

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 1998, 2007, and 2008.

Course patterns are changing	1998	2007	2008
Precalculus	42%	53%	51%
Calculus	25	30	27
Physics	50	54	52
Chemistry	86	89	89
U.S. Government/Civics	71	70	69
Economics	49	48	47
Spanish	67	70	71

Fifty percent of students plan to pursue advanced degrees	1998	2007	2008
Certificate program	1%	1%	1%
Associate degree	2	1	1
Bachelor's degree	23	26	27
Master's degree	31	30	31
Doctoral/related degree	23	20	19
Other	1	1	0
Undecided	19	22	21

Students getting more A's than 10 years ago	1998	2007	2008
A+, A, A- grade averages	38%	43%	42%
B+, B, B- grade averages	48	45	47
C+, C, C- grade averages	13	11	11

About 3 in 4 students plan to apply for financial aid	1998	2007	2008
Plan to apply for financial aid	76%	71%	71%

Ethnic diversity has increased over past decade	1998	2007	2008
American Indian or Alaska Native	1%	1%	1%
Asian, Asian Am., or Pacific Islander	9	10	11
Black or African American	11	12	12
Mexican or Mexican American	4	4	5
Puerto Rican	1	1	2
Other Hispanic, Latino, or Latin Am.	3	6	7
White	67	61	60
Other	3	4	4

Health careers are most popular	1998	2007	2008
Health-Related	18%	19%	19%
Business/Commerce	14	15	15
Arts: Visual and Performing	7	9	8
Education	9	8	7
Engineering	9	8	8
Biological Sciences	6	6	5

Critical reading down 3 points, math up 3 from 10 years ago	1998	2007	2008
Critical Reading	505	502	502
Male	509	504	504
Female	502	502	500
Mathematics	512	515	515
Male	531	533	533
Female	496	499	500
Writing*	-	494	494
Male	-	489	488
Female	-	500	501

More than half of parents have a Bachelor's degree or higher	1998	2007	2008
No high school diploma	4%	4%	5%
High school diploma	34	31	32
Associate degree	8	9	9
Bachelor's degree	28	30	30
Graduate degree	25	26	25

Grades higher than 10 years ago**	1998	2007	2008
Art and Music	3.72	3.78	3.75
English	3.23	3.33	3.34
Foreign/Classical Languages	3.19	3.30	3.28
Mathematics	3.05	3.14	3.12
Natural Sciences	3.17	3.25	3.24
Social Sciences/History	3.31	3.39	3.38
Grade average for all subjects	3.25	3.33	3.31

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

Language diversity is increasing	1998	2007	2008
English	82%	77%	76%
English and another	10	15	15
Another language	8	9	9

Little change in U.S. citizenship	1998	2007	2008
U.S. citizenship	92%	92%	93%
Permanent resident	4	3	3
Citizen of another country	3	4	4

Majority still from public schools	1998	2007	2008
Public	83%	84%	84%
Nonpublic	17	16	16

Women continue to be a majority	1998	2007	2008
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 1,518,859 students in the 2008 cohort, 1,518,176 students have scores on the SAT writing section. Of the 1,494,531 students in the 2007 cohort, 1,491,749 students had scores on the SAT writing section.