More Musings from a Post-SAT World

Tuesday, April 5,
9am Pacific Daylight/
noon Eastern Daylight.
Panelists

**Cuca Acosta**
Associate Director, Admissions
University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB)

**Shannon Bracken**
Director, Admissions and Recruitment
Ontario Tech University

**Shawn Felton**
Executive Director, Undergraduate Admissions
Cornell University

**Bobbe Fernando**
Senior Director of Global Admissions
New York University (NYU)

**Clay Hensley**
International Education Consultant
Cambridge Assessment International Education/Cialfo/IELTS/NACAC
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Agenda

● Welcome, Context, & Rapid-Round Introductions

● Discussion Centered on 4 Topics
  1. The Truth Will Set You…
  2. Reading the Room
  3. On the Road Again?/ Back to the Future of Mobility?
  4. Anticipating What’s Next in Global Higher Ed Admissions

● Questions & Answers
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● Questions & Answers
COVID shifted the spectrum of test flavors & patterns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applying to Academic Year</th>
<th>Applicant Type</th>
<th>Score Free</th>
<th>Test Optional</th>
<th>Test Flexible</th>
<th>Test Required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020-21 (pre-COVID)</td>
<td>Domestic</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="NYU" /></td>
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<td><img src="image" alt="UCSB" /></td>
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<td>2021-22 &amp; beyond (during-COVID)</td>
<td>Domestic</td>
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What does test optional mean?

Accredited, 4-year, bachelor-degree granting colleges and universities in the U.S. that will make admissions decisions about all or many applicants without regard to their ACT/SAT scores.

Test Free/Blind (Won’t consider scores)
(65 colleges for 2021)

Optional (Most students can choose)

Exceptions:
- Required for Some Programs
- Depends on GPA/Rank
- Used for Placement Only
- Required for Out of State
Still, there continues to be a range of current testing policies… & postures

- Required (e.g., all Florida publics)
- Temporary suspension of requirement due to COVID, but resuming for upcoming year (e.g., Georgia & North Carolina publics, + Georgetown & MIT)
- Test flexible pre-COVID, Test-optional spurred by COVID (e.g., NYU)
- Test-optional for one year, evaluating each cycle & extending at least for those applying to 2022-23 (e.g., Northeastern, ½ of programs at Cornell, NC State, Vanderbilt, Yale, Harvard, Princeton, Rice, Stanford, Boston University, most SUNYs, Colorado, Wash U)
- Test-optional as multi-year evaluation of policy change (e.g., Amherst, Babson, Barnard, Colgate, Cooper Union, Elon, Fordham, Haverford, Hamilton, Middlebury, Oberlin, Rhodes, TCU, Tufts, Trinity U., USC, UVA, Vassar, W&M)
- Test-optional permanently, spurred by COVID (e.g., Davidson, Drury, Macalester, SLU, Scripps, St. Olaf, Wooster, all publics in Oregon & Washington)
- Test-optional permanently, already established pre-COVID (e.g., UChicago, Indiana U, Rochester, Trinity College, Wake Forest)
- Test-free, spurred by COVID (e.g., UC, Cal State, Cal Tech, ½ of programs at Cornell, WPI, CUNY, SUNY Cortland)
- Test-free prior to COVID (e.g., Hampshire, Pitzer, Loyola)

Credit to Akil Bello of FairTest & Adam Ingersoll of Compass Education Group
Common App reports very little change in score-submitting patterns from 2020-21 to now.

But even as test score reporting in general has increased since 2020-21, the disparities in test score reporting rates across student demographic groups that surfaced last year remain evident and roughly consistent with previous deadline updates. Figures 12–14 show that the differences in test score reporting rates that emerged in 2020–21 across URM, first-gen, and fee waiver receipt status persisted to 2021–22 (even as all groups did report scores more often). These differences existed prior to the pandemic in 2019–20, but were far smaller in magnitude. We also find this trend is similar in gesture, though smaller in scale, for other demographic subgroups (see Appendix Figure A1–A2).
Test optional policies, combined with the Biden-Harris bounce, seems to be igniting growth in international applications to the U.S.

**Figure 10. International and domestic applicants since 2019–20**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>International</th>
<th>Domestic</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019-20</td>
<td>944,728</td>
<td>89,061</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020-21</td>
<td>1,011,258</td>
<td>99,552</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021-22</td>
<td>1,062,600 (12%)</td>
<td>119,674 (34%)</td>
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**Trends in test score reporting**

As reported in the past, the share of Common App members requiring standardized test scores since 2019–20 has decreased dramatically — from about 55% to just 5% in 2021–22. Given this dynamic, we continue to report on patterns of test score submission among applicants over the
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● Questions & Answers
Questions?

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Special thanks to Akil Bello, Senior Director of Advocacy and Advancement, FairTest -
https://akilbello.com/ https://fairtest.org/university/optional; akeel6@gmail.com; https://twitter.com/akilbello
Living Your Values: Staying Ethical in College Counseling
8:00 AM ET
Panelists:
Ruby Bhattacharya, Barnard College
Angela Dunnham, Shrewsbury International School
Eloise Hyman, University of Chicago
Amber Longtin, Michigan State University
Nan (Frances) Zhang, WLSA Shanghai Academy