



College Aid Pro™

OUR MISSION

TO **END THE STUDENT LOAN CRISIS** BY
EMPOWERING FAMILIES TO **SHOP SMARTER FOR COLLEGE**



College Aid Pro™

**To ACT, SAT, or Test-Optional...
That is the Question**

Get Ready!



Your Presenters

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WHERE DO WE START?



Website:

mycap.collegeaidpro.com

Every scholarship,
at every college

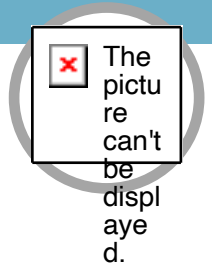
\$5.1B Private
Scholarship Search

Instant net
price calculator,
at every college

Instant EFC
Calculator

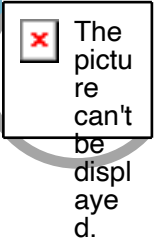
Line-by-line guidance for
FAFSA & CSS Profile

Quick History Lesson of Test-Optional



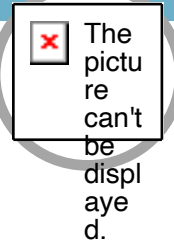
- Began at Bowdoin College (ME) in 1970
- Adopted by many smaller, liberal arts based schools in the 80's.
- Gained major traction in the Mid-2000's, with more competitive and STEM based universities adopting policies
- Test-Blind policies also began to make their way into the forefront
- In 2020 as the pandemic hit, testing centers closed worldwide. This forced all schools to adopt some versions of test-optional.

Important Facts from Recent Admission Cycles



- 49 out of the top 50 US News and World National Universities committed to being test-optional for 21-22 cycle
- Over 1,800 four -year colleges committed to test-optional policies for this past cycle.
- Over 1,450 have already made either test-optional or test-free admissions permanent.
- In 2019, 78% of all applicants submitted test scores.

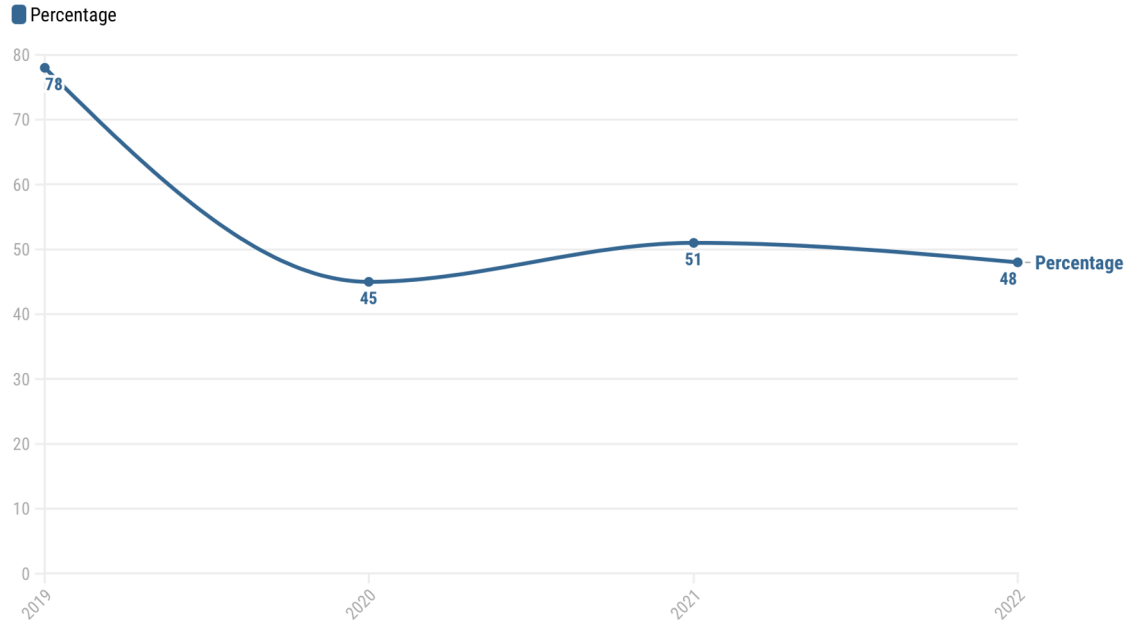
Important Facts from Recent Admission Cycles



- Only 4% of colleges required test scores for this fall, down from 55% in pre-pandemic 2019.
- Less than half of all early applicants (including early decision, restrictive early action, and early action policies) submitted test scores, defeating any myth that the policy was only seeing growth in the regular decision stages.
- 1.2 Million students took the SAT in 2022 compared to 2.2 Million in 2020.

Downturn of SAT/ACT Submission

Share of Common Apps that included SAT or ACT scores, through November 1




Share of Common Apps that included SAT or ACT scores, through November 1

Source: Common App

Comparing & Contrasting the Standardized Tests

	SAT	ACT
Test Structure	Reading, Writing & Language, Math	English, Math, Reading, Science Reasoning, Essay (Optional)
Length	3 Hours	2 Hours, 55 Minutes (Without Essay) 3 Hours, 40 Minutes (With Essay)
Type of Test	“Marathon”	“Sprint”
Reading	5 Reading Passages	4 Reading Passages
Science	None	1 Science Section (Critical Thinking Based)
Math	Arithmetic, Algebra I & II, Geometry, Trigonometry and Data Analysis	Arithmetic, Algebra I & II, Geometry, Probability & Statistics
Calculator Policy	Dependent on Section	Can use on all Math Questions
How It’s Scored	Scored on a scale of 400–600	Scored on a scale of 1–36

Test-Optional VS Test-Blind



The picture can't be displayed.

Test-Optional – Students can choose whether to send their standardized test score to a college. Students who choose not to send their scores WILL NOT be at a disadvantage. In fact, they will be just as competitive for admission as those who send their scores.

Test-Blind or “Test Free” – Colleges WILL NOT use any standardized test scores for admission purposes.


Notable Test-Blind Schools



WPI



Will Test-Optional Benefit You?

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Is your test score AT LEAST in the top 25th percentile for a given school?


If not, you will almost certainly want to apply test-optional.

If your score rests AT OR ABOVE the 50% average for the previous freshman class at a given school, then consider sending your scores.

If a student with a 1460 SAT score applies to a school where the mean SAT score is 1410, they should consider submitting that score.

The same process/logic applies whether your score is a 910, 1110, or 1310.

It is always your GOAL, and your RESPONSIBILITY as an applicant (along with your counselor, or our spoiler alert! help) to make your application more about four years of high school, and less about four hours of testing.



Specific Rules Surrounding Test-Optional

..... ○

Do your homework regarding test optional admission statistics

For some school – averages can be misleading

Boston College: Overall Admit Rate – 17%

- 25% of admitted applicants submitted test scores
- 10% of admitted applicants were test optional

University of Virginia:

- Students without test scores made up 42% of pool, but only 26% of applications

A blurred background image showing a laptop on the left and a stack of four books on the right, resting on a desk. The books have various colored spines, including white, red, and grey.

Specific Rules Surrounding Test-Optional

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For selective colleges, other parts of your application have to be stellar

- **Grades**
- **Extracurriculars**
- **Essays**
- **Interview (if available, always do)**



Specific Rules Surrounding Test-Optional

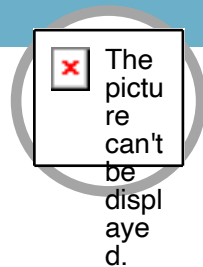
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Have confidence in those who have done it before...

An internal study at Bates College (an early adopter of test optional) looked at two decades of data, comparing GPAs earned by those submitting scores and those who did not.

- Those who submitted test scores had an average 3.16 GPA
- Those who did not submit test scores had an average 3.13 GPA

To Test or Not to Test



- 1 Register for the SAT/ACT. However, the score importance has diminished to gain admission into a selective college or university.
- 2 Focus on your academic rigor & coursework both inside and outside of your high school.
- 3 Participate in & lead meaningful activities.
- 4 Write strong, compelling essays.
- 5 Demonstrate interest in your colleges.
- 6 Get to know your teachers. Strong recommendation letters are key for many highly selective colleges.



NEXT STEPS



Keep the ball rolling!

Talk with CAP about how we can support you.

Click **HERE**



College Aid ProTM

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Subscribe to our YouTube Channel

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