



TEST-OPTIONAL COLLEGE ADMISSION POLICIES

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education

With Test-Optional Policies gaining momentum over the past decade, parents and students have many questions about what they are, how they differ from other admissions policies, and whether or not their student should submit their test scores. Below are answers to the most frequently asked questions Open Door Education receives about testing policies.

FAQs

What are Test-Optional Policies?

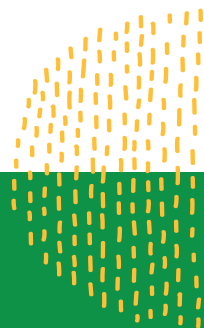
Test Optional Policies (TOPs) allow some or all prospective students to apply without submitting standardized test scores from the SAT or ACT. There are a variety of TOPs:

- Test-Optional for all applicants
- Test-Optional with additional application materials (graded work, supplemental essays)
- Test-Optional if you meet certain GPA requirements
- Test-Optional unless you are applying for specific schools or scholarships

Students who apply to Test-Optional schools may still submit SAT/ACT scores, but they are not required to do so.

What does it mean if a school says it is Test-Blind?

Test-Blind Policies do not consider SAT/ACT scores at all in the admissions process, even if the student chooses to submit them. Test-Blind schools place an increased emphasis on transcripts, essays, letters of recommendation, extracurriculars, and service.





Why do schools adopt TOPs?

Schools that adopt TOPs see an increase in the overall number of applications as well as an increase in applications from minority students and students of relatively low socio-economic status. TOPs also tend to increase average SAT/ACT scores, which helps colleges improve their rankings and appear more competitive. Many colleges adopted TOPs in response to the Covid pandemic and have elected to keep these policies in place. The Supreme Court ruling in SFFA v. Harvard further incentivizes schools to retain their TOPs.

Who are TOPs designed for? Who should use them?

TOPs are especially helpful for students who feel that the SAT/ACT does not accurately represent their academic ability as well as for students who lack quality resources to prepare for the SAT/ACT. Any student can apply to Test-Optional schools.

There are now over 1,000 schools that have adopted some form of TOP, including the University of Chicago, Wake Forest, Brandeis, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and Bates College. For the most up-to-date information about a college's testing policies, visit the admissions page on their website.

If my student chooses a Test-Optional School, should they still submit their scores?

Admissions data shows that students who submit SAT/ACT scores are generally admitted at higher rates than students who apply Test-Optional. To decide whether Test-Optional is right for you, look up the middle 50% range of test scores for a particular college. If a student's scores are at or above the low end of the range, it is advantageous to submit scores. If not, it may be wisest to apply test-optional.

Many students submit test scores to some, but not all, of the colleges to which they are applying. Consult with a college counselor before making the final decision as to whether to submit test scores.

We're here to help! Contact Open Door Education today for answers to your questions about SAT/ACT testing.

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