

Table 135. American College Testing (ACT) score averages and standard deviations, by sex: Selected years, 1995 to 2002

Type of test	Number							Standard deviation					
	1995	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Participants:													
Total (in thousands)	945	959	995	1,019	1,065	1,070	1,116	†	†	†	†	†	†
	Average test score ¹												
Composite, total	20.8	21.0	21.0	21.0	21.0	21.0	20.8	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.8
Male	21.0	21.1	21.2	21.1	21.2	21.1	20.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	5.0
Female	20.7	20.8	20.9	20.9	20.9	20.9	20.7	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.7
English, total	20.2	20.3	20.4	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.2	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.8
Male	19.8	19.9	19.9	20.0	20.0	20.0	19.7	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.8
Female	20.6	20.7	20.8	20.9	20.9	20.8	20.6	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.7
Mathematics, total	20.2	20.6	20.8	20.7	20.7	20.7	20.6	5.0	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Male	20.9	21.3	21.5	21.4	21.4	21.4	21.2	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.3
Female	19.7	20.1	20.2	20.2	20.2	20.2	20.1	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.8
Reading, total	21.3	21.3	21.4	21.4	21.4	21.3	21.1	6.1	6.0	6.0	6.1	6.0	6.1
Male	21.1	21.2	21.1	21.1	21.2	21.1	20.9	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.3
Female	21.4	21.5	21.6	21.6	21.5	21.5	21.3	6.0	5.9	5.9	6.0	6.0	6.1
Science reasoning, total	21.0	21.1	21.1	21.0	21.0	21.0	20.8	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.6
Male	21.6	21.7	21.8	21.5	21.6	21.6	21.3	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.9	4.9
Female	20.5	20.6	20.6	20.6	20.6	20.6	20.4	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.3
	Percent												
Obtaining composite scores of—													
27 or above ²	12	10	10	10	10	10	10	†	†	†	†	†	†
18 or below ³	35	26	25	25	25	25	27	†	†	†	†	†	†
Planned major field of study													
Business ⁴	13	12	12	12	11	11	10	†	†	†	†	†	†
Engineering ⁵	8	8	8	8	8	7	7	†	†	†	†	†	†
Social science ⁶	9	9	9	9	9	9	8	†	†	†	†	†	†
Education ⁷	8	9	9	9	9	8	8	†	†	†	†	†	†

† Not applicable.

¹ Minimum score, 1; maximum score, 36.

² Beginning in 1997, data are for scores of 28 or higher.

³ Beginning in 1997, data are for scores of 17 or lower.

⁴ Includes business and management, business and office, and marketing and distribution.

⁵ Includes engineering and engineering-related technologies.

⁶ Includes social science and philosophy, religion, and theology.

⁷ Includes education and teacher education.

SOURCE: The American College Testing program, *High School Profile Report*, selected years 1995 through 2002. (This table was prepared June 2003.)