

## SAT and ACT Scores

**Average Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and American College Testing Program (ACT) scores for college-bound high school seniors, by sex: 1951-52 to 1989-1990**

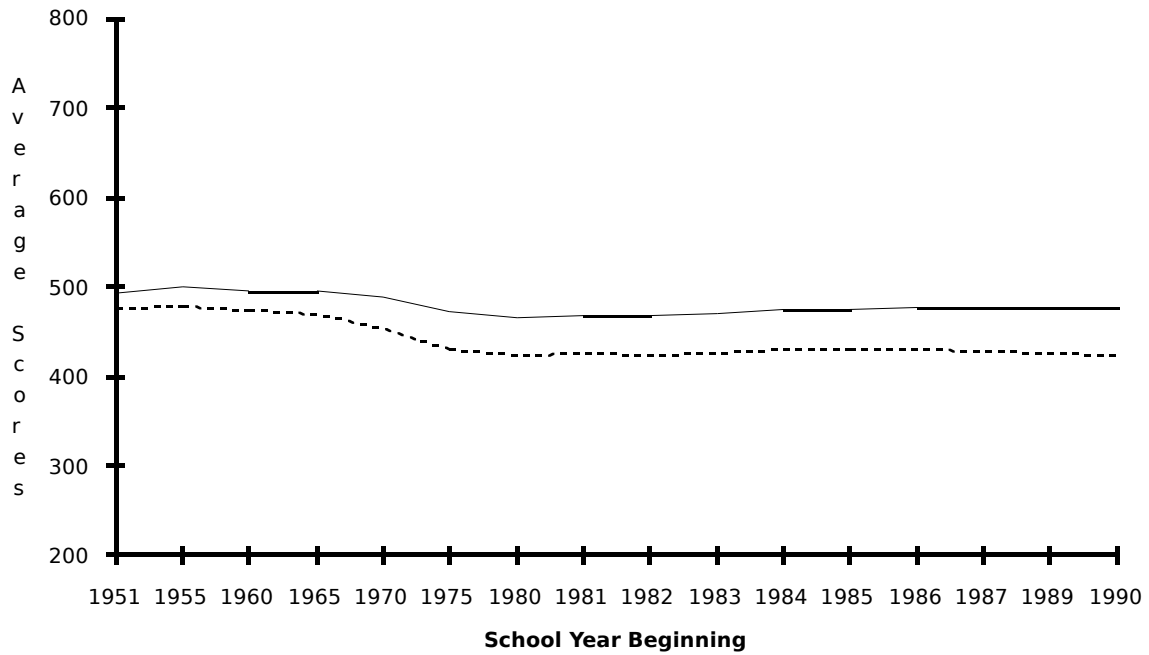
Scores School year	Average SAT Scores						Average ACT
	Verbal score			Mathematics score			Composite
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	
1951-52	476	-	-	494	-	-	-
1955-56	479	-	-	501	-	-	-
1960-61	474	-	-	495	-	-	-
1965-66	471	-	-	496	-	-	-
1970-71	455	454	457	488	507	466	19.2
1975-76	431	433	430	472	497	446	18.3
1980-81	424	430	418	466	492	443	18.5
1981-82	426	431	421	467	493	443	18.4
1982-83	425	430	420	468	493	445	18.3
1983-84	426	433	420	471	495	449	18.5
1984-85	431	437	425	475	499	452	18.6
1985-86	431	437	426	475	501	451	18.8
1986-87	430	435	425	476	500	453	18.7
1987-88	428	435	422	476	498	455	18.8
1988-89	427	434	421	476	500	454	18.6
1989-90	424	429	419	476	499	455	-

- Data not Available

**NOTE:** The SAT scores range from 200 to 800 and the ACT scores range from 1 to 36. SAT data for years before 1970-71 are estimates.

**SOURCE:** America College Testing Program, High School Profile Report, 1988; and ACT News Release 1989. College Entrance Examination, College-Bound Seniors, 1990 Profile of SAT and Achievement Test Takers. (Copyright 1990 by the Colleg Entrance Examination Board. All rights reserved.); reprinted from Youth Indicators 1991, Trends in the Well-Being of American Youth, Office of Educational Research and Improvement U.S. Department of Education.

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**Legend**  
——— mathematics  
----- verbal

Between 1963-64 and 1980-81, scores on the SAT drifted downward, particularly in the verbal portion of the test. This trend changed in 1980, and some loss was recovered in the early 1980s. Only small changes in the scores have occurred since 1985. ACT scores declined in the early 1970s and have changed little since