

## Candidate GPA, ACT and Related Indicators

The following tables display data related to the academic qualifications and characteristics of teacher education majors, teacher candidates and program completers. In this document, the following descriptors are used to define the relative 'place' of a student in the continuum:

- A teacher education major has declared a major in one of the eight teaching majors offered at DSU, but has not yet applied for, and been admitted to, the teacher education program.
- A teacher candidate is a student that has been admitted to the teacher education program at DSU but who has not completed their program of study and graduated with the Bachelor of Science in Education (BSED) degree.
- A program completer is a student that has completed all degree requirements and has been awarded the BSED degree.

One of the most commonly used admission criteria used by higher education institutions in the United States is the ACT. The ACT scores displayed below suggest that a higher percentage of high school students in South Dakota take the exam than do high school students, on average, nationally. South Dakota students that take the exam also score above the national average on all four sections of the test, and have a higher composite score than the national average.

Table 1

State	Percent of Graduates Tested	Average Composite Score	Average English Score	Average Math Score	Average Reading Score	Average Science Score
National	57	21.0	20.3	20.9	21.3	20.8
South Dakota	78	21.9	21.0	21.8	22.3	22.1

Source: <http://www.act.org/newsroom/data/2014/states.html>

Students that choose to attend Dakota State University have a higher average ACT score than the state average, with the average DSU student ACT score being 22.23. Students choosing a teacher education major have a slightly lower composite ACT score than their counterparts in other majors at the institution.

Table 2

Students currently enrolled, 2014-15	DSU	Teacher Education
n	1470	62
50th Percentile	22	21
40th Percentile	23	22
33rd Percentile	24	22
Mean	22.23	21.11
Variance	16.51	9.18
StDev	4.04	3.03

Source: Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Assessment, Dr. Jay Kahl, Director

A further analysis of the academic characteristics of program completers in the college (Table 3) suggest the following:

- High school GPA is a very good predictor of college GPA, as the average difference between the two is only approximately .022.
- The average high school class rank of an education major at DSU is in the top third of their graduating class (32.63%).
- The average ACT of a program completer at DSU is 22.25, slightly above the mean of all students admitted to DSU.

Table 3

High School GPA, Class Rank, ACT Scores and College CGPA of Program Completers							
Year	Average HS GPA	Average HS Class Rank	Average number of HS Graduates	Average % Rank of HS Class	Average ACT Score	Average SAT Score	Average Completer GPA
2011-12	3.414	38	125	32.01%	22		3.373
2012-13	3.383	46	122	32.80%	22	890	3.370
2013-14	3.471	38	128	32.66%	23		3.413
2014-15	3.371	67	179	33.06%	22	830	3.395
Average:	3.410				22.25		3.388

Basic academic skills in reading, writing and mathematics, as measured by the Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST – see Table 4) developed by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) are generally very strong, with the average reading score being 178.25 compared to a cut score of 173; 5.25 points above the cut score. The average writing score was 175.75 compared to a cut score of 172; 3.75 points above the cut score, and the average math score was 180.50 compared to a cut score of 171; 9.50 points above the cut score. Program completers were admitted to the teacher education program with an average GPA of 3.25 (Table 4). Once admitted and taking courses almost exclusively in their major, the average GPA rose to 3.39 at graduation (Table 3).

Table 4

Completer Information for Admission to Teacher Education				
Year	Average GPA at Admission to Teacher Education	Average PPST Reading Score (173)	Average PPST Writing Score (172)	Average PPST Math Score (171)
2011-12	3.23	179	176	180
2012-13	3.28	178	175	180
2013-14	3.26	178	176	181
2014-15	3.22	178	176	181
Average:	3.25	178.25	175.75	180.50
Points above the cut score:		5.25	3.75	9.50