

# The State of STEM in Your State – 2017



## SOUTH CAROLINA STATE REPORT

The average STEM score for South Carolina's graduating class of 2017 was **19**.

### Percentage of all South Carolina ACT-tested HS Graduates Meeting ACT College Readiness Benchmarks by Subject

	Math	Science	STEM
Met Benchmark	25%	23%	10%
Within 1-2 Points of Benchmark	7%	12%	8%

### South Carolina College Readiness Benchmark Percentages by Race/Ethnicity

Race	Math	Science	STEM
2 or More Races	26%	25%	9%
White	37%	34%	15%
Pacific Islander	24%	23%	6%
Hispanic	19%	16%	6%
Asian	58%	47%	32%
Native American	10%	9%	1%
Black	7%	6%	1%

The data in this report represent all ACT-tested students in South Carolina's 2017 graduating class.

### Tomorrow's STEM Workforce in South Carolina

22,628 South Carolina students, or 44%, had an interest in STEM, but only 7,228 (14%) had **both** an expressed interest (they plan to pursue a STEM major or career) and a measured interest (their ACT Interest Inventory score pointed to a STEM field).

South Carolina's future STEM educator pipeline may be in danger—only 96 students planned to enter math education, and only 33 science education.

# SOUTH CAROLINA STEM STUDENT PROFILE

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## Aradaryn Singleton

Southern Wesleyan University, *class of 2020*

### **In what grade did you first become interested in a STEM field?**

Seventh Grade

### **What sparked your interest in STEM?**

When I first learned of complex life systems, such as DNA and cells, I was in total awe. Since then I have decided I want to continue learning the infinite details of our intricate systems and teaching them to other bright STEM students!

### **How do you picture your future, in higher education and career?**

I would love to pursue a career at a small private college, much like Southern Wesleyan University, as a biology professor.

### **What challenges do STEM students face when following through with their interest in STEM fields?**

As a STEM student, the classes are certainly difficult, however the biggest shock to me starting out was the reaction of other people. There seems to be very little faith for science majors in continuing their degree; however, with passion it's possible.



ACT thanks STEMPremier for sharing student STEM profiles for this report.

