

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 1997, 2006, and 2007.

Course patterns are changing	1997	2006	2007
English Composition	71%	62%	66%
Precalculus	40	50	53
Calculus	23	28	30
Physics	48	53	54
Chemistry	85	88	89
U.S. Government/Civics	70	67	70
Economics	48	45	48
Spanish	65	70	70

Fifty percent of students plan to pursue advanced degrees	1997	2006	2007
Certificate program	1%	1%	1%
Associate degree	2	1	1
Bachelor's degree	23	25	26
Master's degree	30	30	30
Doctoral/related degree	24	20	20
Other	1	1	1
Undecided	20	22	22

Students getting more A's than 10 years ago	1997	2006	2007
A+, A, A- grade averages	37%	43%	43%
B+, B, B- grade averages	49	46	45
C+, C, C- grade averages	14	11	11

About 3 in 4 students plan to apply for financial aid	1997	2006	2007
Plan to apply for financial aid	76%	72%	71%

Ethnic diversity has increased over past decade	1997	2006	2007
American Indian or Alaska Native	1%	1%	1%
Asian, Asian Am., or Pacific Islander	9	10	10
Black or African American	11	11	12
Mexican or Mexican American	4	5	4
Puerto Rican	1	1	1
Other Hispanic, Latino, or Latin Am.	3	5	6
White	68	62	61
Other	3	4	4

Health careers are most popular	1997	2006	2007
Health-Related	19%	18%	19%
Business/Commerce	13	15	15
Arts: Visual and Performing	7	9	9
Education	9	8	8
Engineering	8	8	8
Biological Sciences	6	6	6

Critical reading down 3 points, math up 4 from 10 years ago	1997	2006	2007
Critical Reading	505	503	502
Male	507	505	504
Female	503	502	502
Mathematics	511	518	515
Male	530	536	533
Female	494	502	499
Writing*	-	497	494
Male	-	491	489
Female	-	502	500

More than half of parents have a Bachelor's degree or higher	1997	2006	2007
No high school diploma	4%	4%	4%
High school diploma	34	31	31
Associate degree	8	8	9
Bachelor's degree	28	30	30
Graduate degree	25	27	26

Grades higher than 10 years ago**	1997	2006	2007
Art and Music	3.71	3.77	3.78
English	3.22	3.33	3.33
Foreign/Classical Languages	3.18	3.29	3.30
Mathematics	3.03	3.14	3.14
Natural Sciences	3.15	3.25	3.25
Social Sciences/History	3.29	3.39	3.39
Grade average for all subjects	3.23	3.33	3.33

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

Language diversity is increasing	1997	2006	2007
English	82%	77%	77%
English and another	9	14	15
Another language	8	9	9

Little change in U.S. citizenship	1997	2006	2007
U.S. citizenship	92%	92%	92%
Permanent resident	4	3	3
Citizen of another country	3	4	4

Majority still from public schools	1997	2006	2007
Public	83%	83%	84%
Nonpublic	17	17	16

Women continue to be a majority	1997	2006	2007
Women test-takers	54%	54%	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 1,494,531 students in the 2007 cohort, 1,491,749 students have scores on the SAT writing section. Of the 1,465,744 students in the 2006 cohort, 1,376,745 students had scores on the SAT writing section.