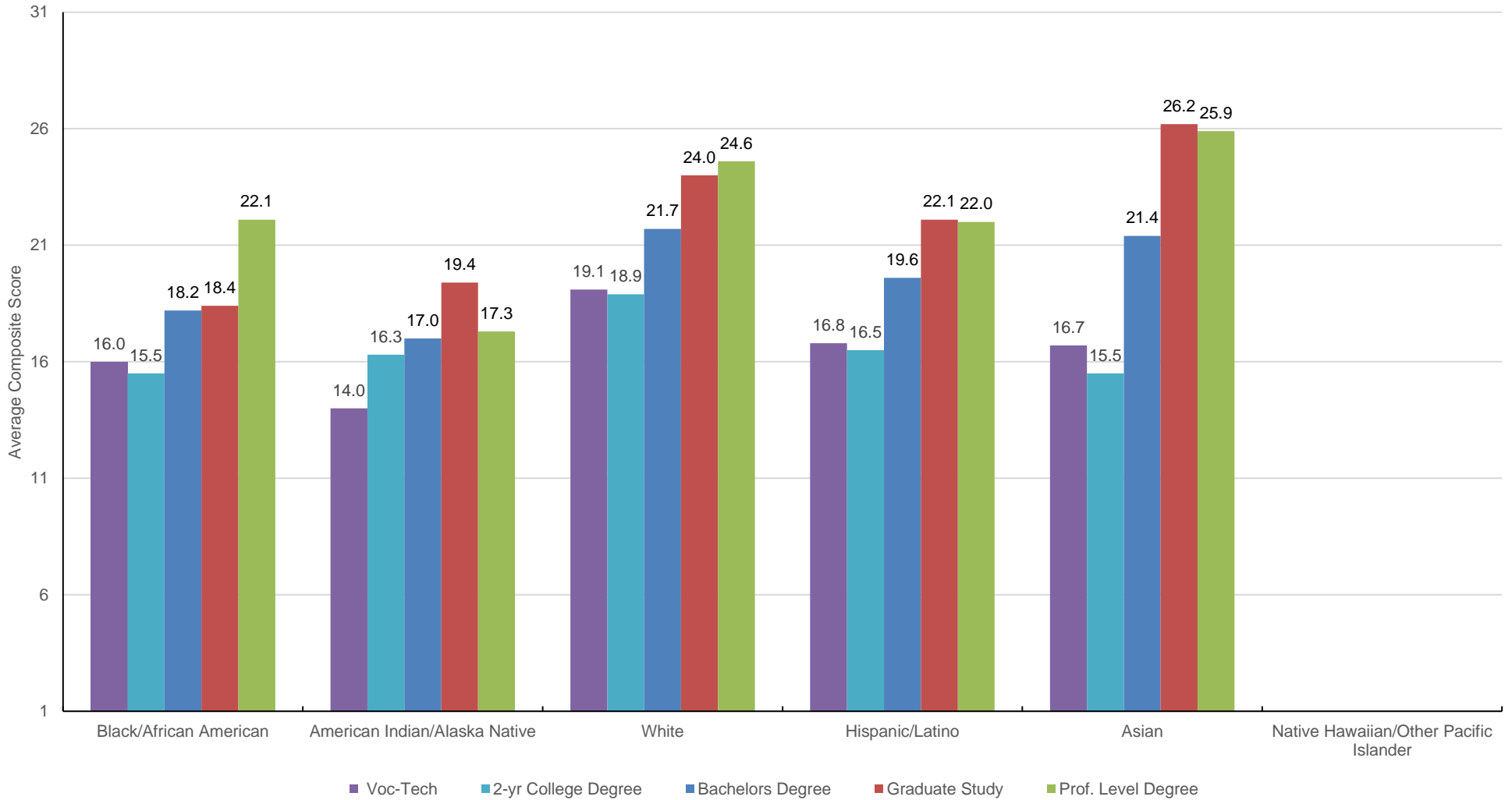
<sup>2</sup> Includes General, Physical and Earth Sciences.

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# Section IV

## Career and Educational Aspirations

Figure 4.1. Average ACT Composite Scores by Race and Student Postsecondary Aspirations\*



\*Missing columns reflect combinations of race/ethnicity and postsecondary aspiration in which one or both indicators are missing.

Total Students in Report: 5,467

**Table 4.1. Distribution of Planned Educational Majors for All Students by College Plans**

Planned Educational Major	All Students			Plan on 2 Years or Less of College			Plan on 4 Years or More of College		
	N <sup>1</sup>	Percent <sup>2</sup>	Avg ACT Comp	N	Percent	Avg ACT Comp	N	Percent	Avg ACT Comp
Agriculture & Natural Resources Conservation	214	4	19.4	62	12	17.9	149	3	20.0
Architecture	53	1	21.6	8	2	17.1	43	1	22.7
Area, Ethnic, & Multidisciplinary Studies	2	0	22.0	0	0	.	2	0	22.0
Arts: Visual & Performing	189	3	21.4	12	2	18.0	168	4	21.7
Business	474	9	21.1	56	11	18.7	405	9	21.5
Communications	48	1	21.2	3	1	16.7	43	1	21.4
Community, Family, & Personal Services	88	2	18.9	11	2	16.7	71	2	19.4
Computer Science & Mathematics	237	4	23.8	18	3	17.8	211	5	24.3
Education	389	7	21.5	2	0	20.5	378	8	21.5
Engineering	345	6	24.6	13	3	21.5	319	7	24.8
Engineering Technology & Drafting	54	1	22.6	10	2	22.0	44	1	22.7
English & Foreign Languages	42	1	24.7	3	1	18.3	36	1	25.0
Health Administration & Assisting	134	2	19.4	30	6	18.2	96	2	19.8
Health Sciences & Technologies	1,215	22	21.8	105	20	18.3	1,080	24	22.1
Philosophy, Religion, & Theology	18	0	21.2	0	0	.	17	0	21.3
Repair, Production, & Construction	91	2	19.6	75	15	19.5	14	0	20.0
Sciences: Biological & Physical	395	7	23.4	3	1	20.0	380	8	23.5
Social Sciences & Law	324	6	22.4	4	1	14.8	310	7	22.7
Undecided	957	18	21.1	98	19	17.9	729	16	21.8
No Response	194	4	17.9	4	1	16.0	4	0	17.0

<sup>1</sup>2-Year and 4-Year "N" counts do not reflect "Missing" and "Other" college plans, therefore they may not add up to the N count for All Students.

<sup>2</sup>Percent of students tested within College Plan groups (All Students, 2-Year, 4-Year).

Total Students in Report: 5,467

**Table 4.2. Average ACT Composite Scores for Racial/Ethnic Groups by Post-Secondary Educational Aspirations**

Educational Degree Aspirations	All Racial/Ethnic Groups Combined		Black/African American		American Indian/ Alaska Native		White		Hispanic/Latino	
	N	Average	N	Average	N	Average	N	Average	N	Average
Voc-Tech	126	18.6	1	16.0	7	14.0	103	19.1	5	16.8
2-yr College Degree	391	18.4	6	15.5	32	16.3	307	18.9	19	16.5
Bachelors Degree	2,978	21.3	45	18.2	134	17.0	2,459	21.7	120	19.6
Graduate Study	578	23.8	7	18.4	12	19.4	497	24.0	19	22.1
Prof. Level Degree	945	24.1	20	22.1	28	17.3	754	24.6	37	22.0
Other	65	19.2	4	13.5	6	17.2	47	20.3	4	17.8
No Response	384	19.4	8	17.0	100	14.8	197	21.8	20	17.8

Educational Degree Aspirations	All Racial/Ethnic Groups Combined		Asian		Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander		Two or more races		Prefer not to respond/ No Response	
	N	Average	N	Average	N	Average	N	Average	N	Average
Voc-Tech	126	18.6	3	16.7	0	.	5	16.8	2	20.0
2-yr College Degree	391	18.4	6	15.5	0	.	17	16.8	4	17.5
Bachelors Degree	2,978	21.3	46	21.4	0	.	130	20.0	44	23.9
Graduate Study	578	23.8	6	26.2	0	.	30	24.1	7	26.3
Prof. Level Degree	945	24.1	26	25.9	0	.	61	22.6	19	25.2
Other	65	19.2	1	16.0	0	.	2	16.5	1	16.0
No Response	384	19.4	9	22.3	0	.	16	18.9	34	19.7

Total Students in Report: 5,467

Table 4.3. Students' Score Report Preferences at Time of Testing

Name	State	Number of Students			Percent of Students in College Readiness Standards Ranges						
		Total	1st Choice	2nd-6th Choice	01-12	13-15	16-19	20-23	24-27	28-32	33-36
SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY	South Dakota	1,646	732	914	1	6	25	30	24	12	2
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA	South Dakota	1,166	405	761	0	6	26	30	25	11	1
BLACK HILLS STATE UNIVERSITY	South Dakota	488	213	275	1	9	34	31	17	7	1
DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY	South Dakota	396	167	229	0	8	23	32	24	12	1
NORTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY	South Dakota	390	130	260	1	11	27	31	23	8	1
SOUTH DAKOTA SCH OF MINES/TECH	South Dakota	362	160	202	1	3	13	24	29	25	6
AUGUSTANA UNIVERSITY	South Dakota	358	155	203	1	6	18	27	25	21	3
UNIVERSITY OF SIOUX FALLS	South Dakota	342	86	256	1	8	25	28	27	10	1
LAKE AREA TECHNICAL INSTITUTE	South Dakota	333	161	172	2	13	37	29	14	5	0
SOUTHEAST TECHNICAL INSTITUTE	South Dakota	327	133	194	1	15	36	30	14	3	0
MITCHELL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE	South Dakota	255	82	173	1	13	36	33	13	4	0
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA-TWIN CITIES	Minnesota	230	58	172	0	3	13	19	34	24	7
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT LINCOLN	Nebraska	208	40	168	0	2	16	24	30	23	4
DAKOTA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY	South Dakota	185	49	136	0	6	31	35	18	9	0
NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY	North Dakota	151	26	125	0	5	27	21	30	14	3
WESTERN DAKOTA TECHNICAL INSTITUTE	South Dakota	115	41	74	2	21	37	26	10	5	0
MOUNT MARTY COLLEGE	South Dakota	104	35	69	1	7	35	30	21	7	0
MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MANKATO	Minnesota	98	17	81	0	2	23	30	28	13	4
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY	Arizona	72	27	45	0	7	32	22	21	11	7
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY	Iowa	72	20	52	0	4	17	24	25	22	8
CHADRON STATE COLLEGE	Nebraska	67	25	42	3	13	30	33	13	7	0
GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY	Arizona	65	27	38	0	6	28	37	20	8	2
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY	Colorado	54	14	40	2	4	31	31	17	15	0
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY-BOZEMAN	Montana	53	16	37	0	4	8	15	40	26	8
NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER	Indiana	51	17	34	0	4	18	35	24	18	2
NORTHWESTERN COLLEGE	Iowa	50	22	28	0	2	10	30	30	24	4
UNIVERSITY OF IOWA	Iowa	49	7	42	0	2	14	20	43	16	4
CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY	Nebraska	46	7	39	0	4	7	9	35	41	4
UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING	Wyoming	45	10	35	0	2	24	36	22	13	2
UNIV OF COLORADO-BOULDER	Colorado	40	4	36	0	3	18	15	35	25	5
All Other Institutions		2,249	581	1,668	1	7	19	25	24	19	6
<b>Total</b>		<b>10,067</b>	<b>3,467</b>	<b>6,600</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>

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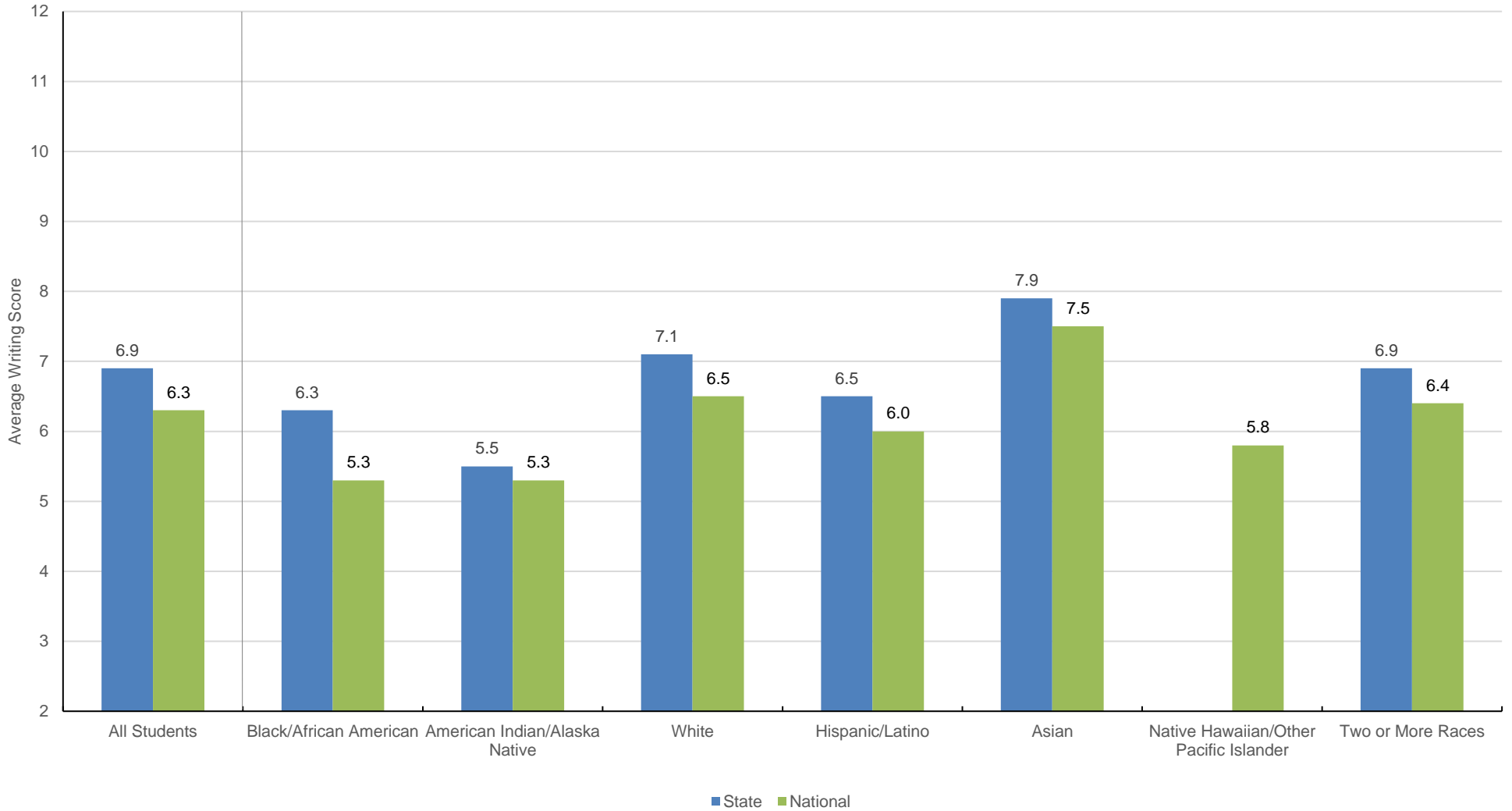


# Section V

## Optional Writing Test Results

Total Students in Report: 5,467

Figure 5.1. Average ACT Writing Scores by Race/Ethnicity\*



\*Missing columns reflect race/ethnicity groupings that are missing.

Total Students in Report: 5,467

**Table 5.1. Average ACT English Language Arts Constituent Scores by Race/Ethnicity and Gender<sup>1</sup> for Students Who Took ACT Writing**

	N		Average ACT Scores					
			English		Reading		Writing	
			State	National	State	National	State	National
<b>All Students</b>	<b>812</b>	<b>463,733</b>	<b>21.8</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>23.8</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>6.3</b>
Black/African American	15	57,714	19.9	14.7	21.1	16.4	6.3	5.3
American Indian/Alaska Native	85	4,031	14.5	14.8	17.0	16.9	5.5	5.3
White	588	222,801	23.0	21.0	25.0	22.6	7.1	6.5
Hispanic/Latino	40	79,176	18.8	16.7	21.3	18.4	6.5	6.0
Asian	26	27,716	25.9	24.7	27.5	25.2	7.9	7.5
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0	1,944	.	15.2	.	16.6	.	5.8
Two or More Races	38	24,007	21.7	19.6	23.1	21.3	6.9	6.4
Prefer not/No Response	20	46,344	22.2	18.4	24.3	19.9	6.3	6.0
Males	311	211,057	21.3	18.9	23.7	20.5	6.4	6.0
Females	483	226,886	22.1	20.0	23.9	21.4	7.1	6.6
Other Responses	18	25,790	24.1	17.3	26.6	18.9	6.4	5.8

**Table 5.2. Average ACT English Language Arts Outcomes by Race/Ethnicity and Gender<sup>1</sup> for Students Who Took ACT Writing**

	N		Average ACT Scores			
			Average ELA Score		Percent Who Met ELA Benchmark	
			State	National	State	National
<b>All Students</b>	<b>812</b>	<b>463,733</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>18.8</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>43</b>
Black/African American	15	57,714	19.3	14.6	47	16
American Indian/Alaska Native	85	4,031	15.0	14.8	11	16
White	588	222,801	22.2	20.3	69	53
Hispanic/Latino	40	79,176	19.0	16.8	48	29
Asian	26	27,716	25.1	23.4	73	69
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0	1,944	.	15.5	.	20
Two or More Races	38	24,007	21.1	19.2	58	45
Prefer not/No Response	20	46,344	20.8	17.9	60	37
Males	311	211,057	20.5	18.1	58	39
Females	483	226,886	21.7	19.6	63	48
Other Responses	18	25,790	22.2	16.9	61	31

<sup>1</sup> 'Other Responses' include 'Another Gender', 'Prefer Not to Respond', and missing values.

