



PROPOSAL

FOR UW TO BE ACT/SAT TEST OPTIONAL FOR
ADMISSIONS AND SCHOLARSHIPS



ISSUE

Due to lingering impacts of COVID-19 current high school seniors who will enter college fall 2022 have experienced difficulties finding an available ACT/SAT test site. As a result, many universities nationwide have made the decision to be test optional permanently. UW's Board of Trustees gave approval to be test optional for admissions and scholarships for the incoming fall 2021 class.

The question often received from prospective students, families, and high school counselors is whether UW is going to continue to be test optional beyond fall 2021.

PROPOSAL

For students applying to UW for the 22/23AY, we propose the ACT/SAT exam to not be required for admission. Instead, students who apply for admission will be considered based on their unweighted GPA and high school curriculum.



STUDENTS AND THEIR SUCCESS

- Students can be put in a competitive disadvantage when an ACT/SAT score is required.
- Rural students may not have access to test prep opportunities that are available in metro areas.
- Economic disadvantaged students find it difficult to prepare and pay for the exam.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS



There are four important aspects to student success:

- ACADEMIC SUCCESS
- FINANCIAL STABILITY
- BELONGING AND ENGAGEMENT
- PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

UW has the ability to review high school GPA and curriculum to gauge readiness. Retention and graduation outcomes are not based solely on academic success. Instead, UW must also take into consideration the ability to pay, the sense of belonging and purpose along with the well-being of each student.

DATA

In reviewing the data as to how a student will do in their first year at UW looking at either GPA only or ACT/SAT test scores:

- Considering only GPA, on average it is 1.5% less predictive than using both GPA and ACT/SAT test scores
- Considering only ACT/SAT test scores, it is on average 21.2% less predictive

In reviewing a student's academic GPA in the first year at UW on average, the higher the high school GPA, the higher the UW GPA:

- Students with a 3.4 and above in high school had a 10% chance of being on probation
- Students below a 2.5 in high school had a 48% chance of being on probation

Although students with higher ACT's had a higher UW GPA, students with a lower ACT scores still do well:

- Students with a 24 ACT composite score or higher had a 10% chance of being on probation
- Student with below a 17 ACT composite score had a 37% chance of being probation



UNIVERSITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY ARE MAKING THE DECISION TO GO TEST OPTIONAL

University of Alabama - Test optional for fall 2022

University Of Nevada - Reno – Test Score not required if GPA is > 3.0

University of Arizona - Test optional permanently

Univ. of California and the Cal State System - Will not utilize test scores for admissions purposes for the 2022-2023 academic year

Colorado Schools - Test optional (NOTE: this is Legislated statewide)

University of Illinois - Will remain test optional for fall 2022 and fall 2023

Iowa public universities - Test optional for the fall 2022 academic year

University of Kentucky - Approved to extend test optional for three more years

Michigan State University - Test optional for next 5 years

University of Minnesota - Test optional for fall 2022 and future years will be determined

Ohio University - Has adopted a permanent test-optional pathway

University of Oregon - Shift to test optional is permanent

University of Tennessee - In final stages of receiving approval for test optional pilot that would extend to the class entering fall 2025

University of Utah - Test optional for fall 2022

University of Washington - Permanently test optional



The NCAA announced last week that an ACT/SAT score will not be a requirement for student athletes who enter college in the fall of 2022.

IMPACT



By requiring the ACT/SAT exam for admission and scholarship eligibility, a significant number of students will be impacted. Our competitors are making the decision to be test optional. Barriers to student entry will impact application and enrollment rates at the University of Wyoming.

Closing

Questions?