

CHANGING ADMISSIONS CRITERIA TO MATCH OUR CHANGING TIMES

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ADMISSIONS OFFICE PRACTICES CAN BE HIGHLY DISTINCTIVE, WITH VARIATION IN PRACTICES THAT ARE DISCONNECTED FROM EVIDENCE ON EFFECTIVENESS SUCH AS THE CONNECTION BETWEEN ADMISSIONS CRITERIA AND STUDENT SUCCESS OR EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS.

- The ACT and SAT's have taken on a mystical importance in modern American society.
- They are used as a yardstick for assessing the quality of high schools and colleges
- They have a major impact on everything from a student's self image to the price of homes in a specific neighborhood

HOW HAS ADMISSIONS CHANGED AND WHAT IT MEANS

- Admissions Protocols
- Covid-19 and its effect on Admissions
- Test Optional vs Test Flexible
- Are we going back to testing?
- Other Metrics and the ongoing admissions conversation

ADMISSIONS PROTOCOLS

How does your college drive applications to admissions?

What an SAT or ACT can mean

What different admissions pathways can exist

A difference for four-year universities and admissions vs. community colleges

The drive to remove roadblocks to admissions

The strength of the application



ADMISSIONS RUBRICS AND COMMITTEES

Who decides and why?



FINDINGS OF
VARIOUS STUDIES
ON THE VALUE OF
THE SAT AND THE
ACT



USING NON-ACADEMIC FACTORS (NAF)

- The use of NAF has come under attack in part because of the lack of transparency
 1. Using an interview as part of the process
 2. Using a curated portfolio
 3. Using a timed essay under test conditions
 4. Using a “holistic approach”

WHY TEST OPTIONAL AND OTHER TEST-LIGHT OPTIONS HAVE WORKED SO WELL IN COLLEGE ADMISSIONS (STEINBERG,R 2023;COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY)

1. General Mental Ability
2. Creative Intelligence
3. Practical Intelligence
4. Many first-year courses use knowledge and skills that are different from those needed to succeed in a discipline
5. Attributes beyond Abilities
6. Intellectual Integrity
7. Intellectual Positivity

PREDICTORS OF EARLY COLLEGE SUCCESS IN THE US; AN INITIAL EXAMINATION OF TEST OPTIONAL POLICIES (AUGUST 2025 EDUCATION SCIENCES)

- Tinto Stages for academic success 1993
- How they correlate to today's environment
- Not submitting a test score had no significant effect on college GPA or first year completion
- HS GPA is the best predictor of first year completion and college GPA
- Here we go down the rabbit hole!!!

This new study also notes that students who choose not to submit test scores are more likely to be the first in their families to go to college, women, minorities, recipients of need based financial aid , and students with learning disabilities.

College Entrance Testing: Defining Promise: Optional Standardized Testing Policies in American College and University Admissions.
Adams, C.J. (Feb, 26, 2014) Education Week

The researchers focused on SUNY Potsdam an institution that enacted the Test optional policy in Fall 2021. The results revealed that application did increase with the test optional policy. However, the test optional policy did not affect acceptance rates and did not increase enrollment. It did have an increase in diverse student populations. (Schultz and Bagstrom ;2021)

Education Sciences 2025: Predictors of early college success rates in the US; An initial examination of test optional policies (Othman, Vannatta and Roberts)

This Study found that there are “no significant differences” between the college grades and completion rates of students who submit ACT and SAT scores with their applications and those who do not. A more reliable predictor of academic success, the research concludes is students high school grades.

College Entrance Testing: Defining Promise: Optional Standardized Testing Policies in American College and University Admissions.
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The institutions in our study appeared to treat non-submitters differently than submitters, admitting them at a lower rate and, on average, treating them a little less generously in the financial aid process, particularly with merit scholarships. The admitted non-submitters, however, enrolled at higher rates at virtually all of our institutions.

Defining Access: How Test Optional Works: Syverson, Franks, Hiss; Spring 2018)

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS DECISION AT FOUR YEAR INSTITUTIONS ARE FACING INTENSE SCRUTINY.

MANY STATE AND FEDERAL POLICY MAKERS ARE FOCUSED UPON ACCESS, STUDENT PERSISTENCE AND A MORE DIVERSE STUDENT BODY

A study of the use of nonacademic factors in holistic undergraduate admissions reviews
Don Hossler, et. al. The Journal of Higher Education vol. 90 2019

HIGHER EDUCATIONS ACCOMPLISHMENTS YOU MAY HAVE MISSED IN 2023 EILEEN STREMPLE AND STEPHEN HANDEL

Test Optional admissions provides students with an opportunity to show their talent. At least 1900 have adopted or continued test optional policies.

2023 has brought a greater recognition of the connection between higher education and work

There is a growing recognition of higher education's role in advancing student economic mobility



THANK YOU
AND PLEASE
FILL OUT THE
SURVEY!!

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