Test Scores

General Information

**Content:** This page displays for enrolled students the principal scores used in admissions decisions, in three sections:

- GRE Quantitative, Verbal Reasoning and Writing scores for *new doctoral* students
- GRE Quantitative, Verbal Reasoning and Writing scores for *new masters* students
- Undergraduate Test Scores for *all bachelors and associate* students
  - SAT Critical Reading, Mathematics and Writing
  - ACT Composite Scores (with a link to component detail)

Other scores including TOEFL, Advanced Placement, and subject-area tests are available in UDW+ for ad hoc reporting.

**Data source:** Test score data are drawn from the Student Information System (PeopleSoft Campus Solutions), current as of the night before the dashboard is run. The scores displayed may differ slightly from official average scores reported from census data because they are drawn from current data.

**Reporting Year:** This page references the Fall semester. An academic year consists of a Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer term, which include two calendar years. The fall semester will refer to the calendar year in which the Fall semester occurs. For example, Fall 2012 refers to the fall semester that occurred in calendar year 2012.

**Dashboard organization:** The Test Score page displays average scores for the most recent four years. Links are provided to detail on the distribution of each score. The distributions may be displayed for a single or multiple years.

**Student population.** The scores of students enrolled in the fall semester are selected. Student counts are included to document the extent to which scores are available for the entire student population of the organizational unit selected. This comparison is particularly important for undergraduates who may take the SAT and/or the ACT.

On the Test Score main page scores for all undergraduates, rather than only new students, are included to provide departmental data. Because many new students have not declared a major limiting the selection to them would often provide sparse and possibly non-representative data. The new-student subset may be selected on the detail pages. Undergraduate non-matriculated and certificate students are excluded. By default all students belonging to the academic unit are displayed, but a single Academic Plan may be selected.

**Score selection:** Only official scores provided by the testing services are included. For ACT scores this includes scores relayed by schools from official sources. All self-reported scores are excluded. Specifically the score sources included are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score type</th>
<th>Source(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GRE</td>
<td>ETS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT</td>
<td>ETS, College Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACT</td>
<td>ACT, School</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When a student's record includes more than one score for a test component the highest is selected. Because the maximum is chosen for each component the reported scores may come from different test dates. See, for example, the selection of GRE scores for this hypothetical student.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Quantitative</th>
<th>Verbal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5-1-2013</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-1-2014</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selected</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Main page graph format:** To reveal small changes in average scores the y-axis of the column graphs on the main dashboard page do not begin at 0. In each case the y-axis ranges from approximately the 20th score percentile for all test takers nationwide to the maximum possible score. For example, the range for GRE Quantitative and Verbal Reasoning scores is 145–the 21st percentile for Quantitative Reasoning and 25th for Verbal Reasoning—to the maximum of 170. *Clicking the + at the left of the dashboard reveals the details of axis selection.*

**GRE Scores**

**GRE score types:** Displaying GRE score trends is complicated by a change in the Quantitative Reasoning and Verbal Reasoning tests that occurred in August 1, 2011. Tests administered prior to that date were scored on a scale of 200-800. The revised test is scored from 0 to 170. By default, the dashboard includes the scores of students who took the pre-2011 test, converted to the new scale by the concordance table provided.
by the Educational Testing Service (ETS). Converted scores may be omitted by selecting only Reported Score in the GRE Score Type filter at the top of the page.

**GRE time limit:** Consistent with the ETS policy of only releasing scores for five years after the test date, this dashboard excludes scores with test dates more than 6.25 years prior to the beginning of the term in which they are reported for new students. On the recommendation of John Henderson--Associate Director, Information Systems And Research in GSAS Admissions and Financial Aid/Enrollment Services--we allow six years to include test dates within five years of a student's application date plus an additional ~90 days leeway (a total of 2281 days)

**GRE score distribution:** The score distribution detail accessed via the GRE Score Detail link displays scores in six categories. For example, GRE Quantitative Reasoning scores are grouped in categories ranging from "145 or less" to "166-170." These categories are based on score percentiles for all individuals tested between August 1, 2011 and April 30, 2014 provided by ETS. They approximate ranges up to the 20th, 40th, 60th, 80th, 90th and 99th percentiles. For example, the top of the first category for Quantitative Reasoning, 145, is the 21st percentile.

**SAT and ACT Scores**

**Content:** The main dashboard page displays average scores on the three components of the SAT and the ACT Composite score. ACT component scores are included on the detail page.

**SAT score distribution:** The distribution of SAT scores is shown in two ways. A histogram shows the detailed distribution. That distribution is summarized in categories based on the distribution of all 2014 SAT scores. Most NYU students placed in the top three deciles, so their scores are summarized as falling in 10th decile, 9th decile, 8th decile, or below. The score summary for one or more years may be displayed.

**ACT score distribution:** The ACT detail page includes detailed and summarized distribution of the ACT composite score similar to the SATs. Detail on the six components of the ACT is also provided. Graphs display the average score for all components in a given term and the four-fall trend for one component. The categorization of ACT scores is based on 2014-15 scores reported by ACT.