



# Profile Report - State

Graduating Class 2022  
Public High School Students  
South Dakota



## New to your 2022 Profile Report

For 2021-2022, contents of the ACT Profile Report remain consistent with last year.

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We are pleased to provide this 2022 Graduating Class ACT Profile Report. This report summarizes the preparation and performance of your 2022 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

29% 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:** 5,058 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. 79% 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 4% of the cohort took less than three years of math courses. Of these students, 15% were college ready. 14% 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 9% of the cohort took less than three years of natural science courses. 25% 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

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

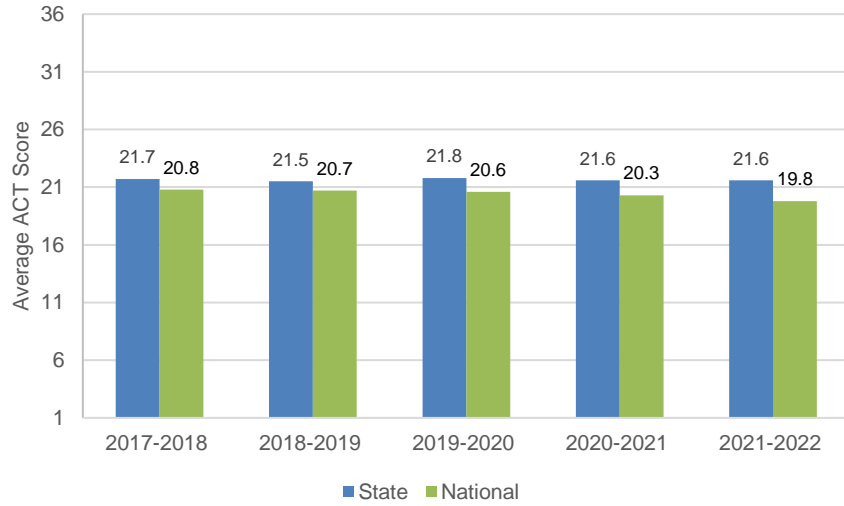


Figure 1.2. Percent Meeting 3 or 4 Benchmarks: 5 Years of Testing\*

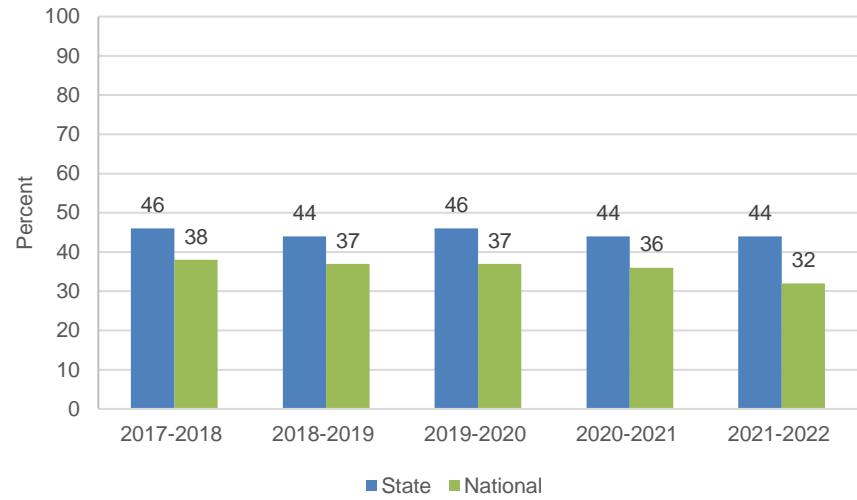


Figure 1.3. Percent Meeting STEM Benchmark: 5 Years of Testing\*

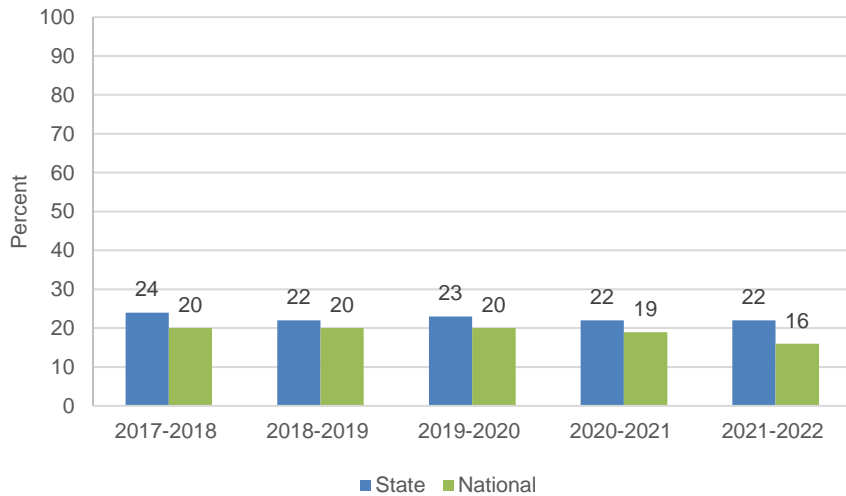
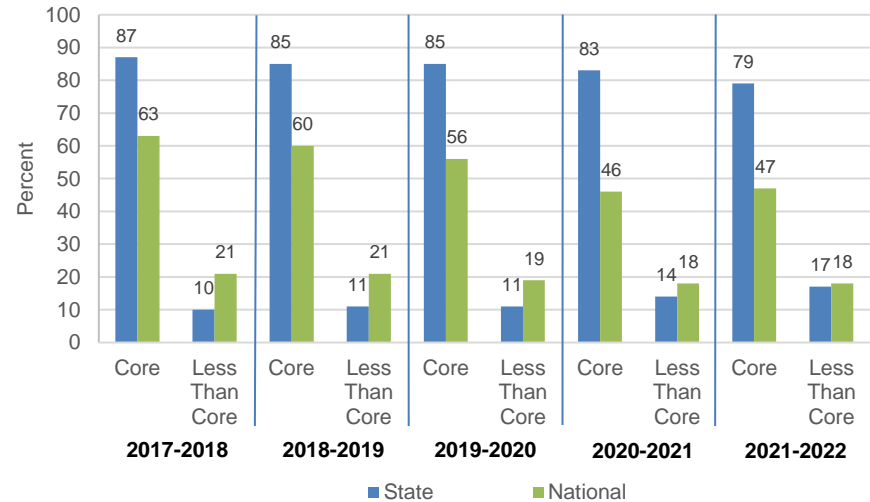


Figure 1.4. Percent Taking A Core Curriculum: 5 Years of Testing\*



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



**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
2018	6,078	1,914,817	67	60	49	40	52	46	46	36	31	27
2019	5,707	1,782,820	65	59	46	39	51	45	44	36	29	26
2020	5,277	1,670,497	67	58	49	37	53	45	44	36	31	26
2021	4,754	1,295,349	65	56	46	36	52	44	45	35	30	25
<b>2022</b>	<b>5,058</b>	<b>1,349,644</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>22</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
2018	6,078	1,914,817	20.6	20.2	21.5	20.5	22.2	21.3	22.1	20.7	21.7	20.8
2019	5,707	1,782,820	20.4	20.1	21.2	20.4	22.1	21.2	21.8	20.6	21.5	20.7
2020	5,277	1,670,497	20.7	19.9	21.6	20.2	22.4	21.2	22.0	20.6	21.8	20.6
2021	4,754	1,295,349	20.3	19.6	21.3	19.9	22.4	20.9	21.9	20.4	21.6	20.3
<b>2022</b>	<b>5,058</b>	<b>1,349,644</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>20.4</b>	<b>21.8</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>19.8</b>

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

Year	Number of Students Tested	Average ACT Scores				
		English	Mathematics	Reading	Science	Composite
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
2021	1,295,349	19.6	19.9	20.9	20.4	20.3
<b>2022</b>	<b>1,349,644</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>20.4</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>19.8</b>

**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
2018	5,295	607	87	10	21.1	17.8	22.0	19.2	22.6	20.0	22.5	19.9	22.2	19.3
2019	4,879	646	85	11	20.9	18.1	21.6	19.1	22.5	20.2	22.2	19.9	21.9	19.4
2020	4,495	605	85	11	21.2	18.5	22.0	19.7	22.8	20.5	22.4	20.2	22.2	19.9
2021	3,927	660	83	14	20.9	18.2	21.8	19.2	22.9	20.3	22.3	20.1	22.1	19.6
<b>2022</b>	<b>3,985</b>	<b>835</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>21.1</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>19.1</b>	<b>22.8</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>19.4</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	2018			2019			2020			2021			2022		
	N	%	Avg	N	%	Avg	N	%	Avg	N	%	Avg	N	%	Avg
<b>All Students</b>	<b>6,078</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>21.7</b>	<b>5,707</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>5,277</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>21.8</b>	<b>4,754</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>5,058</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>21.6</b>
Black/African American	104	2	18.0	111	2	17.8	86	2	17.7	85	2	18.5	104	2	18.1
American Indian/Alaska Native	400	7	16.0	477	8	15.9	240	5	16.4	195	4	16.3	199	4	16.6
White	4,743	78	22.5	4,345	76	22.4	4,311	82	22.3	3,899	82	22.1	4,123	82	22.0
Hispanic/Latino	269	4	19.5	226	4	19.8	202	4	20.4	187	4	19.7	173	3	19.8
Asian	89	1	20.3	86	2	21.2	90	2	21.8	85	2	22.4	84	2	23.1
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	5	0	17.2	1	0	13.0	2	0	14.0	0	0	.	2	0	19.0
Two or more races	295	5	20.9	283	5	20.6	222	4	20.7	229	5	20.7	269	5	20.8
Prefer not to respond/No response	173	3	21.0	178	3	21.7	124	2	21.8	74	2	22.2	104	2	22.2

**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
2018	6,078	1,914,817	22.1	20.9	24	20	27.9	28.8	28.4	28.8
2019	5,707	1,782,820	21.7	20.7	22	20	28.0	28.9	28.5	29.0
2020	5,277	1,670,497	22.0	20.6	23	20	28.0	28.9	28.3	29.1
2021	4,754	1,295,349	21.8	20.4	22	19	28.1	28.9	28.4	29.2
<b>2022</b>	<b>5,058</b>	<b>1,349,644</b>	<b>21.8</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>28.2</b>	<b>28.8</b>	<b>28.2</b>	<b>29.1</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	
2018	2,865	1,010,339	47	53	17.5	16.3	1,988	492,937	33	26	23.8	23.6	1,225	411,541	20	21	30.6	31.0
2019	2,714	950,826	48	53	17.3	16.2	1,753	455,611	31	26	23.6	23.6	1,240	376,383	22	21	30.4	31.0
2020	2,387	903,921	45	54	17.5	16.1	1,629	398,982	31	24	23.5	23.6	1,261	367,594	24	22	30.3	31.1
2021	2,205	711,705	46	55	17.5	15.8	1,500	318,182	32	25	23.9	23.8	1,049	265,462	22	20	30.6	31.3
<b>2022</b>	<b>2,429</b>	<b>770,624</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>1,522</b>	<b>318,327</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>23.5</b>	<b>1,107</b>	<b>260,693</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>30.1</b>	<b>31.0</b>

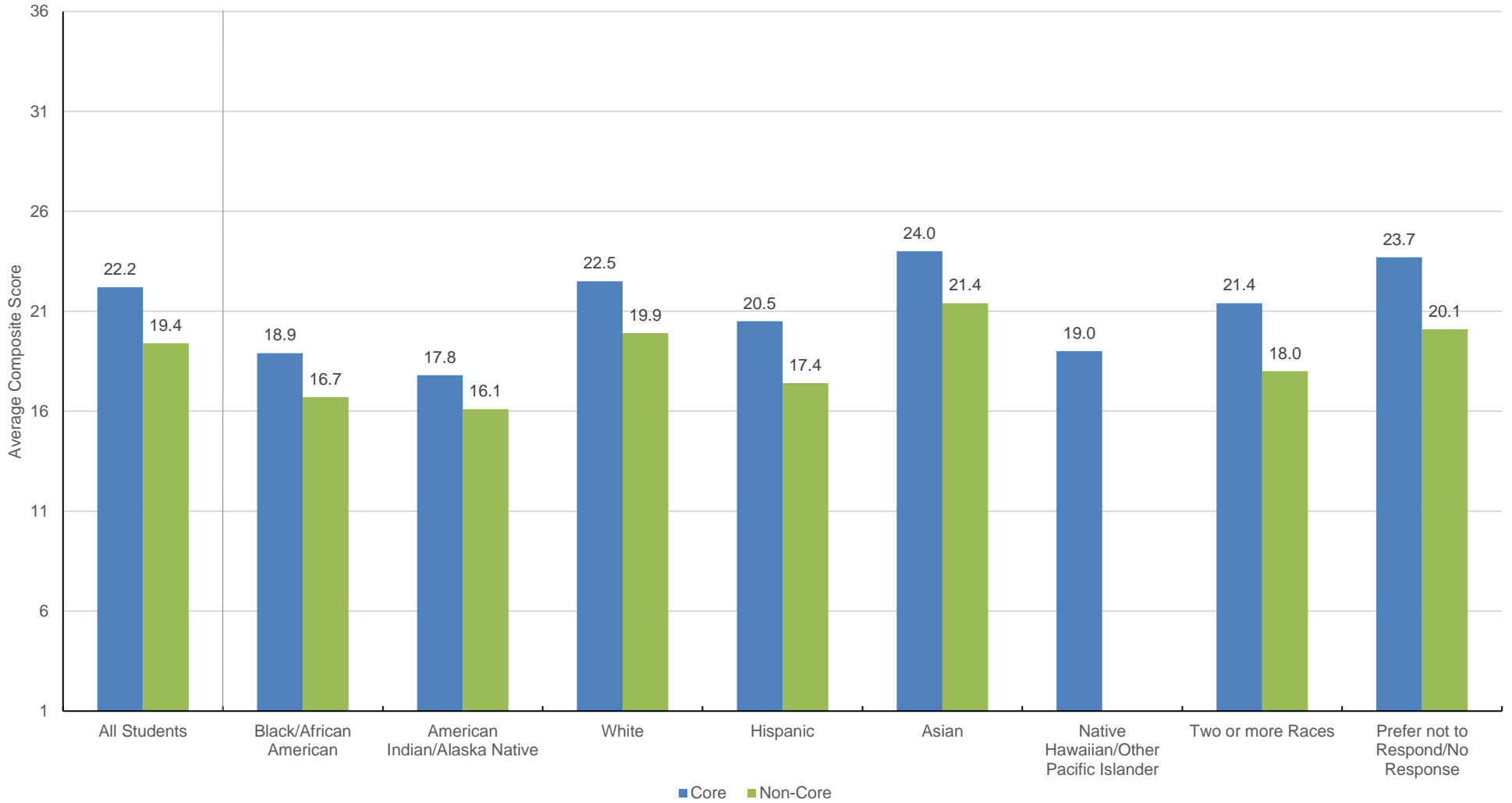
<sup>1</sup>The text complexity indicator, beginning in Fall 2015, represents students' progress toward understanding complex written material often encountered in college and careers.

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# Section II

## Academic Achievement

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.

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	26	100	7	100	63	100	26	100	2	100	8	100	0	100	36
35	88	99	27	99	82	99	30	99	24	99	25	99	0	100	35
34	60	98	33	99	68	97	45	99	33	99	28	99	0	100	34
33	69	97	39	99	104	96	65	98	46	99	38	99	6	100	33
32	72	95	36	98	132	94	30	97	62	98	60	98	10	99	32
31	54	94	64	97	151	91	88	96	86	97	77	97	14	97	31
30	59	93	100	96	156	88	81	94	101	95	81	95	13	95	30
29	92	92	88	94	151	85	106	93	123	93	113	94	26	93	29
28	103	90	212	92	110	82	88	91	153	91	159	91	28	88	28
27	116	88	262	88	147	80	138	89	194	88	231	88	17	84	27
26	132	85	326	83	162	77	255	86	233	84	285	84	29	81	26
25	230	83	283	76	247	74	386	81	289	79	337	78	29	76	25
24	254	78	323	71	275	69	417	74	340	73	330	71	29	71	24
23	325	73	286	64	339	63	481	65	335	67	366	65	49	66	23
22	300	67	224	59	432	57	368	56	352	60	341	58	39	58	22
21	432	61	229	54	326	48	391	49	399	53	372	51	46	51	21
20	397	52	304	50	397	42	457	41	406	45	432	44	32	44	20
19	300	44	316	44	245	34	299	32	398	37	389	35	39	38	19
18	248	39	411	38	283	29	395	26	401	29	420	27	41	32	18
17	274	34	442	29	280	23	273	18	290	21	368	19	37	25	17
16	301	28	507	21	227	18	232	13	312	16	257	12	33	19	16
15	353	22	299	11	206	13	135	8	195	9	149	7	30	13	15
14	256	15	167	5	162	9	85	5	130	6	107	4	19	8	14
13	109	10	45	1	113	6	69	4	90	3	58	2	12	5	13
12	119	8	20	1	90	4	42	2	52	1	20	1	7	3	12
11	152	6	6	1	68	2	39	2	12	1	7	1	3	2	11
10	94	3	0	1	23	1	23	1	0	1	0	1	2	1	10
9	23	1	1	1	11	1	10	1	0	1	0	1	2	1	9
8	15	1	0	1	4	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	2	1	8
7	3	1	1	1	4	1	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	7
6	2	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	6
5	0	1	0	1	0	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	0	1	3
2	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	2
1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1
Avg (SD)	20.5 (5.9)		21.3 (5.0)		22.2 (6.0)		21.8 (4.9)		21.6 (4.9)		21.8 (4.7)		21.5 (5.2)		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

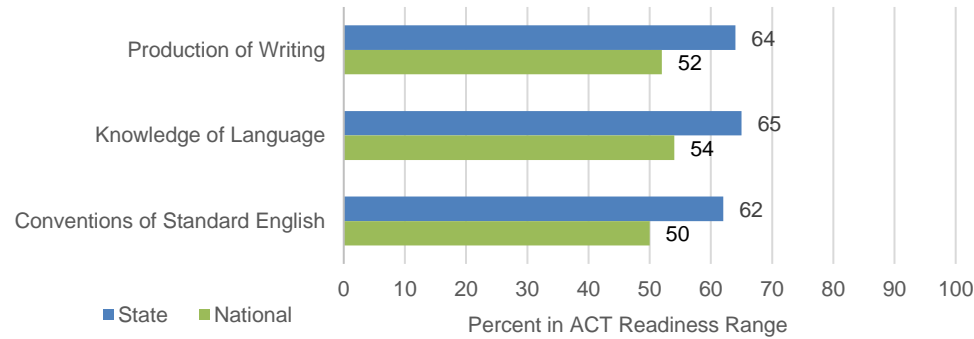


Figure 2.3. Math Reporting Categories

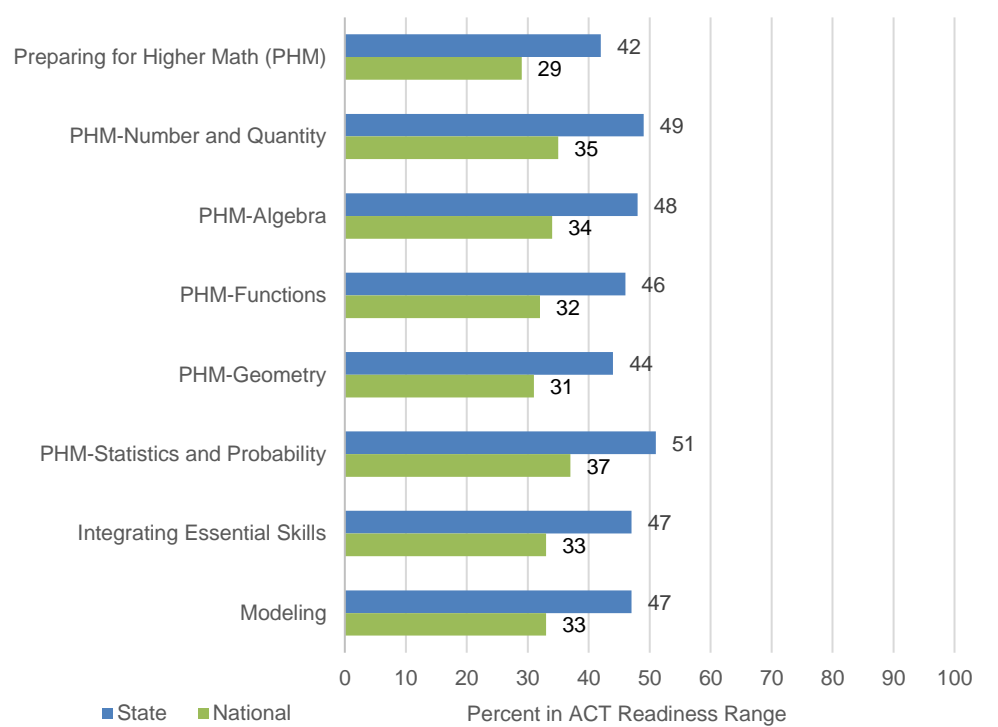


Figure 2.4. Reading Reporting Categories

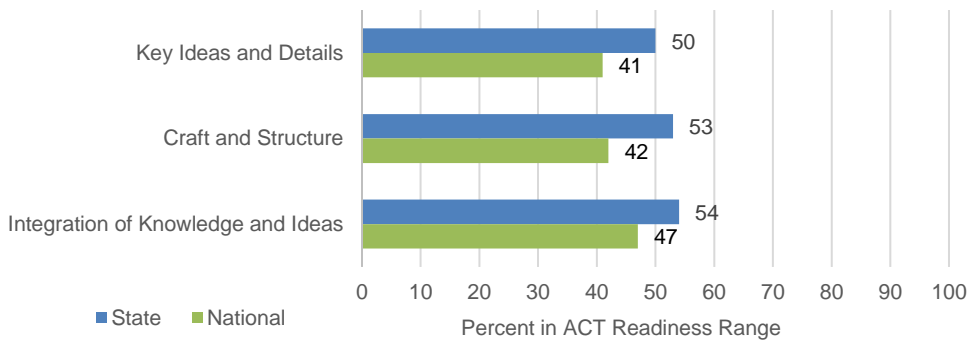
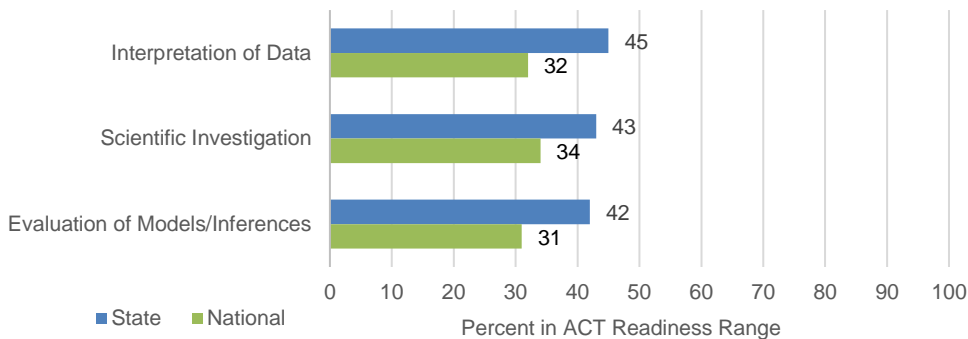


Figure 2.5. Science Reporting Categories



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.



**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	5,058	79	22.2	19.4
	Black/African American	104	65	18.9	16.7
	American Indian/Alaska Native	199	55	17.8	16.1
	White	4,123	80	22.5	19.9
	Hispanic/Latino	173	77	20.5	17.4
	Asian	84	80	24.0	21.4
	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	2	100	19.0	.
	Two or More Races	269	83	21.4	18.0
	Prefer not/No Response	104	61	23.7	20.1
National	All Students	1,349,644	47	22.0	19.4
	Black/African American	153,579	42	17.6	16.1
	American Indian/Alaska Native	10,728	39	18.0	15.9
	White	708,952	57	22.7	20.2
	Hispanic/Latino	210,205	39	20.0	17.6
	Asian	54,464	65	26.0	23.7
	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	2,961	36	19.3	16.9
	Two or More Races	64,330	48	22.0	19.5
	Prefer not/No Response	144,425	13	24.2	21.1

<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	5,058	100	20.5	21.3	22.2	21.8	21.6	21.8
	Black/African American	104	2	16.9	18.0	18.7	18.6	18.1	18.6
	American Indian/Alaska Native	199	4	15.0	16.6	17.4	17.2	16.6	17.1
	White	4,123	82	20.9	21.7	22.6	22.2	22.0	22.2
	Hispanic/Latino	173	3	18.4	19.9	20.4	20.1	19.8	20.3
	Asian	84	2	22.2	23.4	23.5	23.0	23.1	23.4
	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	2	0	16.5	17.5	20.5	19.5	19.0	18.5
	Two or More Races	269	5	19.4	20.6	21.4	21.1	20.8	21.1
	Prefer not/No Response	104	2	21.2	21.8	22.7	22.6	22.2	22.5
National	All Students	1,349,644	100	19.0	19.3	20.4	19.9	19.8	19.9
	Black/African American	153,579	11	15.0	16.0	16.6	16.5	16.1	16.5
	American Indian/Alaska Native	10,728	1	14.9	16.4	16.9	16.9	16.4	16.9
	White	708,952	53	20.7	20.6	22.1	21.3	21.3	21.2
	Hispanic/Latino	210,205	16	16.6	17.5	18.3	18.0	17.7	18.0
	Asian	54,464	4	24.5	24.7	24.9	24.3	24.7	24.8
	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	2,961	0	15.9	17.2	17.3	17.5	17.1	17.6
	Two or More Races	64,330	5	19.4	19.4	20.9	20.1	20.1	20.0
	Prefer not/No Response	144,425	11	16.4	17.5	18.0	17.9	17.6	17.9

**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	2,264	77	22.8	19.4
	Females	2,745	80	21.6	19.4
	Other Responses	49	73	25.8	21.5
National	Males	631,336	45	22.2	19.1
	Females	674,287	51	21.8	19.5
	Other Responses	44,021	17	23.4	21.0

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

Student Group	Gender <sup>1</sup>	N	Percent	English	Mathematics	Reading	Science	Composite	STEM
State	Males	2,264	45	20.4	22.3	22.2	22.5	22.0	22.7
	Females	2,745	54	20.4	20.5	22.0	21.2	21.2	21.1
	Other Responses	49	1	24.6	21.9	26.4	23.7	24.2	23.1
National	Males	631,336	47	18.5	19.7	20.0	20.0	19.7	20.1
	Females	674,287	50	19.6	19.1	20.9	19.9	20.0	19.7
	Other Responses	44,021	3	17.5	17.8	19.2	18.4	18.3	18.3

**Table 2.6. ACT Score Quartile Values**

Quartile	English	Mathematics	Reading	Science	Composite
Q3 (75th Percentile)	24	25	26	25	25
Q2 (50th Percentile)	20	21	22	22	21
Q1 (25th Percentile)	16	17	18	18	18

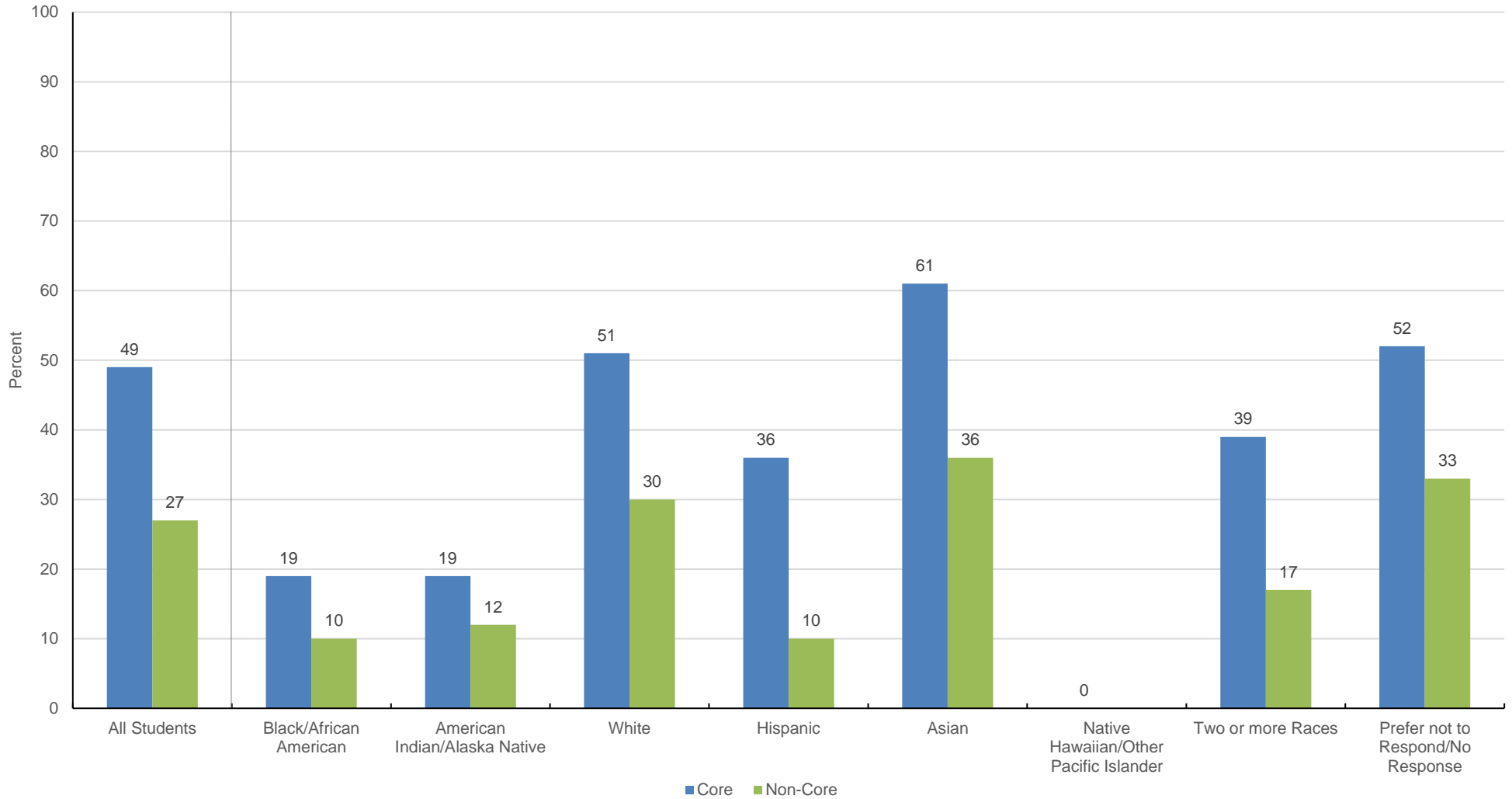
<sup>1</sup> 'Other Responses' include 'Another Gender', 'Prefer Not to Respond', and missing values.

<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.

**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	243	5	106	2	317	6	166	3
	28 to 32	380	8	500	10	700	14	393	8
	24 to 27	732	14	1,194	24	831	16	1,196	24
	20 to 23	1,454	29	1,043	21	1,494	30	1,697	34
	16 to 19	1,123	22	1,676	33	1,035	20	1,199	24
	13 to 15	718	14	511	10	481	10	289	6
	01 to 12	408	8	28	1	200	4	118	2
National	33 to 36	87,601	6	36,052	3	104,908	8	49,100	4
	28 to 32	92,521	7	94,563	7	147,481	11	89,421	7
	24 to 27	158,481	12	197,891	15	156,135	12	208,817	15
	20 to 23	264,851	20	190,580	14	289,741	21	317,791	24
	16 to 19	231,261	17	441,185	33	245,316	18	354,669	26
	13 to 15	234,329	17	345,509	26	216,629	16	197,672	15
	01 to 12	280,600	21	43,864	3	189,434	14	132,174	10

**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	66	54	52	50	34
	Females	66	39	51	39	26
	Other Responses	86	51	76	65	45
National	Males	50	34	39	34	23
	Females	57	29	43	31	21
	Other Responses	43	20	34	24	15

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

**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	5,058	66	46	52	44	29	22
	Black/African American	104	37	15	30	19	10	8
	American Indian/Alaska Native	199	29	13	23	13	7	6
	White	4,123	70	49	54	47	32	23
	Hispanic/Latino	173	54	31	40	29	14	13
	Asian	84	71	57	62	55	45	37
	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	2	50	0	50	0	0	0
	Two or More Races	269	57	39	46	39	23	16
	Prefer Not to Respond	104	65	48	54	50	30	25
National	All Students	1,349,644	53	31	41	32	22	16
	Black/African American	153,579	27	9	18	10	5	3
	American Indian/Alaska Native	10,728	27	11	20	12	6	4
	White	708,952	65	40	51	42	29	21
	Hispanic/Latino	210,205	38	18	28	19	11	8
	Asian	54,464	77	64	65	60	51	46
	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	2,961	32	16	23	16	10	7
	Two or More Races	64,330	55	31	44	33	22	17
	Prefer Not to Respond	144,425	36	20	27	20	14	10

**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	824	16	29.5
	Gold	1,549	31	23.8
	Silver	1,894	37	19.1
	Bronze	727	14	15.0
	Needs Improvement	64	1	11.8
National	Platinum	204,038	15	30.2
	Gold	272,567	20	23.8
	Silver	396,681	29	18.9
	Bronze	371,371	28	14.5
	Needs Improvement	104,987	8	11.4

<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'.

**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>	3,985	71	21.1	51	21.9	56	22.8	49	22.4	33	22.2	25	22.4
	Less than Core	835	51	18.2	28	19.1	37	20.0	29	19.9	15	19.4	11	19.7
	Missing <sup>3</sup>	238	47	17.4	21	18.4	36	19.6	24	18.9	15	18.7	12	18.9
National	Core or More	641,028	69	21.6	45	21.2	55	22.8	45	21.9	33	22.0	25	21.8
	Less than Core	246,319	50	18.6	27	18.8	38	20.0	28	19.5	18	19.4	13	19.4
	Missing	462,297	32	15.6	15	17.0	24	17.4	16	17.3	9	17.0	6	17.4

<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>	N	English			Mathematics			Reading			Science		
			%	Avg	N	%	Avg	N	%	Avg	N	%	Avg	
State	Core or More <sup>2</sup>	4,671	68	20.7	4,648	48	21.6	4,698	53	22.4	4,400	47	22.2	
	Less than Core	208	58	19.2	199	15	17.2	137	31	19.4	440	25	19.5	
	Missing <sup>3</sup>	179	40	16.5	211	19	18.1	223	34	19.4	218	22	18.8	
National	Core or More	880,336	64	20.8	856,871	41	20.8	794,894	51	22.2	754,313	44	21.7	
	Less than Core	37,518	47	17.9	43,812	9	16.2	101,036	40	20.3	144,453	23	18.6	
	Missing	431,790	31	15.5	448,961	15	17.0	453,714	24	17.4	450,878	16	17.3	

<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.

**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	1,442	29	21.4	72	223,515	17	20.7	64
Eng 9, Eng 10, Eng 11, Eng 12	3,229	64	20.3	66	656,821	49	20.8	64
Less than 4 years of English	208	4	19.2	58	37,518	3	17.9	47
Zero years / no English courses reported	179	4	16.5	40	431,790	32	15.5	31
<b>MATHEMATICS COURSE PATTERN</b>								
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, Trig, & Calc	115	2	25.1	72	35,852	3	22.3	54
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, Trig, & Other Adv Math	319	6	22.5	56	63,897	5	20.8	44
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, & Trig	158	3	21.0	43	34,170	3	18.5	23
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, & Other Adv Math	1,370	27	20.8	43	202,627	15	18.9	27
Other comb of 4 or more years of Math	1,623	32	24.1	68	363,406	27	23.2	59
Alg 1, Alg 2, & Geom	689	14	17.8	16	95,870	7	16.5	8
Other comb of 3 or 3.5 years of Math	374	7	19.4	29	61,049	5	19.1	29
Less than 3 years of Math	199	4	17.2	15	43,812	3	16.2	9
Zero years / no Math courses reported	211	4	18.1	19	448,961	33	17.0	15
<b>SOCIAL SCIENCE COURSE PATTERN</b>								
US Hist, World Hist, Am Gov, & Other Hist	17	0	22.1	53	28,220	2	22.5	53
Other comb of 4 or more years Social Science	3,331	66	22.8	56	422,741	31	22.7	54
US Hist, World Hist, & Am Gov	59	1	19.8	37	64,365	5	20.0	37
Other comb of 3 or 3.5 years of Social Science	1,291	26	21.4	47	279,568	21	21.9	49
Less than 3 years of Social Science	137	3	19.4	31	101,036	7	20.3	40
Zero years / no Social Science courses reported	223	4	19.4	34	453,714	34	17.4	24
<b>NATURAL SCIENCE COURSE PATTERN</b>								
Gen Sci <sup>1</sup> , Bio, Chem, & Phys	1,589	31	23.3	57	337,791	25	22.3	49
Bio, Chem, Phys	743	15	23.3	55	126,200	9	23.6	58
Gen Sci <sup>1</sup> , Bio, Chem	1,949	39	21.0	37	259,786	19	20.3	33
Other comb of 3 years of Natural Science	119	2	20.4	34	30,536	2	18.9	25
Less than 3 years of Natural Science	440	9	19.5	25	144,453	11	18.6	23
Zero years / no Natural Science courses reported	218	4	18.8	22	450,878	33	17.3	16

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



**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	564	25	21.3	72	860	31	21.3	72	18	37	25.9	100
Eng 9, Eng 10, Eng 11, Eng 12	1,503	66	20.4	66	1,701	62	20.2	65	25	51	25.6	88
Less than 4 years of English	102	5	19.0	58	106	4	19.4	58	0	0	.	.
Zero years / no English courses reported	95	4	16.4	38	78	3	16.7	44	6	12	16.0	33
<b>MATHEMATICS COURSE PATTERN</b>												
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, Trig, & Calc	61	3	26.7	82	53	2	23.2	60	1	2	28.0	100
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, Trig, & Other Adv Math	121	5	23.5	64	196	7	21.9	52	2	4	25.0	50
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, & Trig	76	3	21.8	49	81	3	20.3	38	1	2	18.0	0
Alg 1, Alg 2, Geom, & Other Adv Math	471	21	21.9	53	889	32	20.2	37	10	20	23.8	80
Other comb of 4 or more years of Math	832	37	25.1	75	775	28	23.0	60	16	33	25.1	81
Alg 1, Alg 2, & Geom	308	14	18.5	22	374	14	17.3	11	7	14	18.0	14
Other comb of 3 or 3.5 years of Math	185	8	19.8	33	184	7	19.0	24	5	10	19.8	20
Less than 3 years of Math	98	4	17.5	17	100	4	17.0	13	1	2	13.0	0
Zero years / no Math courses reported	112	5	18.6	24	93	3	17.6	15	6	12	16.7	0
<b>SOCIAL SCIENCE COURSE PATTERN</b>												
US Hist, World Hist, Am Gov, & Other Hist	10	0	20.0	40	7	0	25.0	71	0	0	.	.
Other comb of 4 or more years Social Science	1,432	63	23.0	57	1,870	68	22.6	55	29	59	28.4	83
US Hist, World Hist, & Am Gov	32	1	19.5	31	26	1	19.9	42	1	2	27.0	100
Other comb of 3 or 3.5 years of Social Science	584	26	21.5	48	697	25	21.3	45	10	20	23.9	70
Less than 3 years of Social Science	82	4	19.8	35	53	2	18.2	23	2	4	32.5	100
Zero years / no Social Science courses reported	124	5	19.6	35	92	3	19.1	33	7	14	20.0	43
<b>NATURAL SCIENCE COURSE PATTERN</b>												
Gen Sci <sup>2</sup> , Bio, Chem, & Phys	824	36	24.1	62	755	28	22.4	51	10	20	26.9	90
Bio, Chem, Phys	346	15	24.5	63	388	14	22.2	48	9	18	26.7	78
Gen Sci <sup>1</sup> , Bio, Chem	712	31	21.4	41	1,216	44	20.7	34	21	43	23.0	67
Other comb of 3 years of Natural Science	73	3	21.2	40	46	2	18.9	24	0	0	.	.
Less than 3 years of Natural Science	186	8	19.4	24	251	9	19.6	25	3	6	20.0	33
Zero years / no Natural Science courses reported	123	5	19.1	26	89	3	18.4	18	6	12	18.2	17

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

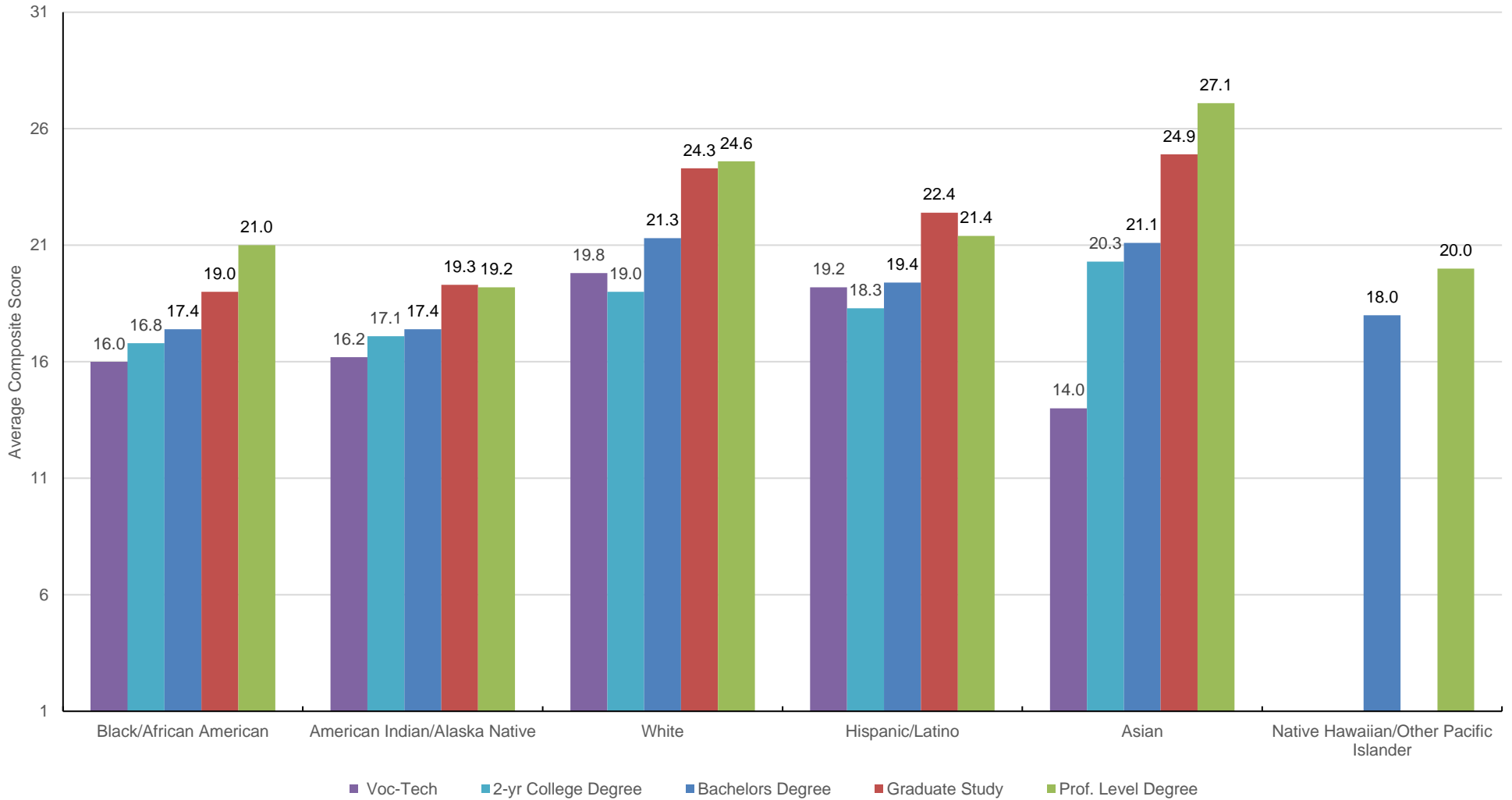
<sup>2</sup> Includes General, Physical and Earth Sciences.

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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.

**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	188	4	20.7	45	9	19.8	126	3	21.3
Architecture	46	1	22.7	4	1	20.0	41	1	23.0
Area, Ethnic, & Multidisciplinary Studies	1	0	30.0	0	0	.	1	0	30.0
Arts: Visual & Performing	159	3	21.8	20	4	19.2	133	3	22.3
Business	418	8	20.7	43	9	18.9	359	9	21.0
Communications	50	1	21.9	5	1	18.4	45	1	22.3
Community, Family, & Personal Services	66	1	20.1	4	1	19.0	59	1	20.5
Computer Science & Mathematics	201	4	23.8	18	4	20.1	175	4	24.3
Education	318	6	21.0	4	1	18.8	305	7	21.1
Engineering	301	6	25.0	9	2	20.9	283	7	25.1
Engineering Technology & Drafting	59	1	21.6	8	2	18.1	48	1	22.4
English & Foreign Languages	39	1	23.2	0	0	.	37	1	23.2
Health Administration & Assisting	106	2	19.6	21	4	19.9	83	2	19.6
Health Sciences & Technologies	971	19	21.4	105	22	18.6	838	20	21.9
Philosophy, Religion, & Theology	14	0	21.5	0	0	.	13	0	22.2
Repair, Production, & Construction	103	2	19.4	79	16	19.5	18	0	19.3
Sciences: Biological & Physical	362	7	23.8	6	1	19.3	347	8	23.9
Social Sciences & Law	283	6	22.0	7	1	18.6	269	7	22.1
Undecided	1,147	23	21.1	104	22	18.3	919	22	21.6
No Response	226	4	18.8	1	0	15.0	2	0	16.0

<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).

**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	152	19.5	1	16.0	5	16.2	127	19.8	5	19.2
2-yr College Degree	331	18.8	5	16.8	14	17.1	275	19.0	13	18.3
Bachelors Degree	2,590	21.0	48	17.4	85	17.4	2,176	21.3	84	19.4
Graduate Study	702	24.0	9	19.0	10	19.3	585	24.3	26	22.4
Prof. Level Degree	809	24.2	26	21.0	19	19.2	637	24.6	27	21.4
Other	67	20.0	3	17.3	2	13.0	51	20.6	3	16.3
No Response	407	19.1	12	15.3	64	14.5	272	20.4	15	17.3

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	152	19.5	1	14.0	0	.	10	17.6	3	20.3
2-yr College Degree	331	18.8	3	20.3	0	.	18	17.6	3	18.7
Bachelors Degree	2,590	21.0	36	21.1	1	18.0	126	20.3	34	21.2
Graduate Study	702	24.0	14	24.9	0	.	40	21.8	18	24.7
Prof. Level Degree	809	24.2	25	27.1	1	20.0	55	22.8	19	25.7
Other	67	20.0	0	.	0	.	4	19.3	4	21.5
No Response	407	19.1	5	15.4	0	.	16	21.0	23	19.4

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	1,446	653	793	0	5	25	30	25	13	1
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA	South Dakota	1,097	356	741	0	5	24	34	23	12	1
BLACK HILLS STATE UNIVERSITY	South Dakota	435	169	266	1	9	28	35	18	8	0
AUGUSTANA UNIVERSITY	South Dakota	416	154	262	1	3	20	27	26	20	2
SOUTH DAKOTA SCH OF MINES/TECH	South Dakota	359	164	195	0	2	13	28	29	23	4
NORTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY	South Dakota	355	118	237	1	7	34	25	23	9	1
DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY	South Dakota	327	137	190	0	6	28	27	24	13	1
SOUTHEAST TECHNICAL INSTITUTE	South Dakota	296	123	173	2	9	40	34	13	2	0
LAKE AREA TECHNICAL INSTITUTE	South Dakota	288	139	149	2	13	39	32	12	2	0
UNIVERSITY OF SIOUX FALLS	South Dakota	276	61	215	1	4	29	32	24	9	1
MITCHELL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE	South Dakota	246	94	152	1	14	34	35	15	2	0
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA-TWIN CITIES	Minnesota	217	56	161	0	2	11	25	32	22	8
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT LINCOLN	Nebraska	191	44	147	0	2	16	28	31	19	4
DAKOTA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY	South Dakota	132	28	104	1	11	26	38	17	8	0
NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY	North Dakota	120	23	97	1	5	23	25	33	12	1
WESTERN DAKOTA TECHNICAL INSTITUTE	South Dakota	108	34	74	0	17	34	33	10	6	0
MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MANKATO	Minnesota	99	31	68	1	3	18	29	38	9	1
MOUNT MARTY COLLEGE	South Dakota	87	28	59	2	2	40	29	20	7	0
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY	Arizona	69	17	52	0	7	20	35	25	10	3
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY	Iowa	68	20	48	0	0	18	24	32	21	6
NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER	Indiana	61	30	31	0	2	36	26	23	11	2
UNIVERSITY OF IOWA	Iowa	53	11	42	0	0	13	26	40	15	6
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA	North Dakota	51	14	37	0	2	12	27	45	14	0
UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING	Wyoming	51	15	36	0	2	25	29	37	6	0
GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY	Arizona	50	26	24	0	2	22	44	20	10	2
UNIV OF COLORADO-BOULDER	Colorado	43	8	35	0	7	7	26	37	14	9
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY-BOZEMAN	Montana	42	13	29	0	2	26	19	31	21	0
CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY	Nebraska	35	5	30	0	0	9	29	29	29	6
MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MOORHEAD	Minnesota	34	6	28	0	3	21	44	21	12	0
WAYNE STATE COLLEGE	Nebraska	33	11	22	0	3	36	36	15	9	0
All Other Institutions		1,803	462	1,341	1	6	19	25	24	20	5
<b>Total</b>		<b>8,888</b>	<b>3,050</b>	<b>5,838</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>

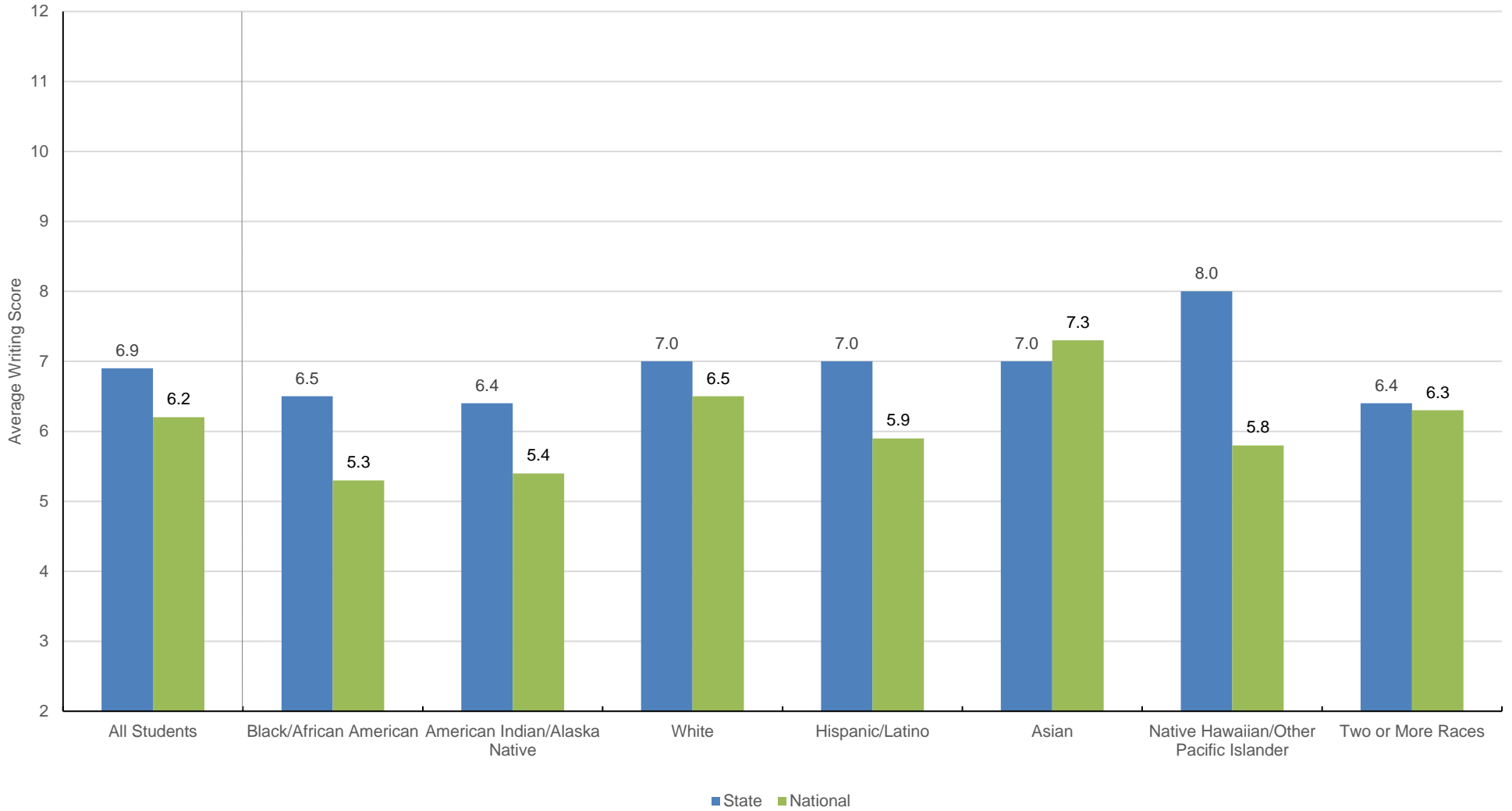
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# Section V

## Optional Writing Test Results

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



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

**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>594</b>	<b>333,194</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>23.8</b>	<b>20.1</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>6.2</b>
Black/African American	13	29,922	19.2	14.7	20.3	16.3	6.5	5.3
American Indian/Alaska Native	10	3,659	18.6	14.4	22.3	16.5	6.4	5.4
White	465	164,103	22.7	20.2	24.4	21.7	7.0	6.5
Hispanic/Latino	25	55,968	18.6	16.3	20.2	18.0	7.0	5.9
Asian	13	17,435	24.2	23.5	23.9	24.2	7.0	7.3
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	1	1,204	19.0	14.7	23.0	16.5	8.0	5.8
Two or More Races	47	19,176	19.3	18.7	21.6	20.3	6.4	6.3
Prefer not/No Response	20	41,727	24.2	16.0	23.4	17.6	7.1	5.7
Males	244	158,234	22.4	17.9	24.1	19.6	6.8	5.9
Females	338	164,802	21.8	19.1	23.4	20.5	7.0	6.5
Other Responses	12	10,158	28.8	18.2	30.1	20.0	7.9	6.0

**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>594</b>	<b>333,194</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>39</b>
Black/African American	13	29,922	18.8	14.8	46	16
American Indian/Alaska Native	10	3,659	19.2	14.8	40	15
White	465	164,103	22.0	19.7	66	49
Hispanic/Latino	25	55,968	19.2	16.6	36	27
Asian	13	17,435	22.3	22.5	62	64
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	1	1,204	22.0	15.5	100	18
Two or More Races	47	19,176	19.1	18.6	38	41
Prefer not/No Response	20	41,727	22.3	16.1	65	25
Males	244	158,234	21.5	17.6	61	35
Females	338	164,802	21.4	19.0	61	43
Other Responses	12	10,158	26.8	17.9	100	38

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

