

Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education  
**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
**of 2005 Oklahoma ACT Assessment Results**

### Overview

The mean ACT scores for 2005 high school graduating seniors who have taken the assessment are:

Oklahoma = 20.4      Nation = 20.9

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Oklahoma	20.3	20.5	20.6	20.5	20.6	20.8	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.6	20.4
National	20.8	20.9	21.0	21.0	21.0	21.0	21.0	20.8	20.8	20.9	20.9
Gap OK/Nat	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.5

Since 1995, the mean ACT score for Oklahoma and the nation increased by 0.1 of a point. The gap between Oklahoma and national composite scores decreased from a high of 0.5 of a point in 1995 to a low of 0.2 in 2000. In 2005, the gap between Oklahoma's ACT composite score and the nation's is again 0.5 of a point.

The gap between Oklahoma and the nation from 1995 to 2005 has closed in both science reasoning (0.6 to 0.5) and English (0.4 to 0.1) subject areas. In Reading, the gap between Oklahoma and the nation remained static at 0.3. The gap between Oklahoma and the nation in the subject area of math increased to 1.1, a 0.2 of a point increase. The previous gap in math was unchanged at 0.9 for three consecutive years.

Oklahoma subject scores declined in all subject areas; English (0.1), Math (0.2), Reading (0.2), and Science (0.2).

### Student Participation

The following table compares Oklahoma high school graduates to the number taking the ACT. Since 1995, the participation rate declined from 67.6 to 67.3 percent.

	1995	1996	1997	1998 <sup>1</sup>	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
No. of Test Takers	23,038	22,897	24,134	24,874	25,755	26,902	26,908	26,717	27,009	26,556	26,297
No. of HS Grads <sup>2</sup>	34,081	33,744	33,645	36,254	37,396	38,512	38,344	37,699	37,688	38,109	39,074 <sup>3</sup>
% Taking ACT	67.6%	67.9%	71.7%	68.7%	68.9%	69.9%	70.2%	70.9%	71.7%	69.7%	67.3%

NOTE: <sup>1</sup>ACT revised the number of test-takers for 1998 through 2002. <sup>2</sup>Actuals provided by SDE (some private school data are not collected). <sup>3</sup>Estimate by OSRHE based on SDE enrollment data.

### Core Curriculum

Since 1995, 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 9 percent. 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	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
All	47%	49%	51%	53%	52%	52%	52%	53%	59%	58%	56%
African American	44%	47%	46%	47%	48%	49%	47%	51%	55%	58%	52%
Native American	46%	46%	46%	46%	47%	46%	45%	46%	52%	58%	51%
Asian American	60%	66%	67%	65%	69%	67%	66%	70%	75%	77%	71%
Caucasian American	51%	51%	54%	55%	53%	54%	54%	54%	61%	66%	58%
Mexican American	47%	43%	52%	49%	49%	52%	47%	49%	51%	63%	53%
Hispanic American	44%	49%	54%	55%	56%	50%	53%	47%	65%	60%	51%

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

Since 1995, the percentage of Asian American students taking the core curriculum increased 11 percent, more than any other ethnic group. African Americans followed closely with an increase of 8 percent. Of all ethnic groups, Asian Americans have the highest percentage of students taking the core curriculum (71 percent). Oklahoma core takers scored below their national counterparts on the ACT composite by 0.3 of a point. Non-core takers lagged behind their national counterparts by 0.7 of a point.

**Minority Students**

The mean ACT for African Americans in Oklahoma increased from 16.9 in 1995 to 17.0 in 2005, matching the national norm. Prior to 2005 average scores had 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 19.2 in 1995 to 19.3 in 2005. Oklahoma African Americans and Oklahoma Native Americans have consistently scored at or above their national counterparts since 2000. In 2005, national scores were 17.0 and 18.7, respectively. It should be noted that of the Oklahoma test takers in 2005, 34 percent were minorities. This represents the largest participation by minority Oklahoma test takers. Minority participation has increased from 29 percent to 34 percent since 2001.

**State Comparisons**

Oklahoma is tied for 14<sup>th</sup> in the nation in percentage of students tested and 16<sup>th</sup> 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 below the national average in all areas. Students scored 0.5 a point below the average composite score; 0.1 of a point below the average English score; 0.9 of point lower in math; 0.3 of a point lower in reading; and 0.5 of a point lower in science. When compared to the state with the highest composite score, Oklahoma's average score was 1.9 points lower. The gaps for the following subject scores were English (1.3), math (2.5), reading (1.7), and science (2.0).

**2005 ACT Average Scores  
By Composite Score From States with 50 Percent or More of  
High School Graduates Taking ACT**

State	Percent of Graduate s Tested	Average Composite Score	Average English Score	Average Math Score	Average Reading Score	Average Science Score	Ranked By Composite Score
Minnesota	68	22.3	21.6	22.1	22.7	22.4	1
Wisconsin	69	22.2	21.5	22.0	22.4	22.3	2
Iowa	66	22.0	21.5	21.7	22.4	22.1	3
Nebraska	76	21.8	21.4	21.6	21.9	21.7	4
Montana	57	21.8	21.0	21.5	22.4	21.8	4
Kansas	76	21.7	21.2	21.4	22.1	21.6	6
Missouri	70	21.6	21.4	20.9	21.9	21.5	7
South Dakota	76	21.5	20.8	21.3	21.7	21.6	8
Utah	68	21.5	21.1	21.0	22.2	21.4	8
Michigan	69	21.4	20.7	21.2	21.8	21.6	10
Wyoming	69	21.4	20.6	21.0	22.0	21.4	10
Ohio	66	21.4	20.7	21.2	21.9	21.5	10
North Dakota	82	21.3	20.4	21.2	21.4	21.5	13
Idaho	58	21.3	20.5	20.9	21.9	21.2	13
<b>National</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>20.4</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>20.9</b>	
Tennessee	92	20.5	20.6	19.7	20.8	20.2	15
Kentucky	76	20.4	20.0	19.7	20.8	20.4	16
Oklahoma	69	20.4	20.3	19.6	21.0	20.4	16
West Virginia	65	20.4	20.5	19.3	20.9	20.4	16
Illinois	100	20.3	19.9	20.2	20.3	20.4	19
Arkansas	76	20.3	20.5	19.6	20.6	20.1	19
Colorado	100	20.2	19.3	20.0	20.6	20.2	21
Alabama	77	20.2	20.3	19.4	20.5	20.1	21
New Mexico	61	20.0	19.4	19.4	20.6	20.1	23
Louisiana	85	19.8	19.9	19.2	19.8	19.7	24
Mississippi	94	18.7	18.8	17.8	18.9	18.6	25