

Table 1: How Have College-Bound Seniors Changed in 10 years?

Based on college-bound seniors who took the SAT Reasoning Test™ prior to high school graduation in 1995, 2004, and 2005.

Course patterns are changing	1995	2004	2005
English Composition	73%	64%	62%
Grammar	78	67	65
Precalculus	37	46	48
Calculus	22	25	27
Physics	46	50	51
Chemistry	84	87	87
U.S. Government/Civics	70	66	67
Economics	49	45	45
Spanish	63	69	70

Fifty percent of students plan to pursue advanced degrees	1995	2004	2005
Certificate program	1%	1%	1%
Associate degree	2	1	1
Bachelor's degree	23	24	25
Master's degree	29	29	29
Doctoral/related degree	24	21	20
Other	1	1	1
Undecided	20	23	23

Students getting more A's than 10 years ago	1995	2004	2005
A+, A, A- grade averages	34%	41%	41%
B+, B, B- grade averages	50	47	47
C+, C, C- grade averages	15	11	11

About 3 in 4 students plan to apply for financial aid	1995	2004	2005
Plan to apply for financial aid	76%	73%	71%

Ethnic diversity has increased over past decade	1995	2004	2005
American Indian/Alaskan Native	1%	1%	1%
Asian/Asian American/Pacific Islander	8	10	10
African American or Black	11	12	12
Mexican American	4	5	5
Puerto Rican	1	1	1
Other Hispanic	3	4	4
White	69	63	62
Other	3	4	4

Health careers are most popular	1995	2004	2005
Health-Related	19%	17%	17%
Business/Commerce	13	13	14
Social Sciences/History	12	10	9
Engineering	9	9	8
Education	8	8	8
Arts: Visual and Performing	6	8	8
Biological Sciences	6	6	6
Computer/Information Sciences	3	5	4

Verbal up 4 points, Math up 14 from 10 years ago	1995	2004	2005
Verbal	504	508	508
Male	505	512	513
Female	502	504	505
Math	506	518	520
Male	525	537	538
Female	490	501	504

More than half of parents have a Bachelor's degree or higher	1995	2004	2005
No high school diploma	5%	5%	4%
High school diploma	35	33	32
Associate degree	8	9	9
Bachelor's degree	28	28	29
Graduate degree	25	25	26

Grades* higher than 10 years ago**	1995	2004	2005
Art and Music	3.68	3.74	3.75
English	3.19	3.29	3.30
Foreign/Classical Languages	3.15	3.25	3.26
Mathematics	3.01	3.10	3.11
Natural Sciences	3.12	3.22	3.23
Social Sciences/History	3.26	3.36	3.36
Grade average for all subjects	3.20	3.30	3.30

**Based on 4-point system, where A = 4.00

Language diversity is increasing	1995	2004	2005
English	83%	79%	78%
English and another	9	13	13
Another language	8	9	9

Little change in U.S. citizenship	1995	2004	2005
U.S. citizenship	92%	92%	92%
Permanent resident	4	3	3
Citizen of another country	3	4	5

Majority still from public schools	1995	2004	2005
Public	83%	83%	83%
Nonpublic	17	17	17

Women continue to be a majority but decline in male SAT takers appears to be abating	1995	2004	2005
Percentage of women	54%	53%	53%

(Women became the majority in the early 1970s)

*High school grade point averages are based upon the number of SAT Reasoning Test™ takers for all years displayed. Previously, this number was calculated using the number of all students who registered for either the SAT Reasoning Test or SAT Subject Tests™, but who did not necessarily take any SAT Program test. Historical GPA values were recalculated to allow for valid comparison across years.