

- I. **Source** – ACT, “The Condition of STEM 2015”
- II. **Credibility of Source** – Statistical information collected from ACT testing results and subsequent surveys. The information is credible.
- III. **Summary of Content and Conclusions** – This study is a detailed report showing readiness of high school students for advanced college courses. The study shows that interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) is growing with respect to other industries such as health and education. But high school student readiness for college work is still low, and interest in teaching STEM at the high school level is lower than demand. Texas ranked above average in interest at 53% of students expressing interest in STEM vs. 49% for the rest of the nation.
- IV. **Relevance to the Department of ECE** – Since this is focused on high school exit rather than college exit test results, it’s not relevant to the department; however, it underscores the importance of a couple of the department’s recent actions. One, raising the admission standards for incoming students will effectively raise the level of skills the college has to work with. Better quality in leads to (but doesn’t guarantee) better quality out. Two, the focus on project work and interdisciplinary communications fills the needs of the engineering community most effectively.
- V. **Recommendations for the Department or the IAB** – Continue to work on teaching the soft skills of communication, particularly those pertaining to simplification of technical problems to laypeople and executive summarization.
- VI. **Contact Information**
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