

Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
of 2003 Oklahoma ACT Assessment Results

Overview

The mean ACT scores for 2002-03 high school graduating seniors who have taken the assessment are:

Oklahoma = 20.5 Nation = 20.8

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Oklahoma	20.2	20.3	20.3	20.5	20.6	20.5	20.6	20.8	20.5	20.5	20.5
National	20.7	20.8	20.8	20.9	21.0	21.0	21.0	21.0	21.0	20.8	20.8
Gap OK/Nat	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.3

Since 1993, the Oklahoma mean ACT score increased by 0.3 of a point while the nation increased by 0.1; the gap between Oklahoma and national scores decreased from a high of 0.5 of a point in 1993 to 0.2 in 2000. In 2003, the gap between Oklahoma's ACT composite score and the nation's is 0.3 of a point.

The gap between Oklahoma and the nation from the 1993 to 2003 has closed in both science reasoning, 0.6 to 0.3, and reading, 0.4 to 0.1, subject areas. For the second consecutive year, the gap in English scores for Oklahoma has surpassed the nation by 0.1. The subject area of math is the only area which shows an increase in the gap between Oklahoma and the nation, from 0.7 to 0.9.

Student Participation

The following table compares Oklahoma high school graduates to the number taking the ACT. Since 1993, the participation rate increased from 65.5 to 73.0 percent.

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998 ¹	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
No. of Test Takers	20,746	21,854	23,038	22,897	24,134	24,874	25,755	26,902	26,908	26,717	27,009
No. of HS Grads ²	31,653	32,459	34,081	33,744	33,645	36,254	37,396	38,512	38,344	37,699	37,008 ³
% Taking ACT	65.5%	67.3%	67.6%	67.9%	71.7%	68.7%	68.9%	69.9%	70.2%	70.9%	73.0%

NOTE: ¹ACT revised the number of test-takers for 1998 through 2002. ²Actuals provided by SDE. ³Estimate by OSRHE based on SDE enrollment data.

Core Curriculum

Since 1993, the percentage of college-bound high school seniors taking the ACT core curriculum (4 units-English, 3 units-math, 3 units-social studies, 3 units-sciences) increased. The percentage of Oklahoma students taking the core in 2003 increased by 10 percentage points compared to those taking the core in 1993. On average, students who planned to complete the core curriculum scored 2.8 points higher than students who did not.

PERCENT TAKING CORE CURRICULUM

Racial-Ethnic Group	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
All	46%	47%	47%	49%	51%	53%	52%	52%	52%	53%	59%
African American	39%	40%	44%	47%	46%	47%	48%	49%	47%	51%	55%
Native American	42%	42%	46%	46%	46%	46%	47%	46%	45%	46%	52%
Asian American	67%	64%	60%	66%	67%	65%	69%	67%	66%	70%	75%
Caucasian	49%	51%	51%	51%	54%	55%	53%	54%	54%	54%	61%
Mexican American	40%	47%	47%	43%	52%	49%	49%	52%	47%	49%	51%
Hispanic American	51%	48%	44%	49%	54%	55%	56%	50%	53%	47%	65%

NOTE: Percentages based on all test takers, including those not reporting courses.

Since 1993, the percentage of African American students taking the core curriculum increased 16 percentage points, more than any other ethnic group. Of all ethnic groups, Asian Americans have the highest percentage of students taking the core curriculum (75 percent). Oklahoma core takers scored below their national counterparts by 0.2 of a point. Non-core takers lagged behind by 0.5 of a point.

Minority Students

The mean ACT for African Americans in Oklahoma increased from 17.0 in 1993 to 17.2 in 2003. The mean ACT for Native Americans in Oklahoma rose from 18.9 in 1993 to 19.4 in 2003. Oklahoma African Americans and Oklahoma Native Americans both scored above their national counterparts (16.9 and 18.7, respectively).

State Comparisons

Oklahoma ranks 13th in the nation in percentage of graduates tested. When compared to the 25 states with 50 percent or more of their high school graduates taking the ACT, Oklahoma ranks 15th in the mean composite score.

When comparing Oklahoma students to their national counterparts, the greatest lag was between the highest scoring students. Oklahoma's highest scoring students (those at the 75th percentile) were 0.6 of a point behind their peers (23.6 compared to 24.2). Oklahoma students at the 50th percentile were 0.4 of a point behind their counterparts (20.1 compared to 20.5). The Oklahoma students scoring the lowest (those at the 25th percentile) were 0.2 of a point behind their national counterparts (17.0 compared to 17.2).

**2003 ACT Average Composite Scores by State
States With 50% or More of High School Graduates Taking ACT
Sorted by Composite ACT Score and Percent of Graduates Tested**

State	Average Composite Score	Total				Core Completers				Non-Core Completers				No Course Data
		% of Graduates Tested*	Quartile Values			% of Total Tested	Quartile Values			% of Total Tested	Quartile Values			
			25th	50th	75th		25th	50th	75th		25th	50th	75th	
1 Wisconsin	22.2	69	18.9	22.0	25.3	61	19.7	22.7	25.9	35	17.6	20.6	23.9	4
2 Iowa	22.0	66	18.8	21.7	25.0	66	19.8	22.7	25.8	30	16.9	19.7	22.7	4
2 Minnesota	22.0	67	18.8	21.8	25.1	64	19.7	22.6	25.8	29	17.1	19.9	23.1	7
4 Montana	21.7	52	18.3	21.5	24.9	51	20.2	23.2	26.0	43	16.9	19.6	22.9	6
4 Nebraska	21.7	73	18.3	21.5	24.8	67	19.5	22.4	25.6	29	16.6	19.4	22.5	4
6 Kansas	21.5	76	18.1	21.3	24.7	66	19.3	22.2	25.5	29	16.3	19.1	22.2	6
7 Missouri	21.4	69	17.9	21.0	24.7	58	19.1	22.3	25.8	37	16.5	19.1	22.3	5
7 Ohio	21.4	64	17.9	21.0	24.5	60	19.1	22.1	25.4	34	16.4	19.0	22.4	6
7 South Dakota	21.4	70	18.2	21.1	24.4	60	19.3	22.1	25.1	36	16.6	19.3	22.6	4
7 Wyoming	21.4	62	18.2	21.1	24.3	56	19.5	22.4	25.2	40	16.9	19.7	22.6	4
11 Michigan	21.3	69	17.8	21.1	24.6	55	19.1	22.4	25.7	41	16.6	19.4	22.5	4
11 North Dakota	21.3	80	18.0	21.0	24.4	59	19.7	22.5	25.6	37	16.1	18.5	21.4	4
11 Utah	21.3	67	17.9	21.0	24.4	42	19.1	22.1	25.4	52	17.2	20.1	23.5	6
14 Idaho	21.2	60	17.8	20.8	24.3	47	19.2	22.3	25.6	45	6.7	19.1	22.7	7.0
15 Oklahoma	20.5	69	17.0	20.1	23.6	59	18.2	21.3	24.7	35	15.8	18.3	21.3	6
16 Tennessee	20.4	74	16.7	19.9	23.5	62	17.7	20.9	24.4	34	15.5	18.1	21.4	4
17 Arkansas	20.3	73	16.7	19.9	23.5	71	17.6	20.7	24.1	19	14.7	16.9	19.9	9
17 West Virginia	20.3	63	17.2	20.0	23.1	29	18.7	21.5	24.7	67	16.7	19.3	22.3	4
19 Illinois	20.2	100	16.1	19.7	23.9	41	18.9	22.4	26.0	49	14.9	17.8	21.4	11
19 Kentucky	20.2	73	16.7	19.7	23.2	59	17.6	20.6	24.0	38	15.6	18.3	21.7	4
21 Alabama	20.1	73	16.6	19.6	23.1	65	17.6	20.6	24.0	31	15.3	17.6	20.5	4
21 Colorado	20.1	100	16.3	19.8	23.5	46	18.5	21.8	25.2	42	14.9	17.9	21.3	12
23 New Mexico	19.9	62	16.3	19.4	23.0	52	17.5	20.7	24.2	42	15.3	18.0	21.2	5
24 Louisiana	19.6	80	16.1	19.3	22.5	70	17.1	20.2	23.3	25	14.4	16.4	19.5	5
25 Mississippi	18.7	88	15.3	17.9	21.3	53	16.4	19.3	22.9	44	14.5	16.5	19.1	3
National	40.0	40	17.2	20.5	24.2	57	18.4	21.6	25.1	35	15.8	18.7	22.2	8

Source: 2003 ACT Composite Average by State. Note: *percent of graduates based on WICHE estimates which tend to be lower than SDE and OSRHE projections.