

Table 135.—American College Testing (ACT) score¹ averages, by sex: 1970 to 1997

Type of test	1970	1975	1980	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Participants:²																		
Total (in thousands)	714	822	836	835	849	739	730	777	842	855	817	796	832	876	892	945	924	959
	Test scores ³																	
Composite, total	18.6	18.5	18.5	18.3	18.5	18.6	18.8	18.7	18.8	18.6	20.6	20.6	20.6	20.7	20.8	20.8	20.9	21.0
Male	19.5	19.3	19.3	19.1	19.3	19.4	19.6	19.5	19.6	19.3	21.0	20.9	20.9	21.0	20.9	21.0	21.0	21.1
Female	17.8	17.9	17.8	17.6	17.9	17.9	18.1	18.1	18.1	18.0	20.3	20.4	20.5	20.5	20.7	20.7	20.8	20.8
English, total	17.7	17.9	17.8	17.8	18.1	18.1	18.5	18.4	18.5	18.4	20.5	20.3	20.2	20.3	20.3	20.2	20.3	20.3
Male	17.1	17.3	17.3	17.3	17.5	17.6	17.9	17.9	18.0	17.8	20.1	19.8	19.8	19.8	19.8	19.8	19.8	19.9
Female	18.3	18.3	18.2	18.2	18.6	18.6	18.9	18.9	19.0	18.9	20.9	20.7	20.6	20.6	20.7	20.6	20.7	20.7
Math, total	17.6	17.4	17.3	16.9	17.3	17.2	17.3	17.2	17.2	17.1	19.9	20.0	20.0	20.1	20.2	20.2	20.2	20.6
Male	19.3	18.9	18.9	18.4	18.6	18.6	18.8	18.6	18.4	18.3	20.7	20.6	20.7	20.8	20.8	20.9	20.9	21.3
Female	16.2	16.2	16.0	15.7	16.1	16.0	16.0	16.1	16.1	16.1	19.3	19.4	19.5	19.6	19.6	19.7	19.7	20.1
Social studies, total ⁴	17.4	17.2	17.2	17.1	17.3	17.4	17.6	17.5	17.4	17.2	—	21.2	21.1	21.2	21.2	21.3	21.3	21.3
Male	18.7	18.2	18.3	18.0	18.1	18.3	18.6	18.4	18.4	18.1	—	21.3	21.1	21.2	21.1	21.1	21.0	21.2
Female	16.4	16.4	16.4	16.4	16.5	16.6	16.9	16.7	16.6	16.4	—	21.1	21.1	21.2	21.4	21.4	21.6	21.5
Natural science, total ⁵	21.1	21.1	21.0	20.9	21.0	21.2	21.4	21.4	21.4	21.2	—	20.7	20.7	20.8	20.9	21.0	21.1	21.1
Male	22.4	22.4	22.3	22.4	22.4	22.6	22.7	22.8	22.8	22.6	—	21.3	21.4	21.5	21.6	21.6	21.6	21.7
Female	20.0	20.0	20.0	19.6	19.9	20.0	20.2	20.1	20.2	20.0	—	20.1	20.1	20.3	20.4	20.5	20.5	20.6
	Percent																	
Obtaining composite scores of—																		
28 or above	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
17 or below	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26
Planned major field of study																		
Business ⁶	21	20	19	18	19	21	22	23	23	22	20	18	15	13	12	12	12	13
Engineering ⁷	6	8	10	10	9	9	9	8	9	9	9	10	10	9	9	8	8	9
Social science ⁸	9	6	6	6	7	7	8	9	10	11	10	10	10	9	9	8	8	9
Education ⁹	12	9	7	6	6	6	7	8	8	8	8	10	5	8	8	8	9	11

¹ Test scores for 1990 and later data are not comparable with previous years because a new version of the ACT was introduced. Estimated average composite scores for the new version for prior years were: 1989, 20.6; 1988, 1987, and 1986, 20.8; and 1982, 20.3.

² Beginning in 1985, data are for seniors who graduated in year shown and had taken the ACT in their junior or senior years.

³ Minimum score, 1; maximum score, 36.

⁴ Beginning in 1990, the test was changed to "reading."

⁵ Beginning in 1990, the test was changed to "science reasoning."

⁶ Includes political and persuasive (e.g., sales) fields through 1975; thereafter, business and commerce.

⁷ Beginning in 1993, includes engineering and engineering related technologies.

⁸ Includes religion through 1975.

⁹ Includes education and teacher education.

—Data not available.

SOURCE: The American College Testing program, *High School Profile Report*, annual. (This table was prepared July 1998.)