

Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
of 2004 Oklahoma ACT Assessment Results

Overview

The mean ACT scores for 2004 high school graduating seniors who have taken the assessment are:

Oklahoma = 20.6 Nation = 20.9

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Oklahoma	20.3	20.3	20.5	20.6	20.5	20.6	20.8	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.6
National	20.8	20.8	20.9	21.0	21.0	21.0	21.0	21.0	20.8	20.8	20.9
Gap OK/Nat	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3

Since 1994, 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 1994 to 0.2 in 2000. In 2004, 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 1994 to 2004 has closed in both science reasoning, 0.5 to 0.3, and reading, 0.3 to 0.1, subject areas. In English, the nation closed the gap on Oklahoma, equaling its score for the first time in 2 years. The gap between Oklahoma and the nation in the subject area of math remains at 0.9 for the third consecutive year.

Oklahoma subject scores increased by 0.1 of a point in math, reading and science.

Student Participation

The following table compares Oklahoma high school graduates to the number taking the ACT. Since 1994, the participation rate increased from 67.3 to 71.2 percent.

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998 ¹	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
No. of Test Takers	21,854	23,038	22,897	24,134	24,874	25,755	26,902	26,908	26,717	27,009	26,556
No. of HS Grads ²	32,459	34,081	33,744	33,645	36,254	37,396	38,512	38,344	37,699	37,688	37,283 ³
% Taking ACT	67.3%	67.6%	67.9%	71.7%	68.7%	68.9%	69.9%	70.2%	70.9%	71.7%	71.2%

NOTE: ¹ACT revised the number of test-takers for 1998 through 2002. ²Actuals provided by SDE (some private school data are not collected).

³Estimate by OSRHE based on SDE enrollment data.

Core Curriculum

Since 1994, 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 2004 increased by 11 percentage points compared to those taking the core in 1994. 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	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
All	47%	47%	49%	51%	53%	52%	52%	52%	53%	59%	58%
African American	40%	44%	47%	46%	47%	48%	49%	47%	51%	55%	58%
Native American	42%	46%	46%	46%	46%	47%	46%	45%	46%	52%	58%
Asian American	64%	60%	66%	67%	65%	69%	67%	66%	70%	75%	77%
White	51%	51%	51%	54%	55%	53%	54%	54%	54%	61%	66%
Mexican American	47%	47%	43%	52%	49%	49%	52%	47%	49%	51%	63%
Hispanic American	48%	44%	49%	54%	55%	56%	50%	53%	47%	65%	60%

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

Since 1994, the percentage of African American students taking the core curriculum increased 18 percentage points, more than any other ethnic group. Native Americans followed closely with an increase of 16 percentage points. Of all ethnic groups, Asian Americans have the highest percentage of students taking the core curriculum (77 percent). Oklahoma core takers scored below their national counterparts on the ACT composite 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 1994 to 17.3 in 2004. Average scores have risen 0.1 of a point each of the last three years while out performing their national counterparts. The mean ACT for Native Americans in Oklahoma rose from 19.1 in 1994, to 19.6 in 2004. Oklahoma African Americans and Oklahoma Native Americans have consistently scored above their national counterparts since 2000. In 2004, national scores were 17.1 and 18.8, respectively.

State Comparisons

Oklahoma ranks 15th in the nation in percentage of students tested and 15th in average composite score, when compared to the 25 states that test 50 percent or more of their high school graduates.

When compared to the nation, Oklahoma students scored 0.3 of a point lower on the Average Composite Score; equaled the national average in English; scored 0.9 of point lower in math; 0.1 of a point lower in reading; and 0.3 of a point lower in science. When compared to the highest composite score, Oklahoma's average score was 1.6 points lower. The gaps for the following subject scores were English (1.1), math (2.3), reading (1.3), and science (1.6).

**2004 ACT Average Scores
By Composite Score From States with 50 Percent or More of
High School Graduates Taking ACT**

State	Percent of Graduates Tested	Average Composite Score	Average English Score	Average Math Score	Average Reading Score	Average Science Score	Ranked By Composite Score
Minnesota	66	22.2	21.4	22.0	22.6	22.3	1
Wisconsin	68	22.2	21.5	22.1	22.5	22.2	1
Iowa	67	22.0	21.4	21.8	22.4	22.1	3
Montana	56	21.7	20.8	21.4	22.4	21.7	4
Nebraska	77	21.7	21.2	21.5	22.0	21.6	4
Kansas	75	21.6	21.1	21.4	22.0	21.5	6
Missouri	70	21.5	21.4	20.9	22.0	21.4	7
South Dakota	75	21.5	20.7	21.4	21.8	21.6	7
Utah	67	21.5	20.9	20.9	22.2	21.4	7
Michigan	68	21.4	20.5	21.1	21.8	21.5	10
Ohio	66	21.4	20.7	21.1	21.9	21.5	10
Wyoming	70	21.4	20.6	21.0	22.2	21.4	10
Idaho	59	21.3	20.4	20.9	22.0	21.2	13
North Dakota	81	21.2	20.2	21.3	21.5	21.4	14
Nation	40	20.9	20.4	20.7	21.3	20.9	
Oklahoma	69	20.6	20.4	19.8	21.2	20.6	15
Tennessee	87	20.5	20.6	19.7	21.0	20.3	16
West Virginia	65	20.5	20.6	19.4	21.1	20.3	16
Arkansas	73	20.4	20.6	19.5	20.8	20.1	18
Colorado	100	20.3	19.5	20.0	20.6	20.4	19
Illinois	99	20.3	19.7	20.2	20.5	20.2	19
Kentucky	75	20.3	19.8	19.7	20.9	20.4	19
Alabama	76	20.2	20.3	19.5	20.5	20.1	22
New Mexico	61	20.1	19.4	19.4	20.8	20.2	23
Louisiana	87	19.8	19.9	19.2	19.9	19.7	24
Mississippi	91	18.8	18.9	17.9	19.0	18.8	25