

Advanced Placement Examination Results in Texas and the United States, 2020-21

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 offered AP examinations in 2021 in both digital and paper formats. All examinations were full length and covered the full scope of AP course content (College Board, 2021f). For further information, please see *Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate General Information, 2020-21* (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, 2020-21* (TEA, forthcoming-b), and *Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Glossary of Terms, 2020-21* (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, 2020-21* (TEA, forthcoming-a).

Advanced Placement Results for Texas and the United States

- In the 2020-21 school year, a total of 293,295 students in all grades in Texas public and nonpublic schools took 527,371 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 2019-20 and 2020-21, the number of AP examinations taken decreased by 0.8 percent in Texas, compared to 4.1 percent in the United States as a whole (Table 1). The number of AP examinations with scores in the 3-5 range decreased by 16.1 percent in Texas and by 17.2 percent in the United States. The percentage of examinations with scores in the 3-5 range decreased by 8.4 percentage points in Texas and by 8.7 percentage points in the United States.
- In 2020-21, 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 (66.9%) than the United States as a whole (48.1%) (Table 2 on page 4). In large part, the difference reflects the higher percentage of Hispanic AP examinees in Texas (42.8%), compared to the United States (22.3%).
- Of the four most populous states in the country in 2020-21, New York had the highest AP examination participation rate (28.8%) among public school students in Grades 11 and 12, followed by California (23.7%), Florida (23.1%), and Texas (20.6%) (Table 4 on page 7). All four states had higher participation rates than the United States as a whole (19.7%).
- For public and nonpublic schools combined in the four most populous states, California had the highest percentage of examinations with scores in the 3-5 range (54.8%), followed by New York (54.6%), Florida (50.5%), and Texas (45.9%). All four states had lower percentages of examinations with scores in the 3-5 range than the United States as a whole (55.0%).
- Among students in all grades in 2020-21, 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: Music Theory and Italian Language and Culture.

Table 1
Advanced Placement (AP) Examination Trends, Texas and the United States, 2010-11
Through 2020-21

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 (%)
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
2020-21	293,295	2,464,265	527,371	4,402,538	241,933	2,426,473	45.9	55.1

Source. Primary data from College Board. See, for example College Board (2021c, 2021e).

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, 2020-21

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	121,635	780,284	41.5	31.7	0.6	0.6
11th grade	93,381	905,676	31.8	36.8	-0.6	0.0
12th grade	73,737	769,788	25.1	31.2	0.0	-0.5
11th/12th grade	167,118	1,675,464	57.0	68.0	-0.5	-0.5
African American	20,148	167,783	6.9	6.8	0.5	0.4
American Indian	2,155	16,367	0.7	0.7	0.2	0.2
Asian	37,999	333,986	13.0	13.6	0.1	0.4
Hispanic	125,640	548,614	42.8	22.3	0.1	-0.2
Pacific Islander	297	3,559	0.1	0.1	0.0	-0.1
White	89,469	1,202,671	30.5	48.8	-0.6	-0.3
Multiracial	9,886	116,006	3.4	4.7	-0.1	0.1
Not stated	7,701	75,279	2.6	3.1	-0.4	-0.3
Female	162,505	1,383,478	55.4	56.1	-1.1	-0.8
Male	129,961	1,072,564	44.3	43.5	1.0	0.5
Another	829	8,223	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1
Total	293,295	2,464,265	100	100	n/a ^a	n/a

Source. Primary data from College Board (2020c, 2020e, 2021c, 2021e).

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.

^aNot applicable.

Table 3
Advanced Placement (AP) Examination Results, by State and the United States, 2020-21

State	Examinees (N)	Change in examinees from previous year (%)	Exams (N)	Exams scoring 3-5 (%)
Alabama	25,441	6.8	47,673	43.8
Alaska	2,346	-18.8	3,944	55.9
Arizona	33,995	-6.8	62,759	56.4
Arkansas	24,817	11.6	42,291	36.9
California	364,149	-8.4	682,691	55.6
Colorado	47,951	-7.0	80,970	69.1
Connecticut	33,864	-6.2	62,267	63.8
Delaware	7,062	-3.4	12,396	53.0
District of Columbia	5,664	-1.2	10,694	51.9
Florida	199,428	-2.5	366,150	50.9
Georgia	88,086	0.0	163,033	59.1
Hawaii	8,862	1.6	14,622	53.3
Idaho	7,751	-5.5	12,691	58.5
Illinois	117,917	-4.1	208,859	55.9
Indiana	49,492	2.7	84,502	50.2
Iowa	12,037	-1.5	18,489	57.8
Kansas	8,877	-9.1	14,491	62.5
Kentucky	26,362	-12.4	42,709	50.9
Louisiana	24,308	12.9	36,870	43.3
Maine	6,772	-1.9	11,180	55.8
Maryland	56,818	-11.9	101,843	60.6
Massachusetts	61,905	-0.7	114,891	62.3
Michigan	57,922	-7.0	97,610	60.0
Minnesota	39,592	-10.2	63,616	60.4
Mississippi	9,952	21.2	14,602	40.5
Missouri	25,815	-2.0	42,093	59.8
Montana	3,756	1.3	6,030	61.5
Nebraska	8,915	6.8	14,596	58.7
Nevada	18,224	-8.5	31,197	46.9
New Hampshire	6,760	-4.4	10,915	65.5

Source. Primary data from College Board (2021c).

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, 2020-21

State	Examinees (M)	Change in examinees from previous year (%)	Exams (M)	Exams scoring 3-5 (%)
New Jersey	78,018	-2.1	153,413	62.8
New Mexico	8,502	-12.4	13,595	37.1
New York	172,526	-4.4	311,603	55.7
North Carolina	77,808	-0.5	142,181	51.6
North Dakota	3,130	-4.9	4,603	56.8
Ohio	68,871	-0.4	121,258	61.3
Oklahoma	13,858	-3.1	23,039	50.1
Oregon	14,607	-24.5	23,280	59.1
Pennsylvania	70,193	-5.5	125,244	63.1
Rhode Island	6,807	-14.0	12,018	52.7
South Carolina	32,857	-0.3	53,828	58.6
South Dakota	2,990	0.5	4,880	67.3
Tennessee	38,607	10.0	66,007	55.8
Texas	293,295	0.5	527,371	45.9
Utah	28,709	-2.8	43,006	65.3
Vermont	2,958	-14.8	5,000	60.6
Virginia	70,893	-5.8	136,778	59.1
Washington	41,772	-15.5	72,091	62.0
West Virginia	6,324	-8.5	10,014	41.8
Wisconsin	44,390	-5.0	73,301	61.5
Wyoming	2,310	4.2	3,354	51.3
United States	2,464,265	-3.9	4,402,538	55.1

Source. Primary data from College Board (2021c).

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, 2020-21

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	972,246	23.7	230,461	-9.1	553,750	54.8
Florida	413,214	23.1	95,634	-3.1	251,559	50.5
New York	386,566	28.8	111,330	-5.8	255,097	54.6
Texas	753,353	20.6	154,857	-0.7	372,789	45.9
United States	7,370,980	19.7	1,454,126	-5.2	3,414,310	55.0

Source. Primary data from College Board (2020a, 2020b, 2020c, 2020d, 2020e, 2021a, 2021b, 2021c, 2021d, 2021e).

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, 2020-21

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	59,214	508,763	11.2	11.6	46.5	57.5	2.6	2.9
World History: Modern	58,419	297,683	11.1	6.8	41.2	51.8	2.4	2.7
United States History	48,887	450,509	9.3	10.2	39.4	47.1	2.3	2.5
Human Geography	47,487	207,728	9.0	4.7	40.9	52.1	2.3	2.7
English Literature and Composition	38,098	314,370	7.2	7.1	37.3	43.7	2.3	2.5
United States Government and Politics	28,902	282,172	5.5	6.4	41.5	50.4	2.4	2.6
Spanish Language and Culture	24,600	146,619	4.7	3.3	72.3	79.8	3.2	3.4
Physics 1	23,559	129,136	4.5	2.9	28.8	40.6	2.0	2.4
Biology	23,531	221,732	4.5	5.0	49.0	58.7	2.6	2.8
Macroeconomics	21,951	111,968	4.2	2.5	35.3	48.6	2.2	2.6
Calculus AB	20,704	238,333	3.9	5.4	41.6	50.2	2.4	2.7
Psychology	17,387	276,539	3.3	6.3	46.6	52.7	2.5	2.7
Environmental Science	17,386	157,659	3.3	3.6	46.0	50.1	2.5	2.7
Statistics	16,294	173,660	3.1	3.9	50.3	57.0	2.6	2.8
Chemistry	11,927	126,166	2.3	2.9	42.4	49.7	2.4	2.6
Computer Science Principles	10,127	113,443	1.9	2.6	60.5	66.2	2.8	3.0
Calculus BC	9,742	112,098	1.8	2.5	67.9	75.1	3.4	3.6
Computer Science A	7,190	67,632	1.4	1.5	59.8	64.1	2.9	3.1
Spanish Literature and Culture	5,052	21,044	1.0	0.5	55.0	63.9	2.7	2.9
European History	4,415	82,830	0.8	1.9	53.0	54.2	2.8	2.8
Capstone Seminar	4,345	50,292	0.8	1.1	82.6	84.6	3.2	3.2
Microeconomics	3,961	65,203	0.8	1.5	31.8	55.2	2.1	2.8
Physics C: Mechanics	3,543	42,116	0.7	1.0	72.5	72.8	3.3	3.3
2-D Art and Design	3,307	32,887	0.6	0.7	84.1	86.9	3.3	3.4
Art History	2,814	19,868	0.5	0.5	53.3	55.2	2.8	2.8
Physics 2	2,475	16,228	0.5	0.4	58.5	63.0	2.9	3.0
Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism	2,439	17,139	0.5	0.4	62.0	67.4	3.1	3.4
Drawing	2,136	17,272	0.4	0.4	80.5	85.9	3.3	3.5
Capstone Research	2,086	22,631	0.4	0.5	79.5	81.2	3.2	3.3
Music Theory	1,991	16,073	0.4	0.4	63.3	61.1	3.1	3.0

Source. Primary data from College Board (2021c, 2021e).

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, 2020-21

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	1,080	17,190	0.2	0.4	60.9	69.8	2.8	3.1
Chinese Language and Culture	670	11,256	0.1	0.3	84.9	86.5	4.0	4.0
3-D Art and Design	516	4,316	0.1	0.1	66.3	70.6	3.0	3.1
Latin	382	4,872	0.1	0.1	51.6	56.8	2.6	2.8
Comparative Government and Politics	352	17,215	0.1	0.4	53.1	71.2	2.6	3.1
German Language and Culture	279	3,957	0.1	0.1	49.1	62.4	2.6	3.0
Japanese Language and Culture	103	1,946	<0.1	<0.1	61.2	71.4	3.2	3.5
Italian Language and Culture	20	1,993	<0.1	<0.1	85.0	71.3	4.0	3.2

Source. Primary data from College Board (2021c, 2021e).

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 2020-21 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.

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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