

Not all Colleges Are Requiring SAT Scores



Not all admissions processes are created equal. One major point of difference among colleges these days is how admissions officers consider your SAT scores. More schools are de-emphasizing SAT scores as part of your application with “test optional” and “test flexible” policies. One college has even eliminated SAT scores completely!

There are now over 800 accredited, bachelor-degree granting institutions that have changed their approach to standardized test scores. **(Keep in mind that the majority of colleges, especially the more prestigious schools, do still require and strongly consider your SAT scores.)** Let’s take a look at the different policies and which schools no longer require applicants to submit their scores for admission.

What Is Test Optional?

A “test optional” policy leaves the **decision up to you of whether or not you want to send your SAT scores**. SAT optional colleges do not require you to send your scores. Instead, you must decide whether or not your test results are an accurate representation of your academic ability and potential.

Just as with the rest of your application, you can be purposeful in crafting your candidacy to a test optional college. This leaves you with more choice and control over how you best present your strengths to admissions officers.

Some highly ranked SAT optional schools include Bates, Bowdoin, Bryn Mawr, Hofstra, Pitzer, Sarah Lawrence, Smith, University of Iowa, University of Texas at Austin, Wake Forest, Washington University, and Wesleyan.

Some often applied to school by FLHS students include Montclair State, American, Temple, University of Arizona, Hofstra, University of Massachusetts, DePaul, Catholic, Rowan, Ithaca, Fairfield, etc.

What Is Test Flexible?

A “test flexible” policy does require you to send test scores, but it may allow for different options in place of the SAT. Some schools may waive the test requirement if you meet a minimum GPA or are applying to a specific program. Other schools will allow you to send AP test scores or SAT Subject Test scores in lieu

of the general SAT. Their rationale is that these scores may demonstrate subject mastery and thus reveal your own particular academic interests and motivations.

NYU's test flexible policy, for example, states the following:

"To be eligible for admission, applicants are expected to submit results from one of the following testing options:

*The SAT Reasoning Test; or
The ACT with Writing Test; or
Three SAT Subject Test scores; or
Three AP exam scores."*

****Colorado College has a similar policy.**

Since the specifics of test flexible policies may vary from school to school, you should check with your colleges of interest to make sure you are fulfilling the application requirements. This information should be available on each school's admission website, but if it's not, definitely call up an admissions officer and speak to them directly. You'll not only get the information you need, but you will also be demonstrating interest and a proactive approach to the college, which could help you stand out among all the other applicants.

Some highly ranked test flexible schools include Colby College, Colorado College, Hamilton College, Middlebury College, and NYU.

What Is Test Blind?

Currently, there is only one college that has a "test blind" policy, or does not want you to send any test scores at all. **This school is Hampshire College in Amherst, MA.** Their policy states that they will reject any sent score reports: "Unlike 'test-optional' institutions, we will not consider SAT/ACT scores regardless of the score. Even if it's a perfect score, it will not weigh into our assessment of an applicant."

In Conclusion...

Most prestigious universities (the top 50 national universities) still require the SAT. This includes Ivy League schools like Harvard, Yale, and Princeton; University of California system schools like Berkeley and UCLA; and many other top private schools.

It's important to know the SAT policies of schools long before you actually apply, since taking and prepping for the SAT can begin over a year in advance of your deadlines. Now that you're aware of these different policies, your first course of action is to start exploring.

For a full list of test optional schools you can visit:

<http://fairtest.org/sites/default/files/OptionalPDFHardCopy.pdf>