

# ACT Online Prep Helps Students on the ACT

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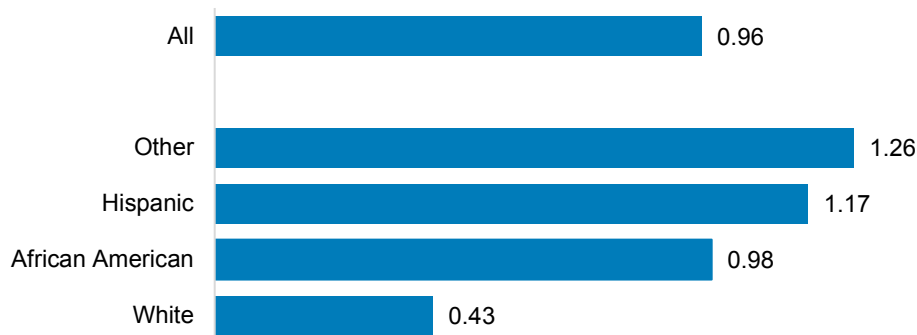
A redesigned version of ACT® Online Prep (AOP) was launched in December 2015. AOP offers students an estimated 120 hours of activities to help them prepare to take the ACT, including access to long- and short-form practice tests, flashcards for content review, and lessons on the knowledge and skills tested by the ACT. AOP also offers students a personalized learning plan, along with tools to track progress and goals to help them stay on target.

A forthcoming ACT study examines the impact of enrolling in AOP on ACT test performance for students who took the ACT at least once between December 2015 and July 2018. In this first look analysis, the effect of enrollment in AOP is examined; follow-up research will explore how the benefits of using AOP vary by usage patterns.

## Key Findings

- **Enrollment in AOP was associated with nearly a 1 point increase in students' average ACT Composite score.**
- **Although students from all racial/ethnic groups benefitted from AOP (figure 1), the benefit to minority students (of about 1 point or more) was greater than the benefit to White students (of under half a point).**

**Figure 1.** Average Difference in ACT Composite Score Between AOP and Non-AOP Enrollees by Race/Ethnicity



Notes: Inverse propensity score weighting was used to evaluate the causal impact of enrolling in AOP. In all, 107,665 AOP students and 423,828 control students were included in the analysis. We controlled for student gender, race/ethnicity, family income, taking advanced or AP courses, grade level, self-reported need for help on academic or career/navigation planning, having a parent with a B.A. degree, taken mathematics courses beyond Algebra II, taken science courses beyond Chemistry, high school GPA, having taken the ACT more than once, and the number of months from ACT testing to graduation. All differences between AOP and non-AOP race/ethnicity groups were statistically significantly different ( $p < 0.0001$ ). Test preparation activities beyond AOP were not assessed in this study.