

# Average ACT Scores by State

The ACT Assessment comprises four curriculum-based achievement tests designed to assess critical reasoning and higher-order thinking skills in English, mathematics, reading and science. These tests reflect students' skills and achievement levels as products of their high school experience and serve as critical measures of their preparation for academic coursework beyond high school. ACT Assessment results are used by postsecondary institutions across the nation for admissions, academic advising, course placement and scholarship decisions.

The accompanying list of state average scores should not be interpreted as providing grounds for an explicit or implicit ranking of the various states' educational systems. Students who take the ACT Assessment are self-selected and do not represent the entire state's student population. Further, the percentages of students taking the ACT Assessment vary a great deal from state to state, as do those students' backgrounds and characteristics. Many factors--among them, motivation and the desire to learn, parental support, the quality of teaching, socioeconomic status and extracurricular experiences--contribute to individual and group student achievement. However, a core college-preparatory program can be identified as one significant precondition to success on the ACT Assessment and in postsecondary studies. ACT defines a core college-preparatory program as four years of English and three or more years each of mathematics (starting with Algebra I), science and social studies courses.

**NOTICE:** In April 2006 all public high school eleventh graders in the states of Colorado and Illinois were tested with the ACT Assessment as required by each state. Colorado and Illinois students who met ACT's 2007 graduating class criteria are included in the 2007 graduating class average score results. Consistent with ACT's reporting policies, graduating class test results are reported only for students tested under standard time conditions.

## Average ACT Scores by State 2007 ACT-Tested Graduates

State	% of Graduates Tested †	Average Composite Score	Average English Score	Average Math Score	Average Reading Score	Average Science Score
Alabama	81	20.3	20.3	19.5	20.7	20.1
Alaska	27	21.2	20.1	21.3	21.8	21.0
Arizona	18	21.8	21.1	21.9	22.2	21.4
Arkansas	75	20.5	20.5	19.9	20.9	20.2
California	15	22.1	21.6	22.6	22.2	21.2
Colorado	100	20.4	19.7	20.1	20.8	20.4
Connecticut	16	23.2	23.2	23.2	23.6	22.4
Delaware	9	21.7	21.2	21.6	21.9	21.4
Washington DC	31	18.7	18.1	18.8	19.2	18.3
Florida	54	19.9	19.1	20.0	20.5	19.5
Georgia	34	20.3	19.9	20.3	20.6	20.1
Hawaii	20	22.3	21.6	22.9	22.2	21.9
Idaho	59	21.4	20.7	21.2	22.1	21.3
Illinois	100	20.5	20.2	20.4	20.5	20.4
Indiana	21	22.0	21.5	22.0	22.5	21.7
Iowa	66	22.3	21.6	21.9	22.6	22.3
Kansas	76	21.9	21.4	21.6	22.4	21.7
Kentucky	77	20.7	20.3	20.0	21.2	20.6
Louisiana	79	20.1	20.3	19.5	20.2	19.9
Maine	11	22.5	22.4	22.2	22.9	21.8
Maryland	14	21.6	21.3	21.5	22.1	21.2
Massachusetts	15	23.5	23.5	23.6	23.9	22.6
Michigan	70	21.5	20.7	21.3	21.8	21.7
Minnesota	70	22.5	21.8	22.5	22.8	22.5
Mississippi	96	18.9	19.0	18.1	19.1	18.7
Missouri	74	21.6	21.5	21.0	22.1	21.5

† Totals for graduating seniors were obtained from *Knocking at the College Door - December 2003, Projections of High School Graduates by State, Income and Race/Ethnicity, 1998-2018*, Copyright © December 2003 by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.

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Montana	59	21.9	21.2	21.7	22.5	21.8
Nebraska	77	22.1	21.8	21.8	22.4	21.9
Nevada	29	21.5	20.8	21.4	22.0	21.2
New Hampshire	15	22.9	22.7	22.7	23.3	22.2
New Jersey	11	22.2	21.9	22.5	22.4	21.5
New Mexico	60	20.2	19.6	19.7	20.9	20.2
New York	21	22.9	22.0	23.1	23.1	22.7
North Carolina	16	21.0	20.2	21.4	21.4	20.7
North Dakota	82	21.6	20.8	21.5	21.9	21.6
Ohio	68	21.6	21.0	21.3	22.0	21.6
Oklahoma	71	20.7	20.5	19.8	21.3	20.5
Oregon	18	22.0	21.2	22.1	22.5	21.8
Pennsylvania	11	22.0	21.5	21.9	22.4	21.5
Rhode Island	9	21.8	21.6	21.5	22.5	21.2
South Carolina	43	19.6	19.0	19.8	19.8	19.5
South Dakota	76	21.9	21.3	21.7	22.1	21.9
Tennessee	96	20.7	20.8	19.9	21.1	20.4
Texas	30	20.5	19.5	20.8	20.6	20.4
Utah	70	21.7	21.3	21.1	22.2	21.6
Vermont	22	22.8	22.6	22.5	23.3	22.3
Virginia	18	21.4	21.0	21.2	21.7	21.1
Washington	16	23.1	22.7	23.0	23.7	22.6
West Virginia	66	20.6	20.8	19.5	21.2	20.5
Wisconsin	70	22.3	21.6	22.2	22.4	22.4
Wyoming	78	21.5	20.7	21.1	22.2	21.4
<b>National</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>21.0</b>

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