

## Advanced Placement Examination Results in Texas and the United States, 2019-20

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.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the College Board administered AP examinations online in 2020 and tailored the examination content to topics and skills most AP teachers and students had covered in class by early March (College Board, 2020f). For further information, please see *Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate General Information, 2019-20* (TEA, forthcoming-b).

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, 2019-20* (TEA, forthcoming-b), and *Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Glossary of Terms, 2019-20* (TEA, forthcoming-c). 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, 2019-20* (TEA, forthcoming-a).

## Advanced Placement Results for Texas and the United States

- In the 2019-20 school year, a total of 291,838 students in all grades in Texas public and nonpublic schools took 531,744 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 2018-19 and 2019-20, the number of AP examinations taken decreased by 11.1 percent in Texas, compared to 6.8 percent in the United States as a whole (Table 1). The number of AP examinations with scores in the 3-5 range decreased by 1.3 percent in Texas and increased by 0.6 percent in the United States. The percentage of examinations with scores in the 3-5 range increased by 5.4 percentage points in Texas and by 4.7 percentage points in the United States.
- In 2019-20, 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 (47.5%) (Table 2 on page 4). In large part, the difference reflects the higher percentage of Hispanic AP examinees in Texas (42.7%), compared to the United States (22.5%).
- Of the four most populous states in the country in 2019-20, New York had the highest AP examination participation rate (32.0%) among public school students in Grades 11 and 12, followed by California (27.0%), Florida (25.2%), and Texas (22.7%) (Table 4 on page 7). All four states had higher participation rates than the United States as a whole (21.9%).
- For public and nonpublic schools combined in the four most populous states, New York had the highest percentage of examinations with scores in the 3-5 range (66.3%), followed by California (65.4%), Florida (61.6%), and Texas (53.8%). New York and California had higher percentages of examinations with scores in the 3-5 range than the United States as a whole (63.9%), while Florida and Texas had lower percentages.
- Among students in all grades in 2019-20, the three AP examinations with the largest numbers of test takers in Texas, in rank order, were English Language and Composition, World History: Modern, and United States History (Table 5 on page 8). The three AP examinations with the largest numbers of test takers in the United States, in rank order, 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 2 out of 38 examinations: Chinese Language and Culture, and Italian Language and Culture.

**Table 1**  
**Advanced Placement (AP) Examination Trends, Texas and the United States, 2009-10**  
**Through 2019-20**

Year	Texas examinees	U.S. examinees	Texas exams	U.S. exams	Texas exams with scores of 3-5	U.S. exams with scores of 3-5	Texas scores in 3-5 range (%)	U.S. scores in 3-5 range (%)
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
2016-17	310,793	2,665,203	584,179	4,803,422	270,805	2,762,298	46.4	57.5
2017-18	318,150	2,727,480	594,643	4,923,072	286,847	2,877,811	48.2	58.5
2018-19	325,088	2,743,034	598,008	4,930,147	292,337	2,913,627	48.9	59.1
2019-20	291,838	2,564,090	531,744	4,592,820	288,475	2,932,042	54.3	63.8

Source. Primary data from College Board. See, for example College Board (2020c, 2020e).

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, 2019-20**

Examinee group	Texas examinees (N)	U.S. examinees (N)	Texas examinees (%)	U.S. examinees (%)	Texas change from previous year (percentage-point)	U.S. change from previous year (percentage-point)
9th/10th grade	119,229	798,284	40.9	31.1	2.5	2.0
11th grade	94,602	942,800	32.4	36.8	1.1	1.3
12th grade	73,314	812,903	25.1	31.7	-1.7	-1.8
11th/12th grade	167,916	1,755,703	57.5	68.5	-0.6	-0.5
African American	18,564	164,577	6.4	6.4	-0.5	-0.8
American Indian	1,574	13,923	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.2
Asian	37,537	338,995	12.9	13.2	1.5	0.6
Hispanic	124,537	576,712	42.7	22.5	-4.2	-1.8
Pacific Islander	287	4,077	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1
White	90,621	1,259,122	31.1	49.1	1.6	0.0
Multiracial	10,070	119,202	3.5	4.6	0.5	0.2
Not stated	8,648	87,482	3.0	3.4	1.2	1.4
Female	165,003	1,458,046	56.5	56.9	0.4	0.3
Male	126,445	1,102,175	43.3	43.0	-0.6	-0.4
Another	390	3,869	0.1	0.2	n/a <sup>a</sup>	n/a
Total	291,838	2,564,090	100	100	n/a	n/a

Source. Primary data from College Board (2019c, 2019e, 2020c, 2020e).

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 outside of Grades 9-12, or because of missing data or data errors.

<sup>a</sup>Not applicable.

**Table 3**  
**Advanced Placement (AP) Examination Results, by State and the United States, 2019-20**

State	Examinees (M)	Change in examinees from previous year (%)	Exams (M)	Exams scoring 3-5 (%)
Alabama	23,820	-19.2	43,642	49.6
Alaska	2,888	-7.0	4,753	59.5
Arizona	36,489	-10.7	66,182	62.8
Arkansas	22,228	-19.8	38,354	46.6
California	397,479	-6.1	742,029	65.7
Colorado	51,536	-4.1	87,356	65.8
Connecticut	36,118	-3.6	67,166	74.8
Delaware	7,307	-3.7	12,957	65.1
District of Columbia	5,735	-13.7	10,795	65.1
Florida	204,457	-6.0	373,471	61.7
Georgia	88,080	-8.5	161,767	64.1
Hawaii	8,721	-11.8	14,148	60.9
Idaho	8,201	-3.8	13,681	57.9
Illinois	122,913	-4.5	222,331	67.0
Indiana	48,205	-7.4	82,957	57.2
Iowa	12,220	-10.5	18,650	62.1
Kansas	9,762	-3.8	15,862	66.6
Kentucky	30,085	-11.1	48,732	58.2
Louisiana	21,522	-14.9	32,607	50.0
Maine	6,904	-20.1	11,521	65.9
Maryland	64,502	-2.9	118,492	70.2
Massachusetts	62,355	-6.7	115,463	73.0
Michigan	62,249	-4.7	104,404	66.8
Minnesota	44,079	-3.5	71,369	66.8
Mississippi	8,209	-22.3	12,096	46.7
Missouri	26,345	-7.2	43,903	65.1
Montana	3,709	0.3	6,028	63.4
Nebraska	8,350	-9.7	13,546	60.7
Nevada	19,914	-10.8	34,196	56.6
New Hampshire	7,072	-7.5	11,559	73.8

Source. Primary data from College Board (2020c).

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

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**Table 3 (continued)**  
**Advanced Placement (AP) Examination Results, by State and the United States, 2019-20**

State	Examinees (M)	Change in examinees from previous year (%)	Exams (M)	Exams scoring 3-5 (%)
New Jersey	79,677	-1.4	157,432	75.0
New Mexico	9,706	-10.8	15,751	45.2
New York	180,410	0.2	320,574	67.0
North Carolina	78,161	-4.9	143,837	59.9
North Dakota	3,292	0.5	4,976	58.8
Ohio	69,121	-5.0	121,003	68.0
Oklahoma	14,298	-20.7	24,289	51.9
Oregon	19,359	-10.2	31,389	63.6
Pennsylvania	74,276	-4.1	132,032	70.7
Rhode Island	7,916	-3.0	13,833	65.4
South Carolina	32,942	-5.8	54,557	62.9
South Dakota	2,975	1.5	4,802	66.5
Tennessee	35,096	-12.6	59,397	59.8
<b>Texas</b>	<b>291,838</b>	<b>-10.2</b>	<b>531,744</b>	<b>54.3</b>
Utah	29,539	-0.5	45,042	67.2
Vermont	3,472	-8.6	6,056	70.4
Virginia	75,244	-5.4	148,670	66.3
Washington	49,449	-7.6	85,643	66.8
West Virginia	6,913	-14.2	11,140	49.4
Wisconsin	46,736	-1.9	77,323	67.0
Wyoming	2,216	-1.2	3,313	56.4
<b>United States</b>	<b>2,564,090</b>	<b>-6.5</b>	<b>4,592,820</b>	<b>63.8</b>

Source. Primary data from College Board (2020c).

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

**Table 4**  
**Advanced Placement (AP) Examination Results, Grades 11 and 12, Four Most Populous States and the United States, 2019-20**

State	Enrollment (N)	Students taking at least 1 AP exam (%)	Examinees (N)	Change in examinees from previous year (%)	Exams (N)	Exams scoring 3-5 (%)
California	938,045	27.0	253,507	-6.7	602,662	65.4
Florida	391,818	25.2	98,740	-6.5	257,757	61.6
New York	369,163	32.0	118,172	0.4	263,702	66.3
Texas	687,872	22.7	155,873	-11.8	378,921	53.8
United States	7,007,056	21.9	1,533,401	-7.7	3,583,416	63.9

Source. Primary data from College Board (2019a, 2019b, 2019c, 2019d, 2019e, 2020a, 2020b, 2020c, 2020d, 2020e).

Note. Data for enrollment and examinees are based on public schools only. Data for examinations are based on public and nonpublic schools combined.

**Table 5**  
**Advanced Placement (AP) Examinations and Scores, by Subject, Texas and the United States, 2019-20**

Exam	Texas exams (N)	U.S. exams (N)	Texas exams (%)	U.S. exams (%)	Texas scores in 3-5 range (%)	U.S. scores in 3-5 range (%)	Texas mean score	U.S. mean score
English Language and Composition	60,281	526,090	11.3	11.5	49.6	61.9	2.6	3.0
World History: Modern	57,899	299,228	10.9	6.5	48.5	59.9	2.6	2.9
United States History	51,391	469,062	9.7	10.2	47.2	58.6	2.5	2.8
Human Geography	44,020	214,001	8.3	4.7	48.7	58.7	2.4	2.7
English Literature and Composition	37,662	327,302	7.1	7.1	50.9	59.9	2.6	2.8
United States Government and Politics	29,824	292,128	5.6	6.4	50.4	57.5	2.6	2.8
Spanish Language and Culture	27,378	166,938	5.1	3.6	88.4	89.9	3.8	3.9
Physics 1	24,429	141,734	4.6	3.1	37.7	50.7	2.3	2.6
Biology	23,028	226,409	4.3	4.9	58.4	68.7	2.8	3.0
Macroeconomics	21,094	112,980	4.0	2.5	47.4	61.3	2.6	3.0
Calculus AB	20,481	254,041	3.9	5.5	51.0	60.8	2.7	3.1
Environmental Science	17,604	159,752	3.3	3.5	47.3	53.3	2.7	2.8
Psychology	17,555	285,244	3.3	6.2	64.6	71.0	3.0	3.2
Statistics	15,471	178,886	2.9	3.9	53.5	59.4	2.7	2.9
Chemistry	13,234	136,587	2.5	3.0	45.7	54.8	2.5	2.7
Calculus BC	10,029	115,347	1.9	2.5	76.6	81.3	3.7	3.8
Computer Science Principles	7,924	114,188	1.5	2.5	69.8	71.4	3.0	3.1
Computer Science A	6,581	65,000	1.2	1.4	67.2	69.7	3.1	3.2
Spanish Literature and Culture	5,169	23,391	1.0	0.5	67.4	74.4	3.0	3.2
European History	4,979	92,801	0.9	2.0	54.4	59.1	2.8	3.0
Capstone Seminar	4,899	49,802	0.9	1.1	78.8	80.3	3.0	3.0
Physics C: Mechanics	4,068	46,424	0.8	1.0	81.2	84.2	3.7	3.9
Microeconomics	3,865	69,651	0.7	1.5	40.4	66.3	2.4	3.2
2-D Art and Design	3,680	35,351	0.7	0.8	87.0	89.3	3.4	3.5
Art History	3,496	22,847	0.7	0.5	67.2	68.5	3.1	3.2
Physics 2	3,146	19,320	0.6	0.4	68.9	71.9	3.1	3.2
Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism	2,816	20,625	0.5	0.4	68.5	73.7	3.5	3.7
Drawing	2,231	19,240	0.4	0.4	84.1	88.7	3.4	3.6
Music Theory	1,841	16,233	0.3	0.4	66.3	68.9	3.2	3.3
Capstone Research	1,627	19,100	0.3	0.4	68.7	71.9	3.1	3.2

Source. Primary data from College Board (2020c, 2020e).

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 5 (continued)**  
**Advanced Placement (AP) Examinations and Scores, by Subject, Texas and the United States, 2019-20**

Exam	Texas exams ( <i>N</i> )	U.S. exams ( <i>N</i> )	Texas exams (%)	U.S. exams (%)	Texas scores in 3-5 range (%)	U.S. scores in 3-5 range (%)	Texas mean score	U.S. mean score
French Language and Culture	1,199	19,822	0.2	0.4	73.2	82.0	3.2	3.5
Chinese Language and Culture	760	12,815	0.1	0.3	90.7	87.5	4.2	4.0
3-D Art and Design	585	5,035	0.1	0.1	68.4	75.0	3.1	3.2
Comparative Government and Politics	496	20,378	0.1	0.4	62.7	69.7	3.1	3.3
Latin	491	5,821	0.1	0.1	62.3	69.1	2.9	3.1
German Language and Culture	352	4,576	0.1	0.1	62.5	72.4	3.1	3.4
Japanese Language and Culture	112	2,272	<0.1	<0.1	72.3	82.0	3.5	3.8
Italian Language and Culture	47	2,399	<0.1	0.1	76.6	74.5	3.5	3.2

*Source.* Primary data from College Board (2020c, 2020e).

*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 2019-20 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 <https://tea.texas.gov/reports-and-data/school-performance/accountability-research/advanced-placement-and-international-baccalaureate>. 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](mailto: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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