



Affirmative Action Survey Toplines

National Survey

September 9, 2022 – September 12, 2022

Margin of sampling error: +/- 3.97 percentage points for total

DETAILS: 1,003 adults 18 and older interviewed September 9-12, 2022 using the AmeriSpeak® Panel, the probability-based panel of NORC at the University of Chicago. The interviews were conducted online and over telephone using landlines and cell phones.

1. Which statement comes closer to your view:

	Total
(Statement A): Colleges should only base admissions decisions on standardized test results (like the SAT and the ACT) and high school grades.	22
(Statement B): College admissions should take into consideration the lived experiences and the whole story of a student, in addition to high school grades and test scores.	76

2. Below are statements about college admissions. For each one, please choose whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with it.

	NET Agree	Strongly Agree	Agree	Dis.	Strongly Dis.	NET Dis.
a. All students, no matter their race or background, benefit from college campuses that reflect the diversity of who we are as Americans.	87	39	47	8	4	12
b. College admissions that look at the whole student, not just their test scores, help	74	32	41	17	8	25

achieve racial equity in higher education.						
c. We need racial diversity in addition to diversity of students' economic backgrounds to achieve true equality.	70	31	39	18	9	27
d. Due to racial inequality, government action is necessary to level the playing field.	52	17	35	28	17	45

3. Below are a few statements about diversity in education. For each one, please indicate whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with it.

	NET Agree	Strongly Agree	Agree	Dis.	Strongly Dis.	NET Dis.
a. Diversity contributes to a better education for all students.	79	37	42	14	4	18
b. Colleges and universities have the responsibility to create diverse student bodies.	74	30	44	18	5	22

4. Below are some reasons why affirmative action is needed to create a more equal society. For each one, please indicate whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with it.

	NET Agree	Strongly Agree	Agree	Dis.	Strongly Dis.	NET Dis.
a. Affirmative action helps create diverse campuses, which benefits all of us.	69	23	45	18	9	27
b. Affirmative action promotes equal opportunities, including for those who did not have it in the past.	67	22	45	21	8	29

c. Affirmative action helps address ongoing racial discrimination in higher education.	63	19	43	24	10	34
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5. Below are a few statements about affirmative action. For each one, please indicate whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with it.

	NET Agree	Strongly Agree	Agree	Dis.	Strongly Dis.	NET Dis.
a. Affirmative action helps level the playing field and give all students, regardless of their race or background, a fair shot at attending college.	64	20	44	21	9	31
b. Taking away affirmative action would virtually shut out many talented and qualified students of color from getting into certain colleges and universities.	57	18	39	26	12	38

6. How important is it to you that the Supreme Court protects affirmative action?

Important	54
Neither important nor unimportant	25
Not important	18
DK/REF	0

Demographics

7. Age

18-29	20
30-44	26
45-59	24
60+	30

8. Race

White, non-Hispanic	62
Black, non-Hispanic	12
Hispanic	17
Asian, non-Hispanic	7
Other, non-Hispanic	1
More than one race, non-Hispanic	1

9. Gender

Male	49
Female	51
Other	0

10. Household income

Under \$30,000	24
\$30,000 to under \$60,000	26
\$60,000 to under \$100,000	22
\$100,000 or more	27

11. Education

Less than high school	9
High school graduate or equivalent	29
Vocational/tech school/some college/ associates	26
Bachelor's degree	19
Postgraduate or professional degree	16

12. Party ID

Republican	34
Democrat	47
Independent/Don't lean/None	19

13. Metro/non-metro

Metro	86
Non-metro	14
14. Region	
Northeast	18
Midwest	21
South	38
West	24