

## Advanced Placement Examination Results in Texas and the United States, 2014-15

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, 2014-15* (TEA, 2016b), and *Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Glossary of Terms, 2014-15* (TEA, 2016c). 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, 2014-15* (TEA, 2016a).

## Advanced Placement Results for Texas and the United States

- In 2014-15, a total of 268,918 students in Texas public and nonpublic schools took 505,790 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 2013-14 and 2014-15, the number of AP examinations taken increased by 16.5 percent in Texas, compared to 7.1 percent across the United States (Table 1). Although the numbers of AP examinations with scores in the 3-5 range increased from the previous year for both Texas and the United States, the percentages of examinations with scores in the 3-5 range decreased for both in 2014-15.
- In the 2014-15 school year, the percentage of AP examinees who reported their race/ethnicity to the College Board as African American, American Indian, Asian/Pacific Islander, or Hispanic was considerably higher in Texas (59.6%) than across the United States (38.9%) (Table 2 on page 4). In large part, the difference reflects the higher percentage of Hispanic AP examinees in Texas (40.5%), compared to the United States (18.1%).
- In 2014-15, 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 3 out of 36 examinations: European History, Chinese Language and Culture, and Italian Language and Culture.

**Table 1**  
**Advanced Placement (AP) Examination Trends, Texas and the United States, 2004-05**  
**Through 2014-15**

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.
2004-05	112,263	1,197,439	204,403	2,065,045	99,428	1,225,845	48.6	59.4
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

*Source.* Primary data from College Board. See, for example, College Board (2015a, 2015b).

*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, 2014-15**

Examinee group	Number		Percent		Change from previous year (percentage-point)	
	Texas	U.S.	Texas	U.S.	Texas	U.S.
9th/10th grade	86,217	592,271	32.1	24.5	1.8	1.0
11th grade	92,581	877,869	34.4	36.3	-0.8	-0.4
12th grade	76,840	874,047	28.6	36.2	-1.0	-0.8
11th/12th grade	169,421	1,751,916	63.0	72.5	-1.9	-1.2
African American	21,343	191,366	7.9	7.9	0.0	-0.2
American Indian	1,407	12,983	0.5	0.5	-0.1	-0.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	28,663	297,967	10.7	12.3	-0.1	-0.2
Hispanic	108,910	438,561	40.5	18.1	0.4	0.3
White	95,144	1,320,989	35.4	54.7	-1.9	-1.4
Other ethnicity	5,391	74,641	2.0	3.1	-0.2	-0.3
Not stated	8,060	79,822	3.0	3.3	1.9	1.7
Female	149,059	1,353,453	55.4	56.0	0.1	0.1
Male	119,859	1,062,876	44.6	44.0	-0.1	-0.1
Total	268,918	2,416,329	100	100	n/a <sup>a</sup>	n/a

*Source.* Primary data from College Board. See, for example, College Board (2015a, 2015b).

*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.

<sup>a</sup>Not applicable.

**Table 3**  
**Advanced Placement (AP) Examination Results, Grades 11 and 12, by State and for the United States, 2014-15**

State	Enrollment		Examinees		Examinations	
	Number	Taking at least 1 AP exam (%)	Number	Change from previous year (%)	Number	Scoring 3-5 (%)
Alabama	99,297	26.6	26,383	5.5	47,931	38.3
Alaska	18,512	18.1	3,355	13.7	5,759	59.1
Arizona	150,235	23.4	35,121	7.5	63,103	56.7
Arkansas	64,868	40.9	26,500	0.9	46,061	32.6
California	951,159	38.9	370,016	5.0	700,449	58.4
Colorado	119,818	38.1	45,633	3.6	77,067	60.2
Connecticut	80,934	41.7	33,783	5.2	62,564	70.6
Delaware	15,925	40.8	6,498	0.7	11,638	56.0
District of Columbia	6,808	87.4	5,950	5.9	10,898	51.4
Florida	365,806	54.7	200,061	2.1	365,132	50.4
Georgia	209,673	44.5	93,208	3.8	161,863	56.5
Hawaii	22,468	36.8	8,263	7.5	13,122	53.3
Idaho	39,657	15.5	6,151	8.6	10,442	61.6
Illinois	263,630	39.9	105,205	6.1	193,929	63.5
Indiana	134,719	34.5	46,466	4.7	77,086	50.8
Iowa	70,392	17.7	12,449	3.5	19,787	62.9
Kansas	64,070	15.6	10,023	3.3	16,350	61.8
Kentucky	90,353	38.8	35,069	4.4	56,684	50.3
Louisiana	80,940	26.4	21,350	14.8	30,751	38.2
Maine	25,900	32.8	8,495	-1.2	15,118	59.9
Maryland	115,921	56.2	65,109	-1.4	122,971	61.9
Massachusetts	136,621	43.3	59,105	6.2	107,925	68.2
Michigan	228,339	26.1	59,525	3.5	98,135	64.8
Minnesota	133,189	32.1	42,814	4.7	70,699	65.8
Mississippi	59,549	13.2	7,831	6.3	12,054	36.6
Missouri	124,907	19.3	24,164	7.9	39,510	63.9
Montana	19,886	16.3	3,247	-2.7	5,090	62.3
Nebraska	43,272	17.1	7,395	15.5	12,873	57.2
Nevada	61,781	28.2	17,423	11.6	31,449	49.3
New Hampshire	27,750	25.1	6,955	10.3	11,512	72.0

Source. Primary data from College Board. See, for example, College Board (2015a).

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, 2014-15**

State	Enrollment		Examinees		Examinations	
	Number	Taking at least 1 AP exam (%)	Number	Change from previous year (%)	Number	Scoring 3-5 (%)
New Jersey	194,025	34.5	66,956	7.1	129,982	70.3
New Mexico	41,197	22.6	9,314	2.8	14,942	40.2
New York	372,135	41.3	153,623	3.5	269,560	63.3
North Carolina	200,123	37.5	74,982	17.3	140,513	53.3
North Dakota	14,640	12.0	1,763	17.8	2,438	66.7
Ohio	221,420	29.5	65,367	6.0	114,370	65.5
Oklahoma	79,495	21.8	17,336	5.4	30,011	46.8
Oregon	84,101	22.5	18,943	10.7	30,672	60.5
Pennsylvania	248,319	27.5	68,396	6.2	121,013	67.3
Rhode Island	19,934	31.5	6,281	6.3	11,139	61.4
South Carolina	92,534	31.3	28,987	4.8	46,341	58.4
South Dakota	17,234	16.2	2,785	1.1	4,644	64.5
Tennessee	132,627	23.5	31,110	8.9	52,709	59.1
<b>Texas</b>	<b>633,974</b>	<b>42.4</b>	<b>268,918</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>505,790</b>	<b>45.7</b>
Utah	80,370	31.1	25,035	8.2	39,247	67.0
Vermont	11,145	34.1	3,802	-3.8	6,414	66.2
Virginia	175,932	44.3	77,939	0.4	155,426	61.5
Washington	161,041	31.2	50,268	6.6	84,866	60.9
West Virginia	37,005	21.1	7,812	7.6	12,745	42.3
Wisconsin	129,804	31.9	41,398	7.7	70,007	67.1
Wyoming	12,684	13.9	1,767	17.2	2,766	54.7
<b>U.S.</b>	<b>6,786,118</b>	<b>35.6</b>	<b>2,416,329</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>4,343,547</b>	<b>57.5</b>

Source. Primary data from College Board. See, for example, College Board (2015a).

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, 2014-15**

Examination	Examinations				Scores			
	Number		Percent		Scoring in 3-5 range (%)		Mean score	
	Texas	U.S.	Texas	U.S.	Texas	U.S.	Texas	U.S.
English Language and Composition	66,322	519,338	13.1	12.0	42.5	55.4	2.4	2.8
United States History	55,791	465,989	11.0	10.7	38.1	51.1	2.3	2.6
World History	53,911	261,912	10.7	6.0	40.1	51.8	2.3	2.6
English Literature and Composition	41,166	393,722	8.1	9.1	47.0	56.0	2.6	2.8
Physics 1	32,435	162,796	6.4	3.7	23.1	37.8	1.9	2.3
Government and Politics: U.S.	30,818	281,458	6.1	6.5	33.2	48.0	2.1	2.5
Spanish Language and Culture	27,748	142,723	5.5	3.3	86.1	90.0	3.6	3.8
Human Geography	25,309	157,451	5.0	3.6	45.3	53.6	2.4	2.7
Economics: Macroeconomics	23,371	117,563	4.6	2.7	35.2	53.0	2.2	2.7
Calculus AB	22,982	289,507	4.5	6.7	47.3	56.9	2.5	2.8
Biology	17,735	217,564	3.5	5.0	53.1	64.0	2.7	2.9
Statistics	16,276	188,481	3.2	4.3	50.8	57.3	2.6	2.8
Psychology	15,724	269,190	3.1	6.2	53.9	66.1	2.7	3.1
Environmental Science	13,457	136,975	2.7	3.2	39.6	46.8	2.4	2.6
Chemistry	12,316	144,412	2.4	3.3	41.1	52.1	2.3	2.6
Calculus BC	8,740	107,371	1.7	2.5	73.5	80.1	3.5	3.7
Computer Science A	5,172	46,344	1.0	1.1	61.7	63.8	3.0	3.1
Physics C: Mechanics	5,096	48,207	1.0	1.1	67.3	77.0	3.2	3.5
Spanish Literature and Culture	4,828	20,815	1.0	0.5	65.0	72.0	2.9	3.1
European History	3,812	105,481	0.8	2.4	67.1	63.0	2.9	2.7
Economics: Microeconomics	3,257	67,387	0.6	1.6	44.0	65.9	2.4	3.1
Physics 2	3,023	17,758	0.6	0.4	43.9	52.8	2.5	2.7
Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism	2,899	20,110	0.6	0.5	56.1	66.4	3.0	3.4
Studio Art: 2D Design	2,649	27,134	0.5	0.6	75.4	78.1	3.3	3.4
Art History	2,468	22,691	0.5	0.5	54.6	57.4	2.7	2.8
Music Theory	2,192	18,374	0.4	0.4	60.3	60.9	3.0	3.0
Studio Art: Drawing	1,839	17,404	0.4	0.4	75.0	77.8	3.2	3.3
French Language and Culture	1,416	20,678	0.3	0.5	58.3	74.1	2.8	3.2
Chinese Language and Culture	594	9,366	0.1	0.2	95.3	91.7	4.5	4.3
Studio Art: 3D Design	533	4,500	0.1	0.1	63.4	71.7	3.0	3.2

Source. Primary data from College Board (2015a, 2015b).

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, 2014-15**

Examination	Examinations				Scores			
	Number		Percent		Scoring in 3-5 range (%)		Mean score	
	Texas	U.S.	Texas	U.S.	Texas	U.S.	Texas	U.S.
Latin	520	6,540	0.1	0.2	54.8	63.5	2.7	3.0
Seminar	516	4,779	0.1	0.1	60.9	73.3	2.7	2.9
Government and Politics: Comparative	387	20,289	0.1	0.5	47.8	56.1	2.6	2.8
German Language and Culture	339	4,671	0.1	0.1	56.6	75.1	2.9	3.3
Japanese Language and Culture	109	2,139	<0.1	<0.1	57.8	75.0	2.9	3.6
Italian Language and Culture	40	2,428	<0.1	0.1	87.5	66.5	3.8	3.1

*Source.* Primary data from College Board (2015a, 2015b).

*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 2014-15 school year. The results are for public and nonpublic schools combined and are presented by race/ethnicity and gender.

**Keywords.** *Advanced placement, credit by examination, testing, high school, scores, gifted and talented.*

The report is available in PDF format on the agency website at [http://tea.texas.gov/acctres/ap\\_ib\\_index.html](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](mailto:Research@tea.texas.gov).

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