
Pre- and Post-Covid College Readiness: SAT[®], HSGPA, and FYGPA Changes by Subgroups

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Abstract

Previous research has examined undergraduate student performance changes pre- and post-covid, overall and by institutional subgroupings. Standardized test scores tended to decline while high school and undergraduate grades increased. The current study expands upon this research by examining changes across student subgroups of interest, notably by gender, underrepresented minority students, and first-generation students.

Background

In the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, researchers studied the effects of disruptions to education practices and student learning. A number of studies reported that grades increased during and after the pandemic (Edwards et al., 2023; Supriya et al., 2021; Tillinghast et al., 2023), which added to the existing literature on the rising trends seen in college grades (Achen & Courant, 2009; Adelman, 2004; Bar et al., 2009; Bejar & Blew, 1981; Denning et al., 2021; Edwards, 2000; Johnson, 2006; Juola, 1976, 1980; Kostal et al., 2015; Kuh & Hu, 1999; Marini et al., 2018; Rojstaczer & Healy, 2010, 2012; Rosovsky & Hartley, 2002; Sabot & Wakeman-Linn, 1991; Shaw & Patterson, 2010; Sonner, 2000; Suslow, 1976; Willingham et al., 1990; Wilson, 1999; Yeritsyan et al., 2022). In addition to changes in college grades, researchers have found that ACT and National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) scores declined following the pandemic (ACT, 2003; National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), 2024), while high school grade point average (HSGPA) trended higher (Goldhaber & Goodman, 2023; Sanchez & Moore, 2022).

A recent study using data from four-year undergraduate institutions found a general trend of decreasing SAT scores after the pandemic while HSGPA and first-year GPA (FYGPA) trended upward (Westrick et al., 2024). SAT score decreases were largest at less-selective institutions, and FYGPA increases were largest at more-selective institutions. In addition to the quantitative analyses, that study also included a qualitative component, a survey of university faculty members on the academic readiness of students and grading standards pre- and post-covid. Many faculty members believed that both student readiness and grading standards had declined.

The current study is an extension of the Westrick et al. (2024) study. Whereas that study examined results for students overall and across institution types, the current study examines the trends for students disaggregated by gender, underrepresented minority (URM) students, and first-generation students. Our two research questions were as follows.

1. Are there differences in test score and high school and college grading trends for the following student subgroupings: gender, URM, and first-generation?
2. How might these trends differ for the student subgroups of interest across institution types?

Data and Methods

Sample: Data came from 22 four-year institutions with 46,440 students in the 2017 entering college cohort and 50,528 students in the 2021 entering college cohort, for a total sample of 96,968 students (57% female, 26% URM, and 20% first-generation). Thirteen of the institutions were public, and nine were private. Half of the institutions admitted no more than 50% of applicants (more-selective), and half of the institutions admitted more than 50% of applicants (less-selective).

Measures: High school measures of academic readiness include SAT scores and self-reported HSGPA. SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (ERW) and Math section scores range between 200 and 800, and SAT Total scores range between 400 and 1600. HSGPA is on a 0.00 to 4.33 scale. For college GPAs (0.00 to 4.00), we used course grade data from the institutions to calculate FYGPA, STEM GPA, and 11 academic domain-specific GPAs to examine grading differences across domains. Descriptive statistics are in Table 1.

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics for the Overall Sample

Measure	2017 Cohort			2021 Cohort		
	<i>N</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>SD</i>
SAT ERW Section Score	46,440	612	74	50,528	604	85
SAT Math Section Score	46,440	607	85	50,528	602	98
SAT Total Score	46,440	1219	144	50,528	1206	170
HSGPA	45,447	3.72	0.43	49,225	3.79	0.42
FYGPA	46,440	3.10	0.74	50,528	3.20	0.80
STEM GPA	42,550	2.86	0.93	45,520	2.99	0.96
Business and Communications GPA	17,754	3.17	0.85	20,597	3.33	0.83
Computer Science GPA	7,240	3.18	1.01	8,076	3.32	0.96
English GPA	34,438	3.31	0.83	35,631	3.40	0.91
Engineering GPA	4,233	3.29	0.83	4,385	3.27	0.91
Foreign and Classic Language GPA	12,674	3.34	0.83	12,310	3.46	0.81
Health Science GPA	8,265	3.40	0.86	8,571	3.54	0.80
History GPA	12,145	2.99	0.99	12,047	3.11	1.05
Humanities GPA	17,094	3.27	0.86	18,093	3.35	0.86
Math GPA	33,263	2.72	1.08	33,946	2.87	1.08
Natural Science GPA	31,711	2.88	0.95	33,062	3.00	0.98
Social Science GPA	36,778	3.13	0.88	39,630	3.26	0.89

Analyses: To assess practical differences across cohorts regarding the observed differences in their GPAs and SAT scores, we calculated standardized mean differences, d (Cohen, 1988), between the first (2017) and last (2021) cohorts with available data for this study within each institution. Differences greater than $|0.20|$ are considered differences of practical significance. As the number of students within each cohort and the standard deviations for the measures varied across cohorts, we used the pooled standard deviations to calculate each d value (Schmidt & Hunter, 2015). We meta-analyzed the institution-level results overall, and then by institutional subgroupings.

Before moving on to the results, we have two caveats. First, it is tempting to take aggregated means, standard deviations and students counts such as those presented in Table 1 and conduct a quick calculation of standardized mean differences. However, the unit of analysis is the institution, and the variance seen in measures at the institution level is nearly always smaller than that found when pooling data across institutions. As the estimated d values are calculated and weighted at the institution level for the meta-analyses, the estimated d values from the meta-analyses may differ from d values one would obtain by using the aggregated means, standard deviations, and student counts presented in Table 1 and other tables of descriptive statistics.

The second caveat is that even when the overall sample is quite large, the number of institutional studies and students for subgroup analyses can be quite small. In their discussion on detecting moderators in meta-analysis, Schmidt and Hunter (2015, p. 375) noted that “8 is a small number of studies for a meta-analysis.” We agree with that statement, but we also need to meet the needs of participating institutions, many of which want to know how their institutional results compare with similar institutions. Consequently, many of the subgroup analyses, particularly those broken out by both institutional control (public or private) and admission selectivity levels (more- or less-selective), should be interpreted with caution as they are based on results for a handful of institutions.

Results

The main findings presented focus on SAT Total scores, HSGPA, and FYGPA, measures that were common to all subgroups across all institutions. Analyses across academic domains can be found in the appendix.

For gender, overall (Figure 1) and institution-level analyses (Figures 2 and 3) found that SAT scores generally declined for both male and female students, but more so for female students. However, male students' SAT scores trended upwards at more-selective institutions. HSGPA and FYGPA trended upward for both genders, but slightly more so for male students, and noticeably more for male students at private more-selective institutions.

Figure 1. Standardized Mean Differences, 2017 versus 2021, by Gender

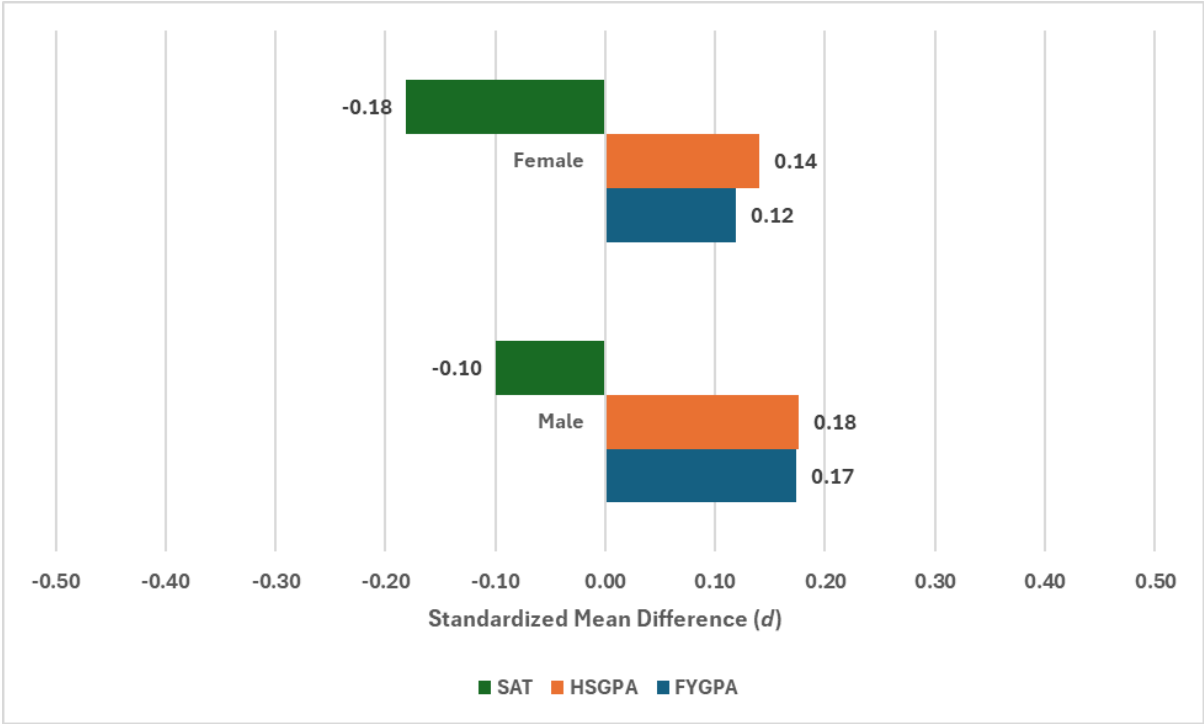


Figure 2. Standardized Mean Differences, 2017 versus 2021, by Gender at Less-Selective Institutions, Public and Private

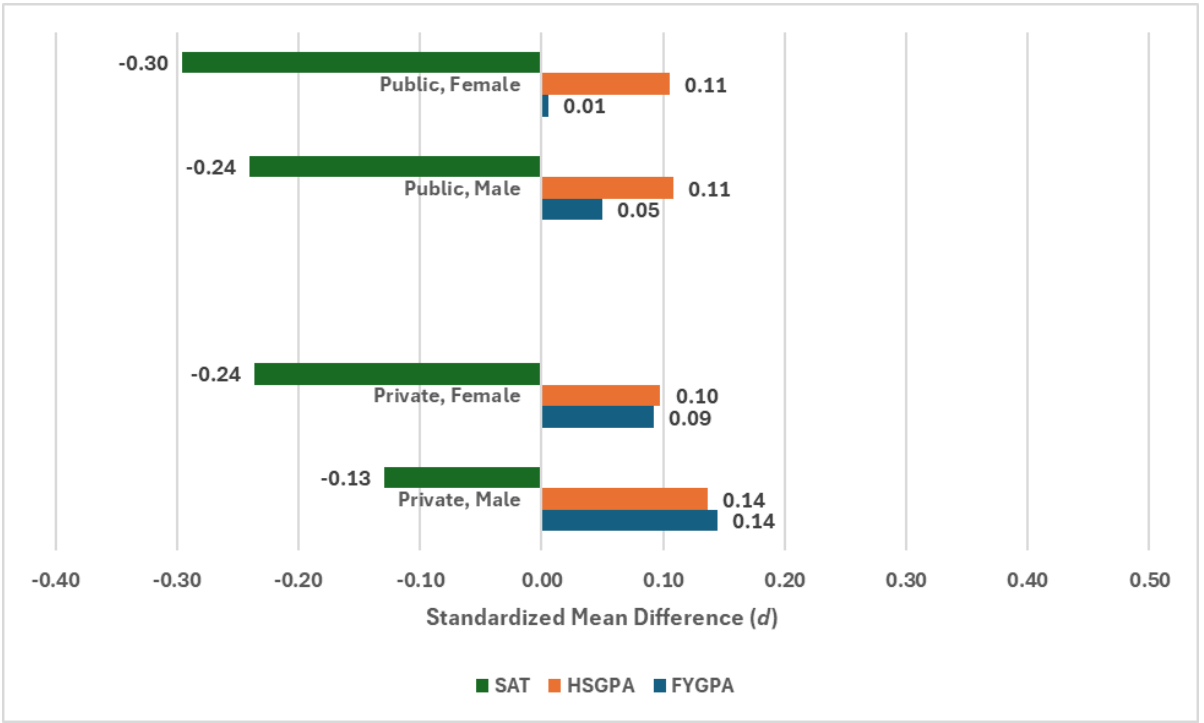
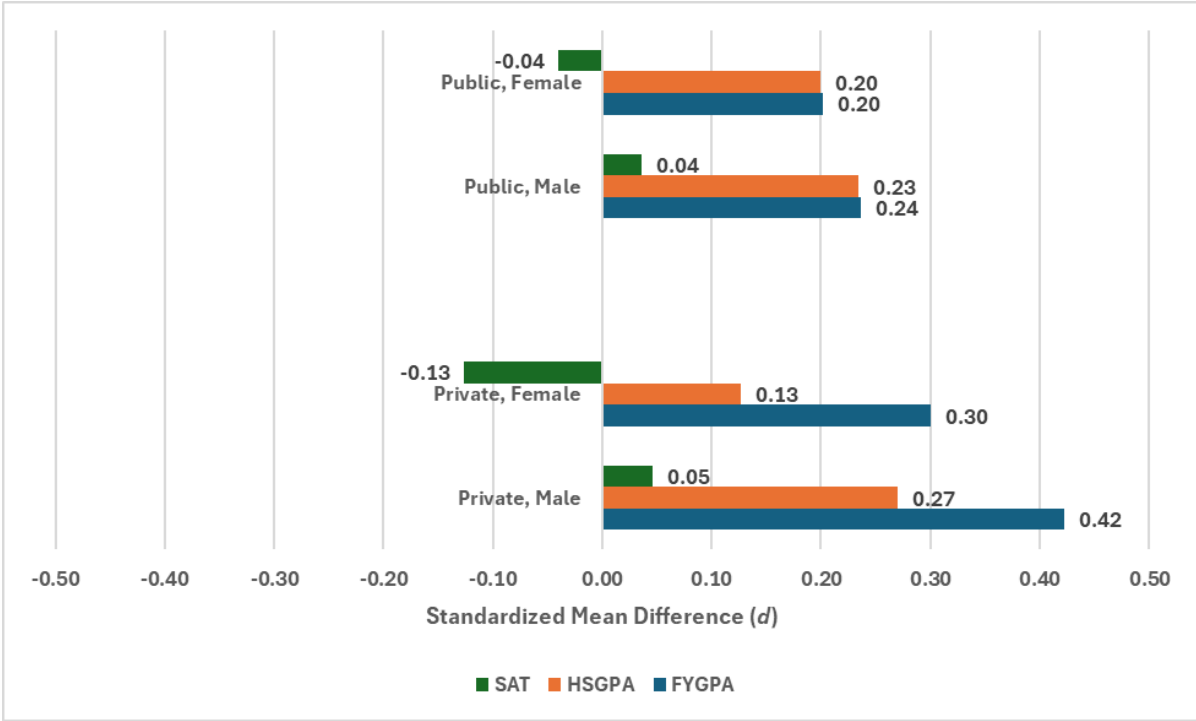


Figure 3. Standardized Mean Differences, 2017 versus 2021, by Gender at More-Selective Institutions, Public and Private



Analyses disaggregated by URM classification found that SAT scores generally declined for both URM and non-URM students, but more so for URM students. Increases in HSGPA were similar for both student subgroups but increases in FYGPA for non-URM students exceeded those for URM students. This was true in the overall analysis (Figure 4) and in three of the institution level analyses (Figures 5 and 6), the notable exception being at private, less-selective institutions.

Figure 4. Standardized Mean Differences, 2017 versus 2021, by Underrepresented Minority Category

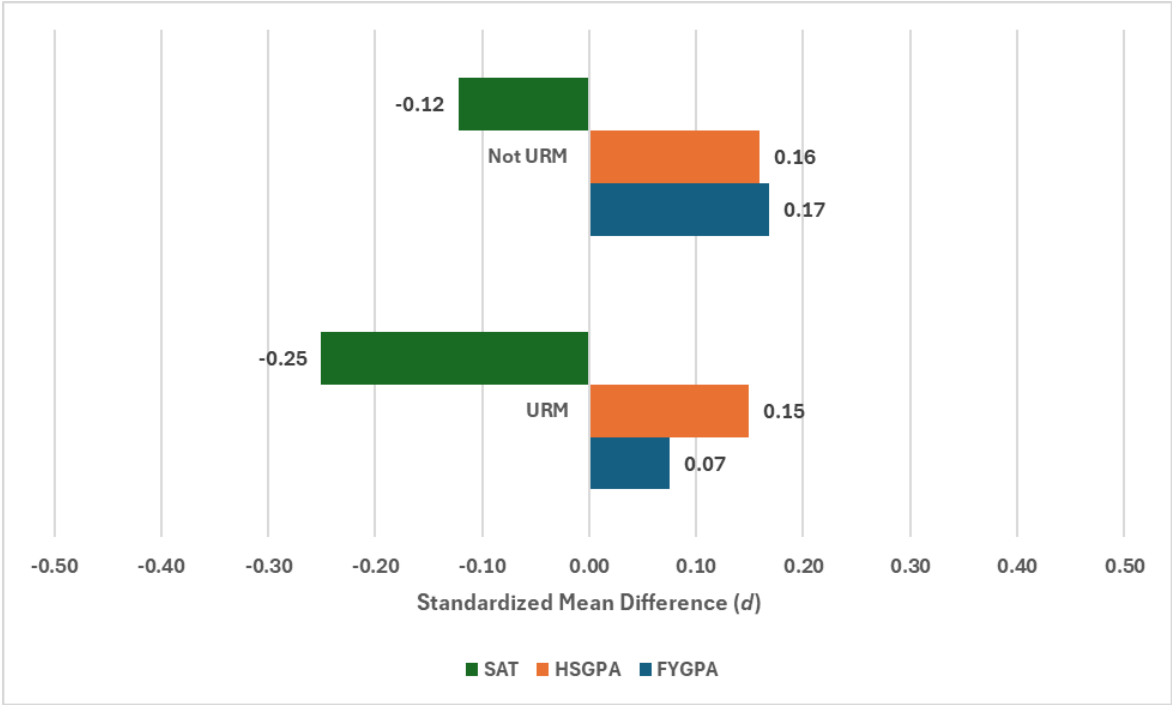


Figure 5. Standardized Mean Differences, 2017 versus 2021, by Underrepresented Minority Category at Less-Selective Institutions, Public and Private

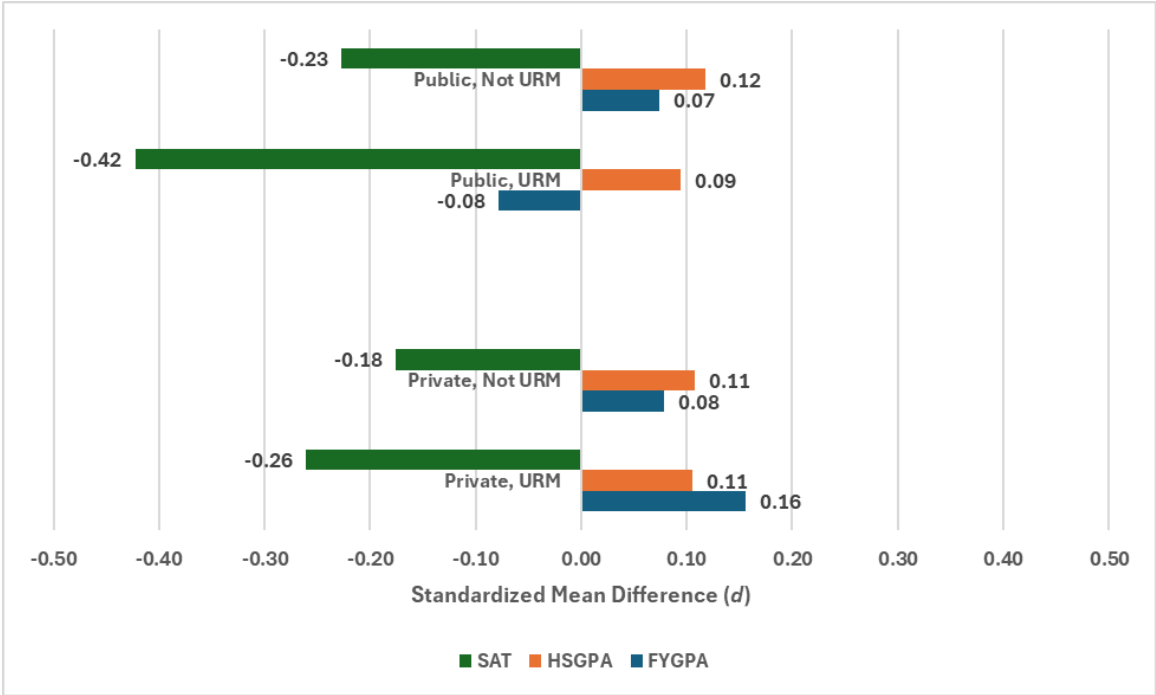
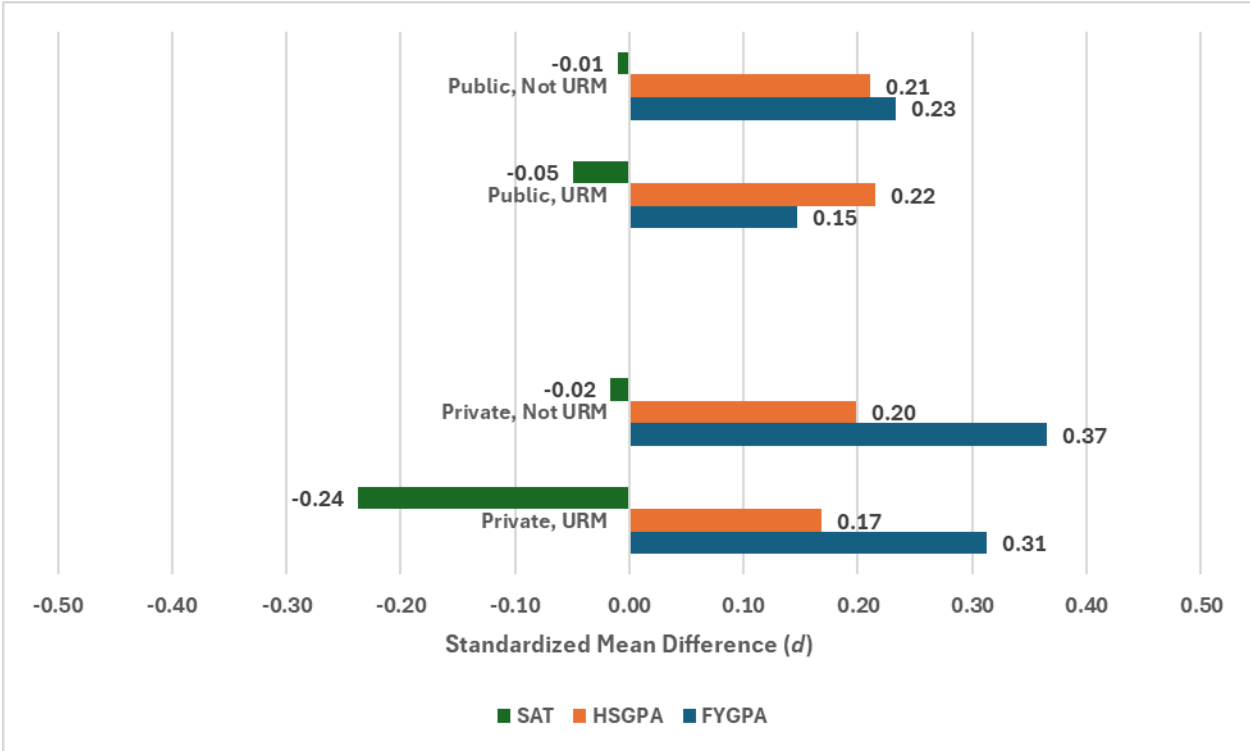


Figure 6. Standardized Mean Differences, 2017 versus 2021, by Underrepresented Minority Category at More-Selective Institutions, Public and Private



Analyses disaggregated by first-generation college-going classification found that SAT scores generally declined for both first-generation and not first-generation students, but more so for first-generation students. Increases in HSGPA were similar for both student subgroups but increases in FYGPA for first-generation students lagged those for other students. This was true in the overall analysis (Figure 7) and in three of the institution level analyses (Figures 8 and 9), the notable exception being HSGPA and FYGPA results at private, less-selective institutions.

Figure 7. Standardized Mean Differences, 2017 versus 2021, by First Generation Category

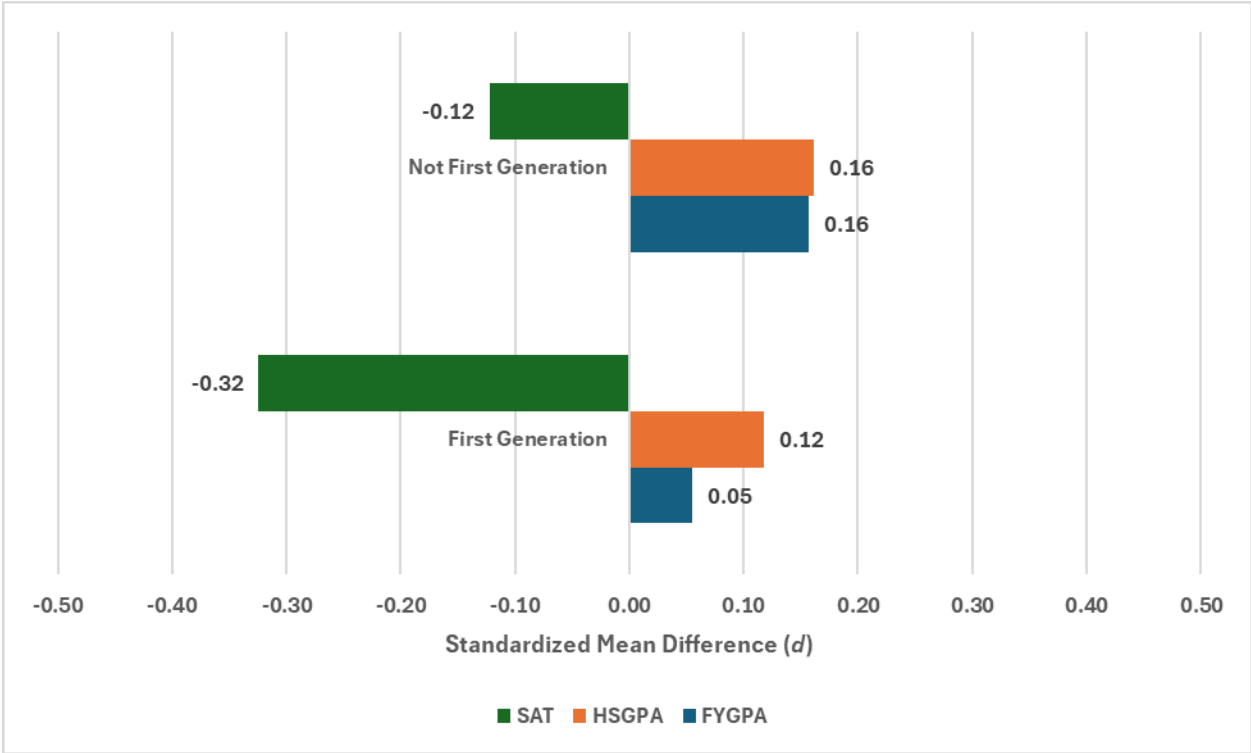


Figure 8. Standardized Mean Differences, 2017 versus 2021, by First Generation Category at Less-Selective Institutions, Public and Private

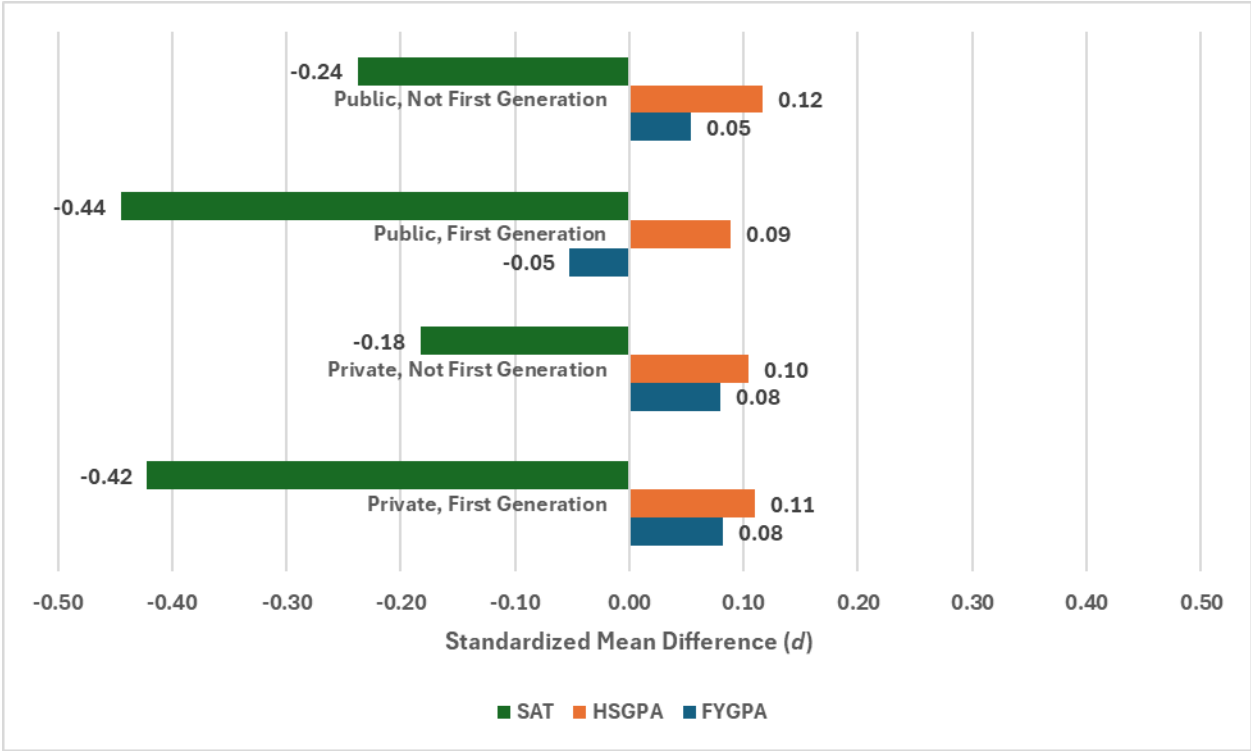
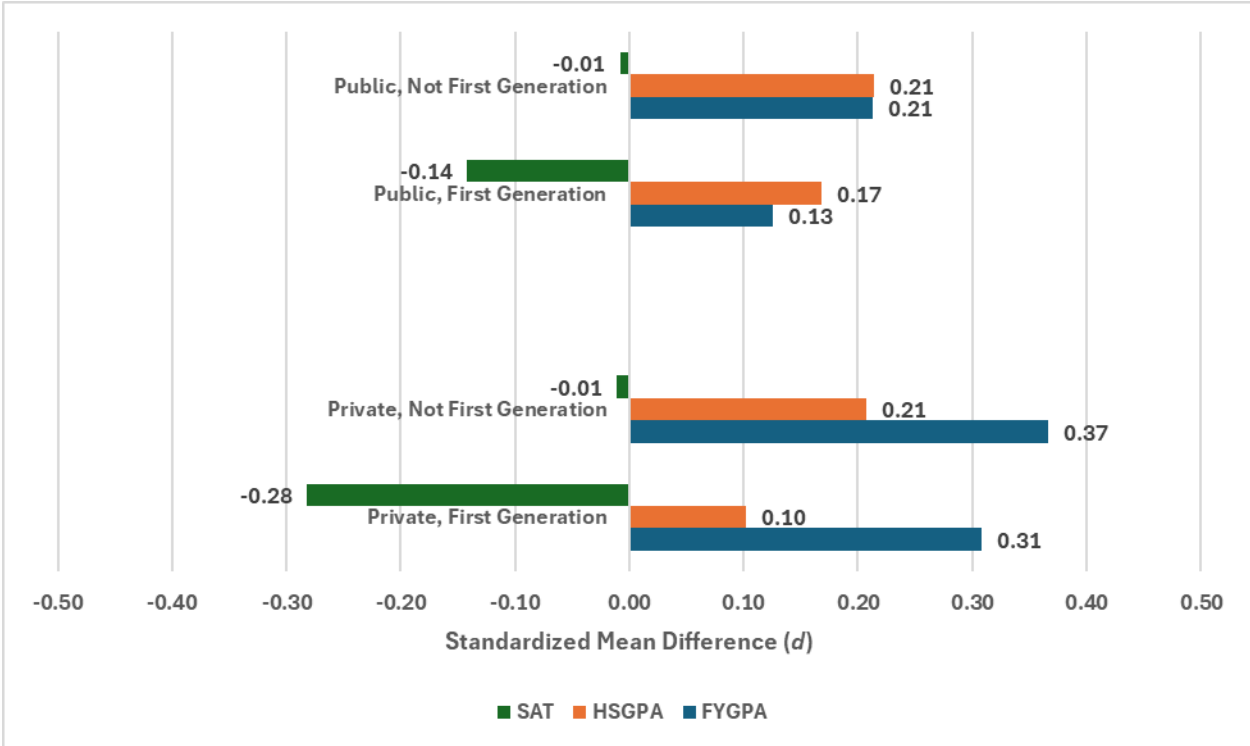


Figure 9. Standardized Mean Differences, 2017 versus 2021, by First Generation Category at More-Selective Institutions, Public and Private



Implications and Contributions:

Consistent with the results from the overall analyses of standardized mean differences (Westrick et al., 2024), SAT score decreases were largest at the less-selective institutions and HSGPA and FYGPA increases were largest at the more-selective institutions for all student subgroups. However, changes in SAT scores, HSGPA, and FYGPA trends differed among student subgroups. SAT d values were always negative and always lower for URM and first-generation students than those for other students. Even at the more-selective private institutions, the SAT d values were negative and of practical significance, below -0.2, for URM and first-generation students. In contrast, the FYGPA d values for URM and first-generation students often lagged those for other students and were actually negative for URM and first-generation students at the public, less-selective institutions. Only at the private, more-selective institutions were the FYGPA d values for URM and first-generation students of practical significance, above 0.2.

The results of the current study confirm the general trends found in previous research. SAT scores generally declined, as have ACT (ACT, 2023) and NAEP scores (NCES, 2024), and HSGPA increased (Goldhaber & Goodman Young, 2023; Sanchez & Moore, 2022), as did undergraduate grades (Edwards et al., 2023; Supriya et al., 2021; Tillinghast et al., 2023). Perhaps the foremost contribution of the current study is that the results show that URM and first-generation students experienced the greatest declines in SAT scores but did not see the same boost in GPAs that other students experienced over the same period, findings that institutions hopefully integrate into their student support policies to promote student success.

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Appendices

In this section, we present the results for our six main subgroups: male students and female students; underrepresented minority students and students who are not underrepresented minorities; and first-generation students and students who are not first-generation college students. In addition to the results for SAT scores, HSGPA, and FYGPA, we present the results for STEM GPA and GPAs for 11 academic domains.

As noted in the main paper, many of the meta-analytic results are based on a small number of studies and students. These results should be interpreted with caution. Consequently, we present tables with the number of studies and students before presenting the results for the subgroups. Within the tables for standardized mean differences, d values equal or greater than $|0.20|$ are bolded. Additionally, we present tables showing the gaps between the standardized mean differences for the paired subgroupings (male and female, URM and not URM, and first-generation and not first-generation). Any gap larger than $|0.20|$ is bolded.



Table A1. Number of Institutions (k) and Number of Students (n, 2017 and 2021 cohorts pooled), Female Students

Measure	Overall		Admission Selectivity				Control				Control and Admission Selectivity							
			Less Selective		More Selective		Private		Public		Private, Less Selective		Private, More Selective		Public, Less Selective		Public, More Selective	
	k	n	k	n	k	n	k	n	k	n	k	n	k	n	k	n	k	n
SAT ERW	22	54,881	11	28,763	11	26,118	9	11,771	13	43,110	3	4,319	6	7,452	8	24,444	5	18,666
SAT Math	22	54,881	11	28,763	11	26,118	9	11,771	13	43,110	3	4,319	6	7,452	8	24,444	5	18,666
SAT	22	54,881	11	28,763	11	26,118	9	11,771	13	43,110	3	4,319	6	7,452	8	24,444	5	18,666
HSGPA	22	53,727	11	28,152	11	25,575	9	11,358	13	42,369	3	4,222	6	7,136	8	23,930	5	18,439
FYGPA	22	54,881	11	28,763	11	26,118	9	11,771	13	43,110	3	4,319	6	7,452	8	24,444	5	18,666
STEM GPA	22	49,484	11	26,110	11	23,374	9	9,568	13	39,916	3	3,847	6	5,721	8	22,263	5	17,653
Business & Communications GPA	19	19,670	10	9,895	9	9,775	6	3,903	13	15,767	2	1,625	4	2,278	8	8,270	5	7,497
Computer Science GPA	16	5,693	8	1,917	8	3,776	6	876	10	4,817	2	122	4	754	6	1,795	4	3,022
English GPA	22	39,419	11	19,205	11	20,214	9	8,501	13	30,918	3	2,473	6	6,028	8	16,732	5	14,186
Engineering GPA	12	2,452	5	661	7	1,791	4	709	8	1,743	1	62	3	647	4	599	4	1,144
Foreign & Classic Languages GPA	21	16,082	10	7,767	11	8,315	9	4,805	12	11,277	3	1,727	6	3,078	7	6,040	5	5,237
Health Science	14	10,451	9	7,450	5	3,001	4	2,006	10	8,445	2	1,608	2	398	7	5,842	3	2,603
History GPA	22	13,170	11	8,275	11	4,895	9	2,415	13	10,755	3	1,100	6	1,315	8	7,175	5	3,580
Humanities GPA	22	20,443	11	10,561	11	9,882	9	5,574	13	14,869	3	2,591	6	2,983	8	7,970	5	6,899
Mathematics GPA	22	36,268	11	18,222	11	18,046	9	6,411	13	29,857	3	2,656	6	3,755	8	15,566	5	14,291
Natural Sciences GPA	22	38,139	11	19,135	11	19,004	9	6,841	13	31,298	3	2,998	6	3,843	8	16,137	5	15,161
Social Sciences GPA	22	44,923	11	23,201	11	21,722	9	9,220	13	35,703	3	3,141	6	6,079	8	20,060	5	15,643

Table A2. Standardized Mean Differences, 2021 minus 2017, Female Students

Measure	Overall	Admission Selectivity		Control		Control and Admission Selectivity			
		Less Selective	More Selective	Private	Public	Private, Less Selective	Private, More Selective	Public, Less Selective	Public, More Selective
SAT ERW	-0.18	-0.26	-0.09	-0.19	-0.18	-0.22	-0.18	-0.27	-0.05
SAT Math	-0.15	-0.26	-0.03	-0.11	-0.16	-0.21	-0.05	-0.27	-0.02
SAT	-0.18	-0.29	-0.06	-0.17	-0.19	-0.24	-0.13	-0.30	-0.04
HSGPA	0.14	0.10	0.18	0.12	0.15	0.10	0.13	0.11	0.20
FYGPA	0.12	0.02	0.23	0.22	0.09	0.09	0.30	0.01	0.20
STEM GPA	0.12	0.03	0.21	0.16	0.11	0.09	0.21	0.03	0.21
Business & Communications GPA	0.16	0.04	0.29	0.14	0.17	0.03	0.22	0.04	0.31
Computer Science GPA	0.12	0.06	0.16	0.12	0.13	0.46	0.06	0.04	0.18
English GPA	0.11	-0.10	0.21	0.32	-0.02	-0.04	0.47	-0.11	0.08
Engineering GPA	0.03	-0.21	0.11	0.15	-0.02	0.05	0.16	-0.23	0.09
Foreign & Classic Languages GPA	0.08	0.09	0.08	0.07	0.09	0.07	0.07	0.09	0.08
Health Science	0.06	-0.01	0.22	0.20	0.02	0.21	0.18	-0.07	0.22
History GPA	0.17	0.05	0.38	0.15	0.18	0.09	0.20	0.05	0.45
Humanities GPA	0.05	0.01	0.09	0.16	0.00	0.08	0.23	-0.02	0.03
Mathematics GPA	0.11	0.06	0.17	0.07	0.12	0.03	0.10	0.06	0.19
Natural Sciences GPA	0.09	0.01	0.18	0.16	0.08	0.06	0.25	0.00	0.16
Social Sciences GPA	0.13	0.02	0.25	0.14	0.13	-0.01	0.21	0.02	0.27

Table A3. Number of Institutions (*k*) and Number of Students (*n*, 2017 and 2021 cohorts pooled), Male Students

Measure			Admission Selectivity				Control				Control and Admission Selectivity							
	Overall		Less Selective		More Selective		Private		Public		Private, Less Selective		Private, More Selective		Public, Less Selective		Public, More Selective	
	<i>k</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>n</i>
SAT ERW	22	42,087	11	22,047	11	20,040	9	9,345	13	32,742	3	2,852	6	6,493	8	19,195	5	13,547
SAT Math	22	42,087	11	22,047	11	20,040	9	9,345	13	32,742	3	2,852	6	6,493	8	19,195	5	13,547
SAT	22	42,087	11	22,047	11	20,040	9	9,345	13	32,742	3	2,852	6	6,493	8	19,195	5	13,547
HSGPA	22	40,945	11	21,402	11	19,543	9	9,014	13	31,931	3	2,779	6	6,235	8	18,623	5	13,308
FYGPA	22	42,087	11	22,047	11	20,040	9	9,345	13	32,742	3	2,852	6	6,493	8	19,195	5	13,547
STEM GPA	22	38,586	11	20,310	11	18,276	9	7,770	13	30,816	3	2,534	6	5,236	8	17,776	5	13,040
Business & Communications GPA	19	18,502	10	10,309	9	8,193	6	3,442	13	15,060	2	1,338	4	2,104	8	8,971	5	6,089
Computer Science GPA	16	9,150	8	3,619	8	5,531	6	1,592	11	7,558	2	282	4	1,310	6	3,337	4	4,221
English GPA	22	30,650	11	15,204	11	15,446	9	6,755	13	23,895	3	1,654	6	5,101	8	13,550	5	10,345
Engineering GPA	12	5,773	5	2,155	7	3,618	4	1,185	8	4,588	1	175	3	1,010	4	1,980	4	2,608
Foreign & Classic Languages GPA	21	8,861	10	4,123	11	4,738	9	3,042	12	5,819	3	922	6	2,120	7	3,201	5	2,618
Health Science	14	5,797	9	4,437	5	1,360	4	939	10	4,858	2	722	2	217	7	3,715	3	1,143
History GPA	22	11,022	11	6,921	11	4,101	9	1,953	13	9,069	3	718	6	1,235	8	6,203	5	2,866
Humanities GPA	22	14,744	11	7,655	11	7,089	9	4,302	13	10,442	3	1,729	6	2,573	8	5,926	5	4,516
Mathematics GPA	22	30,941	11	16,090	11	14,851	9	5,786	13	25,155	3	2,023	6	3,763	8	14,067	5	11,088
Natural Sciences GPA	22	26,634	11	12,786	11	13,848	9	4,877	13	21,757	3	1,829	6	3,048	8	10,957	5	10,800
Social Sciences GPA	22	31,485	11	16,311	11	15,174	9	6,716	13	24,769	3	1,734	6	4,982	8	14,577	5	10,192

Table A4. Standardized Mean Differences, 2021 minus 2017, Male Students

Measure	Overall	Admission Selectivity		Control		Control and Admission Selectivity			
		Less Selective	More Selective	Private	Public	Private, Less Selective	Private, More Selective	Public, Less Selective	Public, More Selective
SAT ERW	-0.12	-0.22	0.00	-0.07	-0.13	-0.14	-0.03	-0.23	0.01
SAT Math	-0.07	-0.19	0.07	0.04	-0.10	-0.10	0.11	-0.21	0.05
SAT	-0.10	-0.23	0.04	-0.01	-0.13	-0.13	0.05	-0.24	0.04
HSGPA	0.18	0.11	0.25	0.23	0.16	0.14	0.27	0.11	0.23
FYGPA	0.17	0.06	0.30	0.34	0.13	0.14	0.42	0.05	0.24
STEM GPA	0.16	0.07	0.26	0.27	0.14	0.16	0.32	0.06	0.24
Business & Communications GPA	0.23	0.17	0.31	0.25	0.22	0.15	0.31	0.17	0.31
Computer Science GPA	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.17	0.14	0.42	0.12	0.13	0.15
English GPA	0.17	0.06	0.28	0.49	0.08	0.12	0.61	0.05	0.12
Engineering GPA	-0.02	-0.20	0.09	0.18	-0.07	0.24	0.17	-0.24	0.05
Foreign & Classic Languages GPA	0.12	0.07	0.17	0.17	0.10	0.05	0.22	0.07	0.13
Health Science	0.08	0.00	0.35	0.32	0.04	0.25	0.58	-0.05	0.31
History GPA	0.14	0.01	0.36	0.27	0.11	0.07	0.38	0.01	0.34
Humanities GPA	0.11	0.06	0.16	0.26	0.04	0.18	0.31	0.02	0.07
Mathematics GPA	0.17	0.11	0.24	0.19	0.17	0.08	0.25	0.11	0.23
Natural Sciences GPA	0.14	0.07	0.21	0.26	0.12	0.17	0.32	0.05	0.18
Social Sciences GPA	0.19	0.09	0.29	0.24	0.17	0.02	0.31	0.10	0.28

Table A5. Gaps between Male and Female Students' Standardized Mean Differences (Male minus Female), 2021 minus 2017

Measure	Overall	Admission Selectivity		Control		Control and Admission Selectivity			
		Less Selective	More Selective	Private	Public	Private, Less Selective	Private, More Selective	Public, Less Selective	Public, More Selective
SAT ERW	0.06	0.04	0.09	0.12	0.05	0.08	0.14	0.04	0.07
SAT Math	0.08	0.07	0.09	0.15	0.06	0.11	0.16	0.06	0.07
SAT	0.08	0.06	0.10	0.16	0.06	0.11	0.17	0.06	0.08
HSGPA	0.04	0.01	0.07	0.11	0.01	0.04	0.14	0.00	0.04
FYGPA	0.05	0.04	0.07	0.11	0.04	0.05	0.12	0.04	0.03
STEM GPA	0.05	0.04	0.06	0.11	0.03	0.08	0.11	0.04	0.04
Business & Communications GPA	0.07	0.12	0.02	0.10	0.06	0.12	0.08	0.12	0.00
Computer Science GPA	0.02	0.08	-0.01	0.05	0.01	-0.04	0.05	0.09	-0.03
English GPA	0.06	0.15	0.07	0.16	0.11	0.16	0.13	0.16	0.05
Engineering GPA	-0.05	0.00	-0.02	0.03	-0.05	0.19	0.02	-0.01	-0.03
Foreign & Classic Languages GPA	0.04	-0.02	0.09	0.10	0.01	-0.02	0.15	-0.02	0.05
Health Science	0.02	0.01	0.13	0.12	0.01	0.04	0.40	0.02	0.09
History GPA	-0.03	-0.04	-0.03	0.11	-0.07	-0.03	0.18	-0.04	-0.10
Humanities GPA	0.06	0.05	0.07	0.10	0.04	0.10	0.08	0.04	0.04
Mathematics GPA	0.06	0.05	0.07	0.12	0.04	0.05	0.15	0.05	0.05
Natural Sciences GPA	0.05	0.05	0.03	0.10	0.04	0.11	0.07	0.05	0.02
Social Sciences GPA	0.06	0.07	0.04	0.10	0.04	0.03	0.10	0.08	0.01

Table A6. Number of Institutions (*k*) and Number of Students (*n*, 2017 and 2021 cohorts pooled), Underrepresented Minority Students

Measure			Admission Selectivity				Control				Control and Admission Selectivity							
	Overall		Less Selective		More Selective		Private		Public		Private, Less Selective		Private, More Selective		Public, Less Selective		Public, More Selective	
	<i>k</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>n</i>
SAT ERW	22	25,279	11	12,733	11	12,546	9	5,493	13	19,786	3	1,996	6	3,497	8	10,737	5	9,049
SAT Math	22	25,279	11	12,733	11	12,546	9	5,493	13	19,786	3	1,996	6	3,497	8	10,737	5	9,049
SAT	22	25,279	11	12,733	11	12,546	9	5,493	13	19,786	3	1,996	6	3,497	8	10,737	5	9,049
HSGPA	22	24,810	11	12,460	11	12,350	9	5,382	13	19,428	3	1,952	6	3,430	8	10,508	5	8,920
FYGPA	22	25,279	11	12,733	11	12,546	9	5,493	13	19,786	3	1,996	6	3,497	8	10,737	5	9,049
STEM GPA	22	22,795	11	11,583	11	11,212	9	4,434	13	18,361	3	1,799	6	2,635	8	9,784	5	8,577
Business & Communications GPA	18	9,098	10	4,447	8	4,651	5	1,780	13	7,318	2	778	3	1,002	8	3,669	5	3,649
Computer Science GPA	16	3,619	8	1,121	8	2,498	5	439	11	3,180	2	106	3	333	6	1,015	5	2,165
English GPA	21	18,965	11	8,848	10	10,117	8	4,063	13	14,902	3	1,142	5	2,921	8	7,706	5	7,196
Engineering GPA	12	2,190	5	722	7	1,468	4	543	8	1,647	1	61	3	482	4	661	4	986
Foreign & Classic Languages GPA	20	6,085	9	2,820	11	3,265	9	1,999	11	4,086	3	728	6	1,271	6	2,092	5	1,994
Health Science	13	4,292	7	2,885	6	1,407	5	1,020	8	3,272	2	770	3	250	5	2,115	3	1,157
History GPA	17	6,557	9	4,217	8	2,340	5	953	12	5,604	2	420	3	533	7	3,797	5	1,807
Humanities GPA	21	8,740	10	4,105	11	4,635	8	2,432	13	6,308	2	1,177	6	1,255	8	2,928	5	3,380
Mathematics GPA	21	18,104	11	8,939	10	9,165	8	3,059	13	15,045	3	1,299	5	1,760	8	7,640	5	7,405
Natural Sciences GPA	22	16,823	11	7,969	11	8,854	9	3,106	13	13,717	3	1,400	6	1,706	8	6,569	5	7,148
Social Sciences GPA	22	19,919	11	9,669	11	10,250	9	4,216	13	15,703	3	1,364	6	2,852	8	8,305	5	7,398

Table A7. Standardized Mean Differences, 2021 minus 2017, Underrepresented Minority Students

Measure	Overall	Admission Selectivity		Control		Control and Admission Selectivity			
		Less Selective	More Selective	Private	Public	Private, Less Selective	Private, More Selective	Public, Less Selective	Public, More Selective
SAT ERW	-0.25	-0.38	-0.12	-0.25	-0.25	-0.26	-0.25	-0.41	-0.07
SAT Math	-0.21	-0.34	-0.07	-0.20	-0.21	-0.21	-0.19	-0.36	-0.02
SAT	-0.25	-0.40	-0.10	-0.25	-0.25	-0.26	-0.24	-0.42	-0.05
HSGPA	0.15	0.10	0.20	0.15	0.15	0.11	0.17	0.09	0.22
FYGPA	0.07	-0.04	0.19	0.26	0.02	0.16	0.31	-0.08	0.15
STEM GPA	0.09	-0.02	0.20	0.20	0.06	0.17	0.22	-0.06	0.19
Business & Communications GPA	0.13	0.04	0.22	0.21	0.11	0.18	0.24	0.02	0.21
Computer Science GPA	0.16	0.12	0.19	0.29	0.15	0.96	0.08	0.03	0.20
English GPA	0.05	-0.09	0.18	0.39	-0.04	0.08	0.52	-0.12	0.04
Engineering GPA	-0.07	-0.35	0.08	0.22	-0.16	0.30	0.21	-0.41	0.01
Foreign & Classic Languages GPA	0.04	0.01	0.06	0.05	0.03	0.03	0.05	0.01	0.06
Health Science	0.08	0.05	0.14	0.29	0.01	0.23	0.50	-0.01	0.06
History GPA	0.13	0.01	0.34	0.22	0.11	0.16	0.26	-0.01	0.37
Humanities GPA	0.03	-0.02	0.08	0.21	-0.03	0.12	0.30	-0.07	0.00
Mathematics GPA	0.09	0.00	0.17	0.09	0.08	0.04	0.13	0.00	0.17
Natural Sciences GPA	0.06	-0.03	0.14	0.21	0.03	0.13	0.27	-0.06	0.11
Social Sciences GPA	0.11	0.00	0.21	0.09	0.11	-0.06	0.16	0.01	0.22

Table A8. Number of Institutions (k) and Number of Students (n , 2017 and 2021 cohorts pooled), Not Underrepresented Minority Students

Measure			Admission Selectivity				Control				Control and Admission Selectivity							
	Overall		Less Selective		More Selective		Private		Public		Private, Less Selective		Private, More Selective		Public, Less Selective		Public, More Selective	
	k	n	k	n	k	n	k	n	k	n	k	n	k	n	k	n	k	n
SAT ERW	22	71,689	11	38,077	11	33,612	9	15,623	13	56,066	3	5,175	6	10,448	8	32,902	5	23,164
SAT Math	22	71,689	11	38,077	11	33,612	9	15,623	13	56,066	3	5,175	6	10,448	8	32,902	5	23,164
SAT	22	71,689	11	38,077	11	33,612	9	15,623	13	56,066	3	5,175	6	10,448	8	32,902	5	23,164
HSGPA	22	69,862	11	37,094	11	32,768	9	14,990	13	54,872	3	5,049	6	9,941	8	32,045	5	22,827
FYGPA	22	71,689	11	38,077	11	33,612	9	15,623	13	56,066	3	5,175	6	10,448	8	32,902	5	23,164
STEM GPA	22	65,275	11	34,837	11	30,438	9	12,904	13	52,371	3	4,582	6	8,322	8	30,255	5	22,116
Business & Communications GPA	18	28,842	10	15,757	8	13,085	5	5,333	13	23,509	2	2,185	3	3,148	8	13,572	5	9,937
Computer Science GPA	16	11,167	8	4,415	8	6,752	5	1,878	11	9,289	2	298	3	1,580	6	4,117	5	5,172
English GPA	21	50,895	11	25,561	10	25,334	8	10,984	13	39,911	3	2,985	5	7,999	8	22,576	5	17,335
Engineering GPA	10	4,958	5	2,094	7	3,941	4	1,351	8	4,684	1	176	3	1,175	4	1,918	4	2,766
Foreign & Classic Languages GPA	20	18,587	9	8,799	11	9,788	9	5,848	11	12,739	3	1,921	6	3,927	6	6,878	5	5,861
Health Science	13	11,155	7	8,035	6	3,120	5	2,091	8	9,064	2	1,560	3	531	5	6,475	3	2,589
History GPA	17	16,894	9	10,672	8	6,222	5	2,801	12	14,093	2	1,218	3	1,583	7	9,454	5	4,639
Humanities GPA	21	26,297	10	13,961	11	12,336	8	7,294	13	19,003	2	2,993	6	4,301	8	10,968	5	8,035
Mathematics GPA	21	48,989	11	25,373	10	23,616	8	9,022	13	39,967	3	3,380	5	5,642	8	21,993	5	17,974
Natural Sciences GPA	22	47,950	11	23,952	11	23,998	9	8,612	13	39,338	3	3,427	6	5,185	8	20,525	5	18,813
Social Sciences GPA	22	56,489	11	29,843	11	26,646	9	11,720	13	44,769	3	3,511	6	8,209	8	26,332	5	18,437

Table A9. Standardized Mean Differences, 2021 minus 2017, Not Underrepresented Minority Students

Measure	Overall	Admission Selectivity		Control		Control and Admission Selectivity			
		Less Selective	More Selective	Private	Public	Private, Less Selective	Private, More Selective	Public, Less Selective	Public, More Selective
SAT ERW	-0.13	-0.20	-0.04	-0.12	-0.13	-0.17	-0.09	-0.20	-0.02
SAT Math	-0.10	-0.20	0.02	-0.01	-0.12	-0.15	0.05	-0.20	0.00
SAT	-0.12	-0.22	-0.01	-0.07	-0.14	-0.18	-0.02	-0.23	-0.01
HSGPA	0.16	0.12	0.21	0.17	0.16	0.11	0.20	0.12	0.21
FYGPA	0.17	0.07	0.27	0.27	0.14	0.08	0.37	0.07	0.23
STEM GPA	0.15	-0.06	0.15	0.09	0.03	-0.02	0.16	-0.07	0.15
Business & Communications GPA	0.22	0.13	0.32	0.20	0.22	0.05	0.31	0.15	0.32
Computer Science GPA	0.12	0.13	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.28	0.09	0.12	0.13
English GPA	0.17	0.06	0.29	0.44	0.10	0.02	0.60	0.06	0.14
Engineering GPA	-0.04	-0.14	0.08	0.09	-0.02	0.10	0.09	-0.16	0.08
Foreign & Classic Languages GPA	0.11	0.10	0.13	0.13	0.11	0.07	0.16	0.11	0.11
Health Science	0.10	0.02	0.32	0.23	0.07	0.18	0.39	-0.02	0.30
History GPA	0.18	0.06	0.37	0.17	0.18	0.04	0.26	0.06	0.41
Humanities GPA	0.09	0.05	0.13	0.19	0.05	0.08	0.26	0.04	0.07
Mathematics GPA	0.15	0.11	0.20	0.11	0.16	0.03	0.16	0.12	0.21
Natural Sciences GPA	0.13	0.06	0.20	0.19	0.12	0.08	0.26	0.06	0.18
Social Sciences GPA	0.17	0.07	0.29	0.21	0.17	0.01	0.29	0.08	0.28

Table A10. Gaps between URM and Not URM Students' Standardized Mean Differences (URM minus Not URM), 2021 minus 2017

Measure	Overall	Admission Selectivity		Control		Control and Admission Selectivity			
		Less Selective	More Selective	Private	Public	Private, Less Selective	Private, More Selective	Public, Less Selective	Public, More Selective
SAT ERW	-0.13	-0.19	-0.08	-0.13	-0.12	-0.09	-0.16	-0.21	-0.05
SAT Math	-0.11	-0.14	-0.09	-0.18	-0.09	-0.07	-0.24	-0.16	-0.03
SAT	-0.13	-0.18	-0.09	-0.18	-0.11	-0.09	-0.22	-0.20	-0.04
HSGPA	-0.01	-0.02	0.00	-0.02	-0.01	0.00	-0.03	-0.02	0.00
FYGPA	-0.09	-0.12	-0.08	-0.01	-0.12	0.08	-0.05	-0.15	-0.09
STEM GPA	-0.07	0.04	0.05	0.11	0.03	0.19	0.06	0.01	0.04
Business & Communications GPA	-0.08	-0.09	-0.10	0.01	-0.11	0.13	-0.07	-0.13	-0.11
Computer Science GPA	0.04	-0.01	0.07	0.17	0.03	0.68	-0.01	-0.08	0.07
English GPA	-0.12	-0.15	-0.11	-0.05	-0.14	0.06	-0.08	-0.18	-0.10
Engineering GPA	-0.02	-0.21	0.00	0.13	-0.14	0.20	0.13	-0.25	-0.07
Foreign & Classic Languages GPA	-0.08	-0.08	-0.07	-0.08	-0.07	-0.04	-0.11	-0.10	-0.05
Health Science	-0.02	0.04	-0.18	0.06	-0.06	0.05	0.11	0.01	-0.24
History GPA	-0.05	-0.05	-0.03	0.05	-0.07	0.12	0.00	-0.07	-0.04
Humanities GPA	-0.05	-0.06	-0.05	0.02	-0.08	0.03	0.04	-0.11	-0.07
Mathematics GPA	-0.07	-0.11	-0.03	-0.02	-0.08	0.01	-0.03	-0.13	-0.04
Natural Sciences GPA	-0.07	-0.09	-0.06	0.02	-0.09	0.05	0.01	-0.13	-0.07
Social Sciences GPA	-0.07	-0.08	-0.08	-0.12	-0.06	-0.07	-0.13	-0.07	-0.06

Table A11. Number of Institutions (*k*) and Number of Students (*n*, 2017 and 2021 cohorts pooled), First-Generation Students

Measure	Overall		Admission Selectivity				Control				Control and Admission Selectivity							
			Less Selective		More Selective		Private		Public		Private, Less Selective		Private, More Selective		Public, Less Selective		Public, More Selective	
	<i>k</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>n</i>
SAT ERW	22	19,065	11	10,576	11	8,489	9	3,189	13	15,876	3	1,052	6	2,137	8	9,524	5	6,352
SAT Math	22	19,065	11	10,576	11	8,489	9	3,189	13	15,876	3	1,052	6	2,137	8	9,524	5	6,352
SAT	22	19,065	11	10,576	11	8,489	9	3,189	13	15,876	3	1,052	6	2,137	8	9,524	5	6,352
HSGPA	22	18,676	11	10,381	11	8,295	9	3,076	13	15,600	3	1,032	6	2,044	8	9,349	5	6,251
FYGPA	22	19,065	11	10,576	11	8,489	9	3,189	13	15,876	3	1,052	6	2,137	8	9,524	5	6,352
STEM GPA	22	17,317	11	9,614	11	7,703	9	2,674	13	14,643	3	955	6	1,719	8	8,659	5	5,984
Business & Communications GPA	18	6,637	10	3,772	8	2,865	5	947	13	5,690	2	324	3	623	8	3,448	5	2,242
Computer Science GPA	14	2,811	7	984	7	1,827	4	364	10	2,447	1	39	3	325	6	945	4	1,502
English GPA	20	14,148	11	7,437	9	6,711	7	2,318	13	11,830	3	564	4	1,754	8	6,873	5	4,957
Engineering GPA	10	1,473	4	492	6	981	2	248	8	1,225	0	0	2	248	4	492	4	733
Foreign & Classic Languages GPA	19	4,236	9	1,859	9	2,002	8	1,125	11	3,111	3	435	5	690	6	1,424	0	1,312
Health Science	15	3,158	7	2,429	5	729	4	456	11	2,702	2	337	2	119	8	2,092	3	610
History GPA	18	4,974	9	3,464	8	1,510	5	506	13	4,468	2	228	3	278	8	3,236	5	1,232
Humanities GPA	20	6,187	10	3,438	10	2,749	7	1,199	13	4,988	2	527	5	672	8	2,911	5	2,077
Mathematics GPA	21	13,768	11	7,358	10	6,410	8	1,891	13	11,877	3	703	5	1,188	8	6,655	5	5,222
Natural Sciences GPA	21	12,592	11	6,609	10	5,983	8	1,746	13	10,846	3	716	5	1,030	8	5,893	5	4,953
Social Sciences GPA	22	15,058	11	8,296	11	6,762	9	2,474	13	12,584	3	778	6	1,696	8	7,518	5	5,066

Table A12. Standardized Mean Differences, 2021 minus 2017, First-Generation Students

Measure	Overall	Admission Selectivity		Control		Control and Admission Selectivity			
		Less Selective	More Selective	Private	Public	Private, Less Selective	Private, More Selective	Public, Less Selective	Public, More Selective
SAT ERW	-0.31	-0.38	-0.23	-0.40	-0.30	-0.34	-0.43	-0.39	-0.16
SAT Math	-0.27	-0.41	-0.10	-0.20	-0.28	-0.41	-0.10	-0.41	-0.10
SAT	-0.32	-0.44	-0.18	-0.33	-0.32	-0.42	-0.28	-0.44	-0.14
HSGPA	0.12	0.09	0.15	0.10	0.12	0.11	0.10	0.09	0.17
FYGPA	0.05	-0.04	0.17	0.23	0.02	0.08	0.31	-0.05	0.13
STEM GPA	0.06	-0.02	0.17	0.17	0.04	0.09	0.21	-0.03	0.16
Business & Communications GPA	0.10	0.05	0.15	0.18	0.08	0.00	0.28	0.06	0.11
Computer Science GPA	0.07	0.09	0.05	-0.12	0.09	0.18	-0.16	0.09	0.10
English GPA	0.06	-0.06	0.20	0.47	-0.02	0.08	0.59	-0.07	0.06
Engineering GPA	-0.06	-0.41	0.11	0.17	-0.11	NA	0.17	-0.41	0.09
Foreign & Classic Languages GPA	0.05	0.02	0.08	0.01	0.07	-0.07	0.06	0.05	0.10
Health Science	0.05	0.01	0.15	0.32	0.00	0.16	0.77	-0.01	0.03
History GPA	0.08	0.00	0.24	0.20	0.06	0.15	0.24	-0.01	0.25
Humanities GPA	-0.02	-0.07	0.03	0.14	-0.06	0.07	0.19	-0.09	-0.02
Mathematics GPA	0.08	0.03	0.14	0.12	0.08	0.02	0.17	0.03	0.13
Natural Sciences GPA	0.05	-0.04	0.14	0.16	0.03	0.06	0.23	-0.06	0.12
Social Sciences GPA	0.11	0.02	0.22	0.13	0.10	-0.03	0.21	0.03	0.22

Table A13. Number of Institutions (*k*) and Number of Students (*n*, 2017 and 2021 cohorts pooled), Not First-Generation Students

Measure	Overall		Admission Selectivity				Control				Control and Admission Selectivity							
			Less Selective		More Selective		Private		Public		Private, Less Selective		Private, More Selective		Public, Less Selective		Public, More Selective	
	<i>k</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>k</i>	<i>n</i>
SAT ERW	22	76,121	11	39,122	11	36,999	9	17,626	13	58,495	3	6,033	6	11,593	8	33,089	5	25,406
SAT Math	22	76,121	11	39,122	11	36,999	9	17,626	13	58,495	3	6,033	6	11,593	8	33,089	5	25,406
SAT	22	76,121	11	39,122	11	36,999	9	17,626	13	58,495	3	6,033	6	11,593	8	33,089	5	25,406
HSGPA	22	74,708	11	38,382	11	36,326	9	17,094	13	57,614	3	5,900	6	11,194	8	32,482	5	25,132
FYGPA	22	76,121	11	39,122	11	36,999	9	17,626	13	58,495	3	6,033	6	11,593	8	33,089	5	25,406
STEM GPA	22	69,134	11	35,771	11	33,363	9	14,417	13	54,717	3	5,346	6	9,071	8	30,425	5	24,292
Business & Communications GPA	18	30,637	10	15,995	8	14,642	5	6,054	13	24,583	2	2,607	3	3,447	8	13,388	5	11,195
Computer Science GPA	14	11,434	7	4,251	7	7,183	4	1,716	10	9,718	1	176	3	1,540	6	4,075	4	5,643
English GPA	20	54,008	11	26,125	9	27,883	7	12,175	13	41,833	3	3,510	4	8,665	8	22,615	5	19,218
Engineering GPA	10	6,098	4	2,025	6	4,073	2	1,119	8	4,979	0	0	2	1,119	4	2,025	4	2,954
Foreign & Classic Languages GPA	19	19,767	9	8,627	9	10,278	8	6,330	11	13,437	3	2,189	5	4,141	6	6,438	0	6,137
Health Science	15	12,459	10	4,910	5	3,473	4	2,290	11	7,432	2	1,922	2	368	8	3,704	3	3,105
History GPA	18	18,144	10	11,197	8	6,947	5	3,207	13	14,937	2	1,389	3	1,818	8	9,808	5	5,129
Humanities GPA	20	27,820	10	14,254	10	13,566	7	7,948	13	19,872	2	3,599	5	4,349	8	10,655	5	9,217
Mathematics GPA	21	52,042	11	26,169	10	25,873	8	10,022	13	42,020	3	3,929	5	6,093	8	22,240	5	19,780
Natural Sciences GPA	21	50,856	11	24,642	10	26,214	8	9,592	13	41,264	3	4,053	5	5,539	8	20,589	5	20,675
Social Sciences GPA	22	59,963	11	30,355	11	29,608	9	13,229	13	46,734	3	4,040	6	9,189	8	26,315	5	20,419

Table A14. Standardized Mean Differences, 2021 minus 2017, Not First-Generation Students

Measure	Overall	Admission Selectivity		Control		Control and Admission Selectivity			
		Less Selective	More Selective	Private	Public	Private, Less Selective	Private, More Selective	Public, Less Selective	Public, More Selective
SAT ERW	-0.13	-0.22	-0.04	-0.11	-0.14	-0.19	-0.07	-0.23	-0.02
SAT Math	-0.09	-0.19	0.02	-0.02	-0.11	-0.14	0.04	-0.20	0.01
SAT	-0.12	-0.23	-0.01	-0.07	-0.14	-0.18	-0.01	-0.24	-0.01
HSGPA	0.16	0.11	0.21	0.17	0.16	0.10	0.21	0.12	0.21
FYGPA	0.16	0.06	0.26	0.27	0.12	0.08	0.37	0.05	0.21
STEM GPA	0.15	0.07	0.23	0.20	0.13	0.09	0.27	0.06	0.22
Business & Communications GPA	0.20	0.11	0.31	0.20	0.21	0.10	0.28	0.11	0.32
Computer Science GPA	0.14	0.10	0.16	0.16	0.13	0.33	0.15	0.09	0.16
English GPA	0.15	0.04	0.26	0.42	0.07	0.02	0.58	0.04	0.12
Engineering GPA	-0.03	-0.20	0.06	0.11	-0.06	NA	0.11	-0.20	0.04
Foreign & Classic Languages GPA	0.11	0.10	0.13	0.14	0.10	0.08	0.17	0.10	0.10
Health Science	0.09	0.12	0.29	0.31	-0.03	0.26	0.58	-0.02	0.26
History GPA	0.18	0.05	0.38	0.16	0.18	0.01	0.27	0.06	0.42
Humanities GPA	0.09	0.05	0.13	0.20	0.04	0.09	0.29	0.03	0.05
Mathematics GPA	0.14	0.09	0.20	0.11	0.15	0.02	0.17	0.10	0.21
Natural Sciences GPA	0.12	0.05	0.19	0.20	0.10	0.06	0.29	0.04	0.16
Social Sciences GPA	0.16	0.06	0.26	0.18	0.15	-0.02	0.27	0.07	0.26

Table A15. Gaps between First Generation and Not First-Generation Students' Standardized Mean Differences FG minus Not FG), 2021 minus 2017

Measure	Overall	Admission Selectivity		Control		Control and Admission Selectivity			
		Less Selective	More Selective	Private	Public	Private, Less Selective	Private, More Selective	Public, Less Selective	Public, More Selective
SAT ERW	-0.18	-0.16	-0.19	-0.29	-0.16	-0.14	-0.36	-0.16	-0.14
SAT Math	-0.18	-0.21	-0.11	-0.18	-0.17	-0.27	-0.14	-0.20	-0.10
SAT	-0.20	-0.21	-0.17	-0.26	-0.19	-0.24	-0.27	-0.21	-0.13
HSGPA	-0.04	-0.02	-0.06	-0.07	-0.04	0.01	-0.11	-0.03	-0.05
FYGPA	-0.10	-0.10	-0.09	-0.04	-0.10	0.00	-0.06	-0.11	-0.09
STEM GPA	-0.08	-0.09	-0.06	-0.03	-0.09	0.01	-0.06	-0.10	-0.06
Business & Communications GPA	-0.11	-0.06	-0.16	-0.02	-0.13	-0.10	0.00	-0.05	-0.20
Computer Science GPA	-0.07	-0.01	-0.10	-0.29	-0.04	-0.15	-0.30	0.00	-0.06
English GPA	-0.09	-0.10	-0.06	0.05	-0.09	0.06	0.02	-0.11	-0.06
Engineering GPA	-0.04	-0.21	0.05	0.06	-0.05	NA	0.06	-0.21	0.05
Foreign & Classic Languages GPA	-0.06	-0.08	-0.04	-0.13	-0.03	-0.15	-0.11	-0.06	0.00
Health Science	-0.04	-0.10	-0.14	0.01	0.03	-0.09	0.19	0.01	-0.23
History GPA	-0.10	-0.05	-0.14	0.04	-0.12	0.14	-0.03	-0.06	-0.18
Humanities GPA	-0.11	-0.11	-0.09	-0.06	-0.10	-0.02	-0.10	-0.13	-0.07
Mathematics GPA	-0.06	-0.06	-0.06	0.01	-0.08	0.00	0.00	-0.07	-0.07
Natural Sciences GPA	-0.07	-0.09	-0.04	-0.03	-0.07	0.00	-0.06	-0.10	-0.03
Social Sciences GPA	-0.05	-0.04	-0.05	-0.05	-0.05	0.00	-0.06	-0.04	-0.04