

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 148 415

JC 780 032

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**TITLE** Characteristics of L.A.C.C. Applicants Who Took the College Board Scholastic Aptitude Test. Research Study #78-1.  
**INSTITUTION** Los Angeles City Coll., Calif.  
**PUB DATE** Jan 78  
**NOTE** 11p.

**EDRS PRICE** MF-\$0.83 HC-\$1.67 Plus Postage.  
**DESCRIPTORS** Academic Achievement; College Bound Students; College Freshmen; Community Colleges; Comparative Analysis; Educational Objectives; Educational Testing; Grades (Scholastic); Group Norms; \*Junior Colleges; Minority Groups; \*National Competency Tests; National Norms; Parental Background; \*Student Characteristics; Tables (Data); \*Test Results  
**IDENTIFIERS** \*Scholastic Aptitude Test.

**ABSTRACT**  
 A comparison was made among 640 high school seniors who requested that their Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) results be sent to Los Angeles Community College (LACC), national SAT results for college bound seniors reported by the College Board in 1977, and enrolled students at LACC, where applicable. These 640 seniors are termed LACC applicants, even though they did not necessarily attend the school. Minority groups made up 76% of the LACC applicants, 74% of LACC students, and 16% of the nationwide group. Median annual parental income for LACC applicants was \$9,000, for LACC students \$8,800, and for the national group \$17,600. LACC applicants were significantly lower than the national group in terms of high school grades, number of years study of various subjects, and high school class rank. Test score means and standard deviations for the SAT verbal, SAT mathematics, SAT verbal sub-scores in reading comprehension and vocabulary, and the Test of Standard Written English (TSWE) indicated that LACC applicants ranked below the 20th percentile in each of these tests. A larger percentage of LACC applicants indicated two-year educational goals than the national group, but they were comparable in percentage aiming for a bachelor's degree. (LH)

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ED148415

LOS ANGELES CITY COLLEGE

"CHARACTERISTICS OF L.A.C.C. APPLICANTS WHO TOOK THE COLLEGE  
BOARD SCHOLASTIC APTITUDE TEST"

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Research Study #78-1

Ben K. Gold  
Research Office  
January, 1978

JC 780 032

"CHARACTERISTICS OF L.A.C.C. APPLICANTS WHO TOOK THE COLLEGE BOARD SCHOLASTIC APTITUDE TEST"

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

Nearly 1,000,000 high school seniors of 1977 participated in the College Board's Admissions Testing Program (ATP). There they took the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) the Test of Standard Written English, the Student Descriptive Questionnaire (SDQ), and many of them, the ATP Achievement Tests. By registering, taking the examinations, and completing the SDQ, they created a pool of information about themselves and asked the College Board to report it to their high schools, to colleges and universities, and to scholarship sponsors.

640 of this group asked that their ATP score reports be sent to L.A.C.C. This study looks at some of the characteristics of this group.

METHOD OF THE STUDY

The College Board sent to L.A.C.C. a copy of their National Report on College Bound Seniors, 1977, and also sent a summary report showing comparable information about the 640 students who requested that their scores be sent to L.A.C.C. Although there is no guarantee that these 640 attended, or even applied for, L.A.C.C., they evidenced interest in attending L.A.C.C., and are referred to in this report as "L.A.C.C. Applicants."

FINDINGS

The following twelve tables indicate various characteristics of the L.A.C.C. applicants together with corresponding figures for the nationwide "college bound" seniors.

TABLE 1 - Sex and Ethnic Distribution (Figures in %)

|                   | <u>A L L</u>     |                  |                   | <u>L A C C</u> |              |               |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|
|                   | MALE             | FEMALE           | TOTAL             | MALE           | FEMALE       | TOTAL         |
| American Indian   | 0.4              | 0.4              | 0.4               | 1.4            | 1.2          | 1.3           |
| Black             | 7.2              | 10.1             | 8.8               | 24.3           | 37.8         | 33.3          |
| Mexican-American  | 1.8              | 1.6              | 1.7               | 15.0           | 12.9         | 13.6          |
| Oriental          | 2.5              | 2.3              | 2.4               | 20.1           | 15.3         | 16.9          |
| Puerto Rican      | 0.8              | 0.8              | 0.8               | 0.9            | 1.2          | 1.1           |
| White             | 84.9             | 82.9             | 83.9              | 29.9           | 20.7         | 23.8          |
| Other             | 2.4              | 1.9              | 2.1               | 8.4            | 11.0         | 10.2          |
| Number Responding | 390,762<br>(48%) | 428,462<br>(52%) | 819,224<br>(100%) | 214<br>(33%)   | 426<br>(67%) | 640<br>(100%) |
| Minority Students | 15.1             | 17.1             | 16.1              | 70.1           | 79.3         | 76.3          |

TABLE 2 - Type of High School (Figures in %)

|                   | <u>ALL</u> | <u>LACC</u> |
|-------------------|------------|-------------|
| Public            | 83         | 84          |
| Private           | 17         | 16          |
| Number Responding | 841,767    | 668         |

TABLE 3 - High School Record (Mean Reported GPA)  
(Figures in %)

|                    | <u>A L L</u> |        |       | <u>L A C C</u> |        |       |
|--------------------|--------------|--------|-------|----------------|--------|-------|
|                    | MALE         | FEMALE | TOTAL | MALE           | FEMALE | TOTAL |
| English            | 3.07         | 3.34   | 3.21  | 2.69           | 2.95   | 2.86  |
| Mathematics        | 2.87         | 2.84   | 2.85  | 2.45           | 2.41   | 2.43  |
| Foreign Language   | 2.84         | 3.15   | 3.01  | 2.58           | 2.69   | 2.66  |
| Biological Science | 3.05         | 3.11   | 3.08  | 2.60           | 2.59   | 2.59  |
| Physical Science   | 2.99         | 2.98   | 2.99  | 2.49           | 2.46   | 2.47  |
| Social Studies     | 3.25         | 3.30   | 3.28  | 2.82           | 2.86   | 2.85  |
| All Subjects       | 3.05         | 3.17   | 3.11  | 2.67           | 2.76   | 2.73  |

TABLE 4 - Mean Number of Years Study

|                    | A L L |        | L A C C |        |
|--------------------|-------|--------|---------|--------|
|                    | MALE  | FEMALE | MALE    | FEMALE |
| English            | 3.92  | 3.97   | 3.39    | 3.40   |
| Mathematics        | 3.57  | 3.19   | 2.85    | 2.47   |
| Foreign Language   | 2.06  | 2.34   | 1.81    | 1.85   |
| Biological Science | 1.40  | 1.42   | 1.34    | 1.27   |
| Physical Science   | 1.91  | 1.50   | 1.18    | 1.01   |
| Social Studies     | 3.23  | 3.16   | 2.91    | 2.84   |

TABLE 5 - Self-Reported Class Rank (Figures in %)

|                        | A L L |        |       | L A C C |        |       |
|------------------------|-------|--------|-------|---------|--------|-------|
|                        | MALE  | FEMALE | TOTAL | MALE    | FEMALE | TOTAL |
| Top Tenth              | 21.9  | 23.6   | 22.8  | 8.1     | 8.7    | 8.5   |
| Second Tenth           | 22.8  | 24.0   | 23.4  | 18.1    | 18.1   | 18.1  |
| Second Fifth           | 27.7  | 26.2   | 26.9  | 30.5    | 28.0   | 28.9  |
| Third Fifth            | 24.4  | 23.6   | 24.0  | 39.5    | 37.7   | 38.3  |
| Fourth Fifth           | 2.7   | 2.2    | 2.5   | 2.9     | 5.7    | 4.7   |
| Lowest Fifth           | 0.5   | 0.4    | 0.4   | 1.0     | 1.7    | 1.5   |
| Median Percentile Rank | 76.1  | 78.1   | 77.1  | 64.3    | 63.4   | 63.7  |

TABLE 6 - S.A.T. Scores

|               | A L L              |         |         | L A C C |        |       |     |
|---------------|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|--------|-------|-----|
|               | MALE               | FEMALE  | TOTAL   | MALE    | FEMALE | TOTAL |     |
| <u>Verbal</u> | Number             | 479,070 | 500,326 | 979,396 | 230    | 440   | 670 |
|               | Mean               | 431     | 427     | 429     | 336    | 312   | 320 |
|               | Standard Deviation | 110     | 110     | 110     | 106    | 96    | 100 |
| <u>Math.</u>  | Number             | 479,058 | 500,286 | 979,344 | 230    | 440   | 670 |
|               | Mean               | 497     | 445     | 470     | 394    | 347   | 363 |
|               | Standard Deviation | 121     | 110     | 119     | 102    | 84    | 93  |

S.A.T. - Verbal  
Subscores

|                      |                    |         |         |         |      |      |      |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|------|------|------|
| <u>Reading Comp.</u> | Number             | 479,049 | 550,317 | 979,366 | 230  | 439  | 669  |
|                      | Mean               | 43.0    | 42.9    | 42.9    | 34.2 | 32.9 | 33.4 |
|                      | Standard Deviation | 11.8    | 10.9    | 11.0    | 9.8  | 8.9  | 9.3  |
| <u>Vocabulary</u>    | Number             | 479,039 | 550,310 | 979,349 | 230  | 439  | 669  |
|                      | Mean               | 43.4    | 42.7    | 43.0    | 33.6 | 30.3 | 31.4 |
|                      | Standard Deviation | 11.1    | 12.1    | 12.0    | 12.2 | 10.7 | 11.4 |

Continued on next page

TABLE 6 (continued)

Test of Standard Written English (TSWE) Scores

|                    | MALE | A L L  |  | TOTAL | MALE | L A C C |  | TOTAL |
|--------------------|------|--------|--|-------|------|---------|--|-------|
|                    |      | FEMALE |  |       |      | FEMALE  |  |       |
| Mean               | 42.2 | 43.7   |  | 42.9  | 32.8 | 31.6    |  | 32.0  |
| Standard Deviation | 11.0 | 10.8   |  | 10.9  | 11.2 | 10.9    |  | 11.0  |

TABLE 7 - Educational Goals (Figures in %)

|                                    | MALE | A D L  |  | TOTAL | MALE | L A C C |  | TOTAL |
|------------------------------------|------|--------|--|-------|------|---------|--|-------|
|                                    |      | FEMALE |  |       |      | FEMALE  |  |       |
| Two-Year Training Program          | 3    | 5      |  | 4     | 9    | 6       |  | 7     |
| Associate in Arts Degree           | 1    | 3      |  | 2     | 3    | 8       |  | 7     |
| BA or BS Degree                    | 28   | 32     |  | 30    | 25   | 30      |  | 28    |
| MA or MS Degree                    | 23   | 21     |  | 22    | 23   | 23      |  | 23    |
| MD, PhD, Other Professional Degree | 22   | 15     |  | 18    | 19   | 10      |  | 13    |
| Undecided                          | 2    | 24     |  | 23    | 21   | 24      |  | 23    |
| Two-Year Program or Degree         | 5    | 8      |  | 6     | 12   | 14      |  | 13    |
| Graduate Study                     | 45   | 36     |  | 40    | 42   | 32      |  | 35    |

TABLE 8 - Educational Goals (Figures in %)

|                       | MALE | A L L  |  | TOTAL | MALE | L A C C |  | TOTAL |
|-----------------------|------|--------|--|-------|------|---------|--|-------|
|                       |      | FEMALE |  |       |      | FEMALE  |  |       |
| Agriculture           | 3.0  | 1.6    |  | 2.2   | 0.0  | 0.2     |  | 0.2   |
| Arch/Envir Design     | 3.1  | 0.7    |  | 1.9   | 2.8  | 0.2     |  | 1.1   |
| Art                   | 2.2  | 5.7    |  | 4.0   | 5.7  | 3.1     |  | 4.0   |
| Biological Sciences   | 4.7  | 4.0    |  | 4.3   | 2.8  | 1.9     |  | 2.2   |
| Business and Commerce | 15.4 | 13.2   |  | 14.3  | 11.8 | 23.6    |  | 19.6  |
| Communications        | 3.1  | 2.9    |  | 3.0   | 5.7  | 3.4     |  | 4.1   |
| Computer Scu/Sys Anal | 2.7  | 1.6    |  | 2.1   | 5.2  | 1.4     |  | 2.7   |
| Education             | 3.9  | 11.9   |  | 8.1   | 3.3  | 8.9     |  | 7.0   |
| Engineering           | 16.6 | 1.7    |  | 8.8   | 11.3 | 0.2     |  | 4.0   |
| English/Literature    | 1.1  | 2.4    |  | 1.8   | 0.5  | 1.7     |  | 1.3   |
| Ethnic Studies        | 0.0  | 0.0    |  | 0.0   | 0.0  | 0.0     |  | 0.0   |
| Foreign Languages     | 0.3  | 1.8    |  | 1.1   | 0.5  | 1.4     |  | 1.1   |
| Forestry/Conservation | 2.4  | 0.8    |  | 1.6   | 0.5  | 0.2     |  | 0.3   |
| Geography             | 0.1  | 0.0    |  | 0.0   | 0.0  | 0.0     |  | 0.0   |
| Health and Medical    | 11.0 | 23.5   |  | 17.6  | 13.2 | 24.1    |  | 20.4  |

Continued on next page

TABLE 8 (continued)

|                      | A L L |        |       | L A C C |        |       |
|----------------------|-------|--------|-------|---------|--------|-------|
|                      | MALE  | FEMALE | TOTAL | MALE    | FEMALE | TOTAL |
| History and Cultures | 1.2   | 0.7    | 0.9   | 0.9     | 0.0    | 0.3   |
| Home Economics       | 0.1   | 1.3    | 0.8   | 0.0     | 1.0    | 0.6   |
| Library Science      | 0.0   | 0.2    | 0.1   | 0.0     | 0.0    | 0.0   |
| Mathematics          | 1.9   | 1.4    | 1.7   | 1.9     | 1.7    | 1.8   |
| Military Science     | 1.7   | 0.1    | 0.9   | 0.5     | 0.0    | 0.2   |
| Music                | 2.1   | 2.1    | 2.1   | 5.7     | 1.2    | 2.7   |
| Philosophy and Relig | 0.7   | 0.4    | 0.5   | 0.5     | 0.0    | 0.2   |
| Physical Sciences    | 3.7   | 1.1    | 2.8   | 2.4     | 0.2    | 1.0   |
| Psychology           | 1.7   | 4.7    | 3.3   | 1.9     | 2.7    | 2.4   |
| Social Sciences      | 8.6   | 7.9    | 8.2   | 9.4     | 8.2    | 8.6   |
| Theatre Arts         | 0.7   | 1.7    | 1.2   | 5.7     | 5.8    | 5.7   |
| Trade and Vocational | 1.1   | 0.8    | 1.0   | 4.2     | 3.9    | 4.0   |
| Other                | 1.6   | 1.3    | 1.4   | 1.9     | 1.9    | 1.9   |
| Undecided            | 5.2   | 4.5    | 4.8   | 1.9     | 2.9    | 2.6   |

TABLE 9 - Participation in Community and Church (Figures in %)

|                           | A L L |        |       | L A C C |        |       |
|---------------------------|-------|--------|-------|---------|--------|-------|
|                           | MALE  | FEMALE | TOTAL | MALE    | FEMALE | TOTAL |
| No Participation (0)      | 23    | 18     | 20    | 42      | 30     | 34    |
| Nominal Participation (1) | 20    | 17     | 18    | 17      | 16     | 16    |
| Active (2)                | 28    | 30     | 29    | 27      | 28     | 27    |
| Very Active (3)           | 9     | 11     | 10    | 6       | 7      | 7     |
| Leader (4)                | 20    | 25     | 23    | 8       | 19     | 16    |
| More than Nominal Partic  | 57    | 66     | 62    | 41      | 54     | 50    |
| Participation Index (0-4) | 1.84  | 2.09   | 1.97  | 1.21    | 1.70   | 1.54  |

TABLE 10 - Participation in Athletics (Figures in %)

|                            | A L L |        |       | L A C C |        |       |
|----------------------------|-------|--------|-------|---------|--------|-------|
|                            | MALE  | FEMALE | TOTAL | MALE    | FEMALE | TOTAL |
| No Participation (0)       | 12    | 29     | 21    | 24      | 46     | 39    |
| Individual, intramural (1) | 30    | 39     | 35    | 44      | 38     | 40    |
| Varsity, but no Ltrs (2)   | 15    | 10     | 12    | 10      | 6      | 8     |
| Varsity, Ltr in Sport (3)  | 23    | 13     | 18    | 14      | 6      | 9     |
| Var Ltr/2 or More Spts (4) | 20    | 9      | 14    | 8       | 3      | 5     |
| Varsity Index (0-4)        | 2.08  | 1.33   | 1.69  | 1.38    | 0.83   | 1.01  |

TABLE 11 - Extracurricular Activities in High School and Plans for College  
(Figures in %)

|   | MALE                 |                      | A L L<br>FEMALE      |                      | TOTAL                |                      | MALE                 |                      | L A C C<br>FEMALE    |                      | TOTAL                |                      |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
|   | Active<br>in<br>H.S. | Will<br>be<br>Active |
| Athletics, incl<br>intramural &<br>Community  | 81                   | 67                   | 57                   | 44                   | 68                   | 55                   | 60                   | 46                   | 35                   | 28                   | 43                   | 34                   |
| Ethnic Organizations                          | 6                    | 6                    | 8                    | 8                    | 7                    | 7                    | 14                   | 16                   | 17                   | 19                   | 16                   | 18                   |
| Journalism, Debating,<br>Dramatics            | 26                   | 22                   | 35                   | 31                   | 31                   | 27                   | 20                   | 21                   | 23                   | 23                   | 22                   | 22                   |
| Art, Music, or Dance                          | 31                   | 24                   | 49                   | 41                   | 41                   | 33                   | 30                   | 29                   | 35                   | 39                   | 34                   | 36                   |
| Department or Pre-<br>professional Clubs      | 11                   | 18                   | 18                   | 21                   | 14                   | 19                   | 11                   | 19                   | 10                   | 19                   | 10                   | 19                   |
| Religious Organizations                       | 31                   | 20                   | 39                   | 27                   | 35                   | 24                   | 16                   | 10                   | 21                   | 14                   | 20                   | 12                   |
| Social or Community<br>Clubs                  | 37                   | 38                   | 51                   | 52                   | 44                   | 45                   | 24                   | 23                   | 40                   | 42                   | 35                   | 34                   |
| Student Government                            | 22                   | 19                   | 28                   | 24                   | 25                   | 22                   | 10                   | 10                   | 16                   | 13                   | 14                   | 12                   |
| Average Extracurricular<br>Rate               | 31                   | 27                   | 36                   | 31                   | 33                   | 29                   | 23                   | 22                   | 25                   | 25                   | 24                   | 24                   |
| Number responding to at<br>least one activity | 386,283              |                      | 425,210              |                      | 811,493              |                      | 209                  |                      | 425                  |                      | 634                  |                      |

CLEARINGHOUSE FOR  
JUNIOR COLLEGES

JAN 27 1978

UNIVERSITY OF CALIF.  
LOS ANGELES

TABLE 12 - Annual Parental Income by Ethnic Group

|                    | NUMBER  | L A C C  |          | NUMBER | L A C C  |          |
|--------------------|---------|----------|----------|--------|----------|----------|
|                    |         | MEAN     | MEDIAN   |        | MEAN     | MEDIAN   |
| American Indian    | 2,781   | \$16,400 | \$13,500 | 8      | \$5,400  | \$6,000  |
| Black              | 62,743  | \$11,300 | \$ 8,900 | 183    | \$8,700  | \$6,000  |
| Mexican-American   | 12,442  | \$13,200 | \$11,300 | 83     | \$8,600  | \$7,400  |
| Oriental           | 17,256  | \$19,000 | \$15,400 | 95     | \$11,000 | \$9,600  |
| Puerto Rican       | 5,801   | \$13,000 | \$ 9,600 | 6      | \$5,900  | \$6,000  |
| White              | 594,278 | \$23,000 | \$18,900 | 131    | \$18,700 | \$15,306 |
| Other              | 14,593  | \$17,500 | \$13,600 | 55     | \$8,600  | \$7,100  |
| No Ethnic Response | 13,731  | \$19,700 | \$15,900 | 24     | \$10,600 | \$9,500  |
| All Students       | 723,625 | \$21,500 | \$17,600 | 585    | \$11,300 | \$9,000  |

## OBSERVATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

Although the 640 "L.A.C.C. Applicants" did not necessarily attend L.A.C.C., they did request that their scores be sent to L.A.C.C., and it seemed appropriate to prepare this report comparing some of their characteristics with those of the total group taking the SAT nationwide. Test performance and other attributes of the "L.A.C.C. Applicants" should of course not be equated with those of actual L.A.C.C. students, but the information is presented to provide (possibly biased) insights into the nature of the students contemplating attendance at L.A.C.C.

Following are some observations on the findings of the study:

- (1) Ethnic distribution of "L.A.C.C. Applicants" is quite similar to that of current L.A.C.C. students, and is markedly different from the nationwide group of SAT test-takers. 76% of the "L.A.C.C. Applicants" are of minority background, compared with a figure of 74% for Fall, 1976 L.A.C.C. students, and 16% for the nationwide group.

## OBSERVATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS. (continued).

- (2) 67% of the "L.A.C.C. Applicants" were female, compared with a figure of 60% for those taking the Fall 1977 Guidance Examination and 52% for the national group. 55% of those enrolled at L.A.C.C. in Fall 1977 are female.
- (3) Median reported annual parental income for "L.A.C.C. Applicants" was \$9,000, compared with \$17,600 for the national group. A Fall 1976 L.A.C.C. student survey showed the median for L.A.C.C. day students to be \$8,800.
- (4) In reporting high school grade point averages, number of years study of various subjects, and high school class rank, "L.A.C.C. Applicants" reports were significantly lower in all areas than the national group.
- (5) In indicating degree of participation in community and church activity, and in participation in high school athletics and extra curricular activities, "L.A.C.C. Applicants" were consistently less active than the national group. An exception is interest in ethnic organizations.
- (6) In stating educational goals, "L.A.C.C. Applicants" were about comparable to the national group in percent aiming for a bachelor's degree. A larger percentage of "L.A.C.C. Applicants" indicated 2 year goals; while a smaller percentage indicated graduate study.
- (7) In naming specific areas for educational goals, "L.A.C.C. Applicants" differed slightly from their national counterparts. Business, fine arts, and trade and vocational were more popular with "L.A.C.C. Applicants;" physical and biological sciences, engineering were less popular. Both groups ranked Health and Medical, and Business and Commerce first and second. Neither group showed any interest in pursuing ethnic studies.
- (8) Test score means and standard deviations were reported for the SAT Verbal, the SAT Mathematics, the SAT Verbal sub-scores of Reading Comprehension and Vocabulary, and the TSWE (Test of Standard Written English). In all cases, means for "L.A.C.C. Applicants" were significantly lower than those for the national group. Considering the national group as the "norm", mean score for "L.A.C.C. Applicants" was below the 20th percentile in each of the tests.
- (9) Female mean scores were lower than those for male for all tests for the "L.A.C.C. Applicants," and were lower in all but the Test of Standard Written English for the national group.

\* \* \* \* \*