

Advanced Placement Examination Results in Texas and the United States, 2015-16

This report presents Advanced Placement (AP) examination participation and performance data for students in Texas and the United States in public and nonpublic schools combined. AP examination results are used by colleges and universities to make class placement decisions and to award college credit to incoming students who meet qualifying standards on the examinations.

Results presented in this report were obtained from summary reports released annually by the College Board. For additional information about AP examinations and results

reported by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) Division of Research and Analysis, including definitions of terms and explanations of calculations, please see *Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate General Information, 2015-16* (TEA, 2018b), and *Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Glossary of Terms, 2015-16* (TEA, 2018c). AP and International Baccalaureate results for Texas public schools are presented in the report *Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Examination Results in Texas Public Schools, 2015-16* (TEA, 2018a).

Advanced Placement Results for Texas and the United States

- In the 2015-16 school year, a total of 289,550 students in Texas public and nonpublic schools took 542,178 Advanced Placement (AP) examinations (Table 1). Texas ranked second in the nation in both number of AP examinees and number of AP examinations taken (Table 3 on page 5).
- Between 2014-15 and 2015-16, the number of AP examinations taken increased by 7.2 percent in Texas, compared to 5.0 percent in the United States as a whole (Table 1). The number of AP examinations with scores in the 3-5 range increased by 8.2 percent in Texas, compared to 5.0 percent in the United States. The percentage of examinations with scores in the 3-5 range increased by 0.4 percentage points in Texas and remained the same in the United States.
- In 2015-16, the percentage of AP examinees who reported their race/ethnicity to the College Board as African American, American Indian, Asian, Hispanic, Pacific Islander, or multiracial was considerably higher in Texas (66.1%) than the United States as a whole (46.0%) (Table 2 on page 4). In large part, the difference reflects the higher percentage of Hispanic AP examinees in Texas (45.4%), compared to the United States (22.4%).
- In 2015-16, the three AP examinations with the largest numbers of test takers in Texas were English Language and Composition, United States History, and World History (Table 4 on page 7). The three AP examinations with the largest numbers of test takers in the United States were English Language and Composition, United States History, and English Literature and Composition.
- Compared to the United States, Texas had higher percentages of examinees with scores in the 3-5 range on 4 out of 37 examinations: European History, Music Theory, Chinese Language and Culture, and Italian Language and Culture.

Table 1
Advanced Placement (AP) Examination Trends, Texas and the United States, 2005-06
Through 2015-16

Year	Examinees		Examinations		Examinations with scores of 3-5		Scores in 3-5 range (%)	
	Texas	U.S.	Texas	U.S.	Texas	U.S.	Texas	U.S.
2005-06	122,969	1,312,523	224,168	2,266,038	108,824	1,345,521	48.5	59.4
2006-07	135,130	1,432,169	246,096	2,476,962	116,809	1,460,806	47.5	59.0
2007-08	147,241	1,546,020	270,466	2,674,296	125,779	1,534,686	46.5	57.4
2008-09	158,993	1,653,962	287,756	2,860,912	138,276	1,672,594	48.1	58.5
2009-10	179,320	1,802,144	325,571	3,134,686	153,539	1,802,472	47.2	57.5
2010-11	198,272	1,926,204	360,735	3,365,617	163,705	1,936,054	45.4	57.5
2011-12	207,321	2,046,377	374,091	3,594,696	179,021	2,114,995	47.9	58.8
2012-13	218,325	2,160,331	398,130	3,824,691	190,042	2,239,916	47.7	58.6
2013-14	238,161	2,281,499	434,001	4,056,283	211,192	2,380,263	48.7	58.7
2014-15	268,918	2,416,329	505,790	4,343,547	231,124	2,495,907	45.7	57.5
2015-16	289,550	2,538,998	542,178	4,559,273	250,081	2,620,390	46.1	57.5

Source. Primary data from College Board. See, for example, College Board (2016a, 2016b).

Note. Data are based on public and nonpublic school examinees.

Table 2
Advanced Placement (AP) Examinees, by Grade Level, Race/Ethnicity, and Gender, Texas and the United States, 2015-16

Examinee group	Number		Percent		Change from previous year (percentage-point)	
	Texas	U.S.	Texas	U.S.	Texas	U.S.
9th/10th grade	98,608	666,093	34.1	26.2	2.0	1.7
11th grade	98,804	922,587	34.1	36.3	-0.3	0.0
12th grade	81,272	898,980	28.1	35.4	-0.5	-0.8
11th/12th grade	180,076	1,821,567	62.2	71.7	-0.8	-0.8
African American	21,040	186,348	7.3	7.3	-0.6	-0.6
American Indian	786	8,345	0.3	0.3	-0.2	-0.2
Asian	29,436	295,180	10.2	11.6	n/a ^a	n/a
Hispanic	131,464	568,367	45.4	22.4	4.9	4.3
Pacific Islander	312	4,469	0.1	0.2	n/a	n/a
White	94,153	1,330,635	32.5	52.4	-2.9	-2.3
Multiracial	8,357	106,083	2.9	4.2	n/a	n/a
Other	192	2,142	0.1	0.1	n/a	n/a
Not stated	3,810	37,429	1.3	1.5	-1.7	-1.8
Female	161,617	1,432,109	55.8	56.4	0.4	0.4
Male	127,933	1,106,889	44.2	43.6	-0.4	-0.4
Total	289,550	2,538,998	100	100	n/a	n/a

Source. Primary data from College Board. See, for example, College Board (2016a, 2016b).

Note. Data are based on public and nonpublic school examinees. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding. Numbers of examinees by grade level may not sum to the totals because the totals include students who took examinations before Grade 9.

^aNot applicable. Some racial/ethnic categories reported by the testing company changed in 2015-16 and are not comparable to those reported the previous year. See *Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Glossary of Terms, 2015-16* (TEA, 2018c), for additional information.

Table 3
Advanced Placement (AP) Examination Results, Grades 11 and 12, by State and for the United States, 2015-16

State	Enrollment		Examinees		Examinations	
	Number	Taking at least 1 AP exam (%)	Number	Change from previous year (%)	Number	Scoring 3-5 (%)
Alabama	101,264	27.5	27,817	5.4	50,959	39.4
Alaska	18,703	17.6	3,300	-1.6	5,589	59.5
Arizona	153,166	24.3	37,176	5.9	67,035	57.1
Arkansas	67,024	40.9	27,444	3.6	47,415	33.2
California	956,952	41.2	393,916	6.5	743,280	57.8
Colorado	122,240	38.9	47,505	4.1	80,434	60.6
Connecticut	80,832	42.3	34,222	1.3	64,134	71.0
Delaware	17,790	37.9	6,742	3.8	12,027	57.8
District of Columbia	7,396	86.1	6,367	7.0	11,642	53.0
Florida	380,054	54.7	207,817	3.9	377,517	50.9
Georgia	220,391	44.3	97,571	4.7	170,743	57.7
Hawaii	22,456	39.6	8,898	7.7	14,222	52.0
Idaho	41,221	16.4	6,756	9.8	11,297	62.5
Illinois	289,636	39.0	112,917	7.3	207,679	64.1
Indiana	151,363	32.2	48,803	5.0	81,952	50.4
Iowa	71,060	18.7	13,267	6.6	21,081	60.9
Kansas	67,517	15.3	10,363	3.4	16,703	61.8
Kentucky	89,498	38.3	34,233	-2.4	56,289	51.3
Louisiana	83,840	27.1	22,679	6.2	32,565	40.5
Maine	25,979	33.2	8,638	1.7	15,327	59.1
Maryland	115,363	57.3	66,098	1.5	124,479	62.7
Massachusetts	138,857	44.6	61,887	4.7	113,869	68.4
Michigan	234,774	26.7	62,601	5.2	103,427	63.8
Minnesota	133,277	32.8	43,780	2.3	71,136	65.9
Mississippi	58,970	15.9	9,401	20.0	14,437	33.3
Missouri	132,084	19.4	25,610	6.0	42,080	63.9
Montana	20,082	15.9	3,193	-1.7	5,024	64.4
Nebraska	45,049	17.0	7,648	3.4	13,135	58.5
Nevada	63,981	29.9	19,142	9.9	34,669	49.3
New Hampshire	27,142	27.9	7,565	8.8	12,456	71.1

Source. Primary data from College Board. See, for example, College Board (2016a).

Note. Data are based on public and nonpublic school examinees and enrollees.

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Table 3 (continued)

Advanced Placement (AP) Examination Results, Grades 11 and 12, by State and for the United States, 2015-16

State	Enrollment		Examinees		Examinations	
	Number	Taking at least 1 AP exam (%)	Number	Change from previous year (%)	Number	Scoring 3-5 (%)
New Jersey	196,008	36.4	71,380	6.6	138,332	69.8
New Mexico	42,613	25.2	10,756	15.5	16,915	38.1
New York	378,013	41.9	158,280	3.0	278,524	62.9
North Carolina	202,537	38.2	77,465	3.3	145,001	53.6
North Dakota	14,928	12.7	1,894	7.4	2,746	61.5
Ohio	236,893	29.2	69,263	6.0	121,044	65.0
Oklahoma	89,955	19.9	17,895	3.2	30,850	47.0
Oregon	84,535	23.5	19,839	4.7	31,867	60.3
Pennsylvania	263,304	27.3	71,795	5.0	127,676	66.9
Rhode Island	19,421	34.0	6,606	5.2	11,933	59.4
South Carolina	94,681	32.6	30,878	6.5	49,504	58.3
South Dakota	16,862	15.7	2,643	-5.1	4,210	67.9
Tennessee	135,980	24.7	33,654	8.2	55,907	58.3
Texas	672,277	43.1	289,550	7.7	542,178	46.1
Utah	83,707	31.7	26,573	6.1	41,274	66.2
Vermont	10,950	34.1	3,732	-1.8	6,448	65.5
Virginia	178,511	43.7	77,962	<0.1	154,578	63.2
Washington	163,304	31.4	51,255	2.0	87,068	60.2
West Virginia	35,697	22.7	8,086	3.5	13,232	42.7
Wisconsin	130,937	33.8	44,210	6.8	74,560	65.9
Wyoming	12,824	15.0	1,926	9.0	2,824	55.9
U.S.	7,001,898	36.3	2,538,998	5.1	4,559,273	57.5

Source. Primary data from College Board. See, for example, College Board (2016a).

Note. Data are based on public and nonpublic school examinees and enrollees.

Table 4
Advanced Placement (AP) Examinations and Scores, by Subject, Texas and the United States, 2015-16

Examination	Examinations				Scores			
	Number		Percent		Scoring in		Mean score	
	Texas	U.S.	Texas	U.S.	3-5 range (%)		Texas	U.S.
English Language and Composition	69,966	539,357	12.9	11.8	43.4	55.2	2.5	2.8
United States History	59,746	485,262	11.0	10.6	39.5	52.4	2.3	2.7
World History	55,255	281,446	10.2	6.2	39.8	51.3	2.3	2.6
English Literature and Composition	43,136	397,705	8.0	8.7	45.0	54.4	2.5	2.8
Physics 1	33,791	161,197	6.2	3.5	21.7	38.3	1.8	2.3
Government and Politics: U.S.	32,863	294,911	6.1	6.5	36.6	50.7	2.2	2.6
Human Geography	32,468	182,138	6.0	4.0	43.9	51.6	2.4	2.7
Spanish Language and Culture	28,969	153,213	5.3	3.4	86.1	89.3	3.6	3.8
Economics: Macroeconomics	25,567	124,879	4.7	2.7	37.9	55.5	2.3	2.8
Calculus AB	24,184	294,456	4.5	6.5	48.4	59.0	2.6	2.9
Biology	19,894	231,976	3.7	5.1	50.1	60.8	2.6	2.8
Psychology	17,667	284,882	3.3	6.2	52.2	64.0	2.7	3.1
Statistics	16,459	198,553	3.0	4.4	55.8	60.4	2.7	2.9
Environmental Science	14,059	147,376	2.6	3.2	41.7	45.4	2.4	2.6
Chemistry	12,610	144,792	2.3	3.2	41.3	52.3	2.3	2.6
Calculus BC	9,210	112,695	1.7	2.5	75.6	81.5	3.6	3.8
Computer Science A	6,060	54,379	1.1	1.2	60.3	63.8	2.9	3.0
Spanish Literature and Culture	5,965	23,144	1.1	0.5	61.7	69.0	2.8	3.0
Physics C: Mechanics	4,623	47,978	0.9	1.1	71.0	76.3	3.4	3.5
European History	4,383	107,351	0.8	2.4	59.0	52.3	2.9	2.7
Physics 2	3,703	23,443	0.7	0.5	48.6	59.2	2.6	2.8
Economics: Microeconomics	3,644	70,569	0.7	1.5	42.4	65.7	2.3	3.0
Studio Art: 2D Design	3,117	29,834	0.6	0.7	75.3	82.2	3.2	3.4
Art History	2,775	24,870	0.5	0.5	57.5	61.2	2.9	2.9
Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism	2,678	20,396	0.5	0.4	61.6	69.0	3.2	3.4
Music Theory	2,165	18,639	0.4	0.4	61.7	59.4	3.0	3.0
Studio Art: Drawing	1,821	17,794	0.3	0.4	79.9	82.6	3.3	3.4
French Language and Culture	1,405	20,068	0.3	0.4	59.1	74.8	2.8	3.3
Seminar	852	11,459	0.2	0.3	64.3	71.9	2.7	2.9
Studio Art: 3D Design	616	4,935	0.1	0.1	71.9	74.6	3.1	3.2

Source. Primary data from College Board (2016a, 2016b).

Note. Data are based on public and nonpublic school examinees. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding.

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Table 4 (continued)
Advanced Placement (AP) Examinations and Scores, by Subject, Texas and the United States, 2015-16

Examination	Examinations				Scores			
	Number		Percent		Scoring in 3-5 range (%)		Mean score	
	Texas	U.S.	Texas	U.S.	Texas	U.S.	Texas	U.S.
Chinese Language and Culture	611	10,256	0.1	0.2	92.6	92.5	4.3	4.2
Government and Politics: Comparative	541	20,911	0.1	0.5	46.2	61.9	2.6	3.1
Latin	535	6,557	0.1	0.1	60.4	65.6	2.8	3.0
German Language and Culture	345	4,565	0.1	0.1	52.2	68.8	2.8	3.2
Research	324	2,518	0.1	0.1	48.5	65.3	2.7	3.0
Japanese Language and Culture	104	2,150	<0.1	<0.1	61.5	76.7	3.1	3.6
Italian Language and Culture	67	2,619	<0.1	0.1	94.0	70.6	4.0	3.2

Source. Primary data from College Board (2016a, 2016b).

Note. Data are based on public and nonpublic school examinees. Parts may not add to 100 percent because of rounding.

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Abstract. This report presents Advanced Placement (AP) examination participation and performance results in Texas and the United States for the 2015-16 school year. The results are for public and nonpublic schools combined and are presented by race/ethnicity and gender.

The report is available in PDF format on the agency website at http://tea.texas.gov/acctres/ap_ib_index.html. Additional information about this report may be obtained by contacting the Texas Education Agency Division of Research and Analysis by phone at (512) 475-3523 or by e-mail at Research@tea.texas.gov.

For additional information about AP examinations, contact the College Board Southwestern Regional Office at (866) 392-3017 or <http://www.collegeboard.org/>.



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