

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 1996, 2005, and 2006.

Course patterns are changing	1996	2005	2006
English Composition	72%	62%	62%
Grammar	76	65	66
Precalculus	38	48	50
Calculus	23	27	28
Physics	47	51	53
Chemistry	84	87	88
U.S. Government/Civics	70	67	67
Economics	48	45	45
Spanish	64	70	70

Fifty percent of students plan to pursue advanced degrees	1996	2005	2006
Certificate program	1%	1%	1%
Associate degree	2	1	1
Bachelor's degree	23	25	25
Master's degree	29	29	30
Doctoral/related degree	24	20	20
Other	1	1	1
Undecided	20	23	22

Students getting more A's than 10 years ago	1996	2005	2006
A+, A, A- grade averages	36%	41%	43%
B+, B, B- grade averages	49	47	46
C+, C, C- grade averages	15	11	11

About 3 in 4 students plan to apply for financial aid	1996	2005	2006
Plan to apply for financial aid	76%	71%	72%

Ethnic diversity has increased over past decade	1996	2005	2006
American Indian or Alaska Native	1%	1%	1%
Asian, Asian Am., or Pacific Islander	9	10	10
Black or African American	11	12	11
Mexican or Mexican American	4	5	5
Puerto Rican	1	1	1
Other Hispanic, Latino, or Latin Am.	3	4	5
White	69	62	62
Other	3	4	4

Health careers are most popular	1996	2005	2006
Health-Related	19%	17%	18%
Business/Commerce	13	14	15
Social Sciences/History	11	9	9
Arts: Visual and Performing	6	8	9
Engineering	8	8	8
Education	8	8	8
Biological Sciences	6	6	6
Communications	4	4	4
Computer/Information Sciences	3	4	4

Critical reading down 2 points, math up 10 from 10 years ago	1996	2005	2006
Critical Reading	505	508	503
Male	507	513	505
Female	503	505	502
Mathematics	508	520	518
Male	527	538	536
Female	492	504	502
Writing*	-	-	497
Male	-	-	491
Female	-	-	502

More than half of parents have a Bachelor's degree or higher	1996	2005	2006
No high school diploma	4%	4%	4%
High school diploma	35	32	31
Associate degree	8	9	8
Bachelor's degree	28	29	30
Graduate degree	25	26	27

Grades higher than 10 years ago**	1996	2005	2006
Art and Music	3.69	3.75	3.77
English	3.20	3.30	3.33
Foreign/Classical Languages	3.16	3.26	3.29
Mathematics	3.02	3.11	3.14
Natural Sciences	3.14	3.23	3.25
Social Sciences/History	3.28	3.36	3.39
Grade average for all subjects	3.21	3.30	3.33

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

Language diversity is increasing	1996	2005	2006
English	83%	78%	77%
English and another	9	13	14
Another language	8	9	9

Little change in U.S. citizenship	1996	2005	2006
U.S. citizenship	92%	92%	92%
Permanent resident	5	3	3
Citizen of another country	3	5	4

Majority still from public schools	1996	2005	2006
Public	83%	83%	83%
Nonpublic	17	17	17

Women continue to be a majority	1996	2005	2006
Women test-takers	53%	53%	54%

(Women became the majority in the early 1970s)

*Writing data are based on students who took the current version of the SAT Reasoning Test, first administered in March 2005. Of the 1,465,744 students in this report, 1,376,745 students have scores on the SAT writing section.