

# TEST OPTIONAL

Colleges or universities that have a test-optional admissions policy allow all or some applicants to decide whether to submit SAT or ACT® scores as part of their application and it will not be counted against them in the application review. Understanding test-optional policies can help students make informed decisions about whether to submit the SAT, the ACT, or both when applying. It is important to read each institution's policy carefully so that families are aware of the qualifications for admission, scholarships, financial aid, etc.

**Test optional:** This is a blanket term for schools which do not require applicants to submit test scores before admissions decisions are made, including test-free institutions. Currently, there are more than 1,700 bachelor-degree granting schools that give students the power to choose whether ACT/SAT scores will be considered in the admissions process.

**Test-free or Test-Blind:** This refers to institutions that will not consider ACT or SAT results in the admissions process even if scores are submitted. As of September 2023, about 86 campuses, including the University of California and the California State University, the nation's largest public higher education system, are test-free. Test-free is sometimes referred to as "test blind".

## **Helpful Resources**

[Fair Test](#): Listing of 2,000 universities that offer optional test admission policies

Compass Education Group: [SAT and ACT Policies and Score Ranges for Popular Colleges and Universities](#)

University of Pittsburgh Test Optional Perspectives: [What You Need to Know About Applying Test Optional](#)

