

New SAT-ACT Landscape

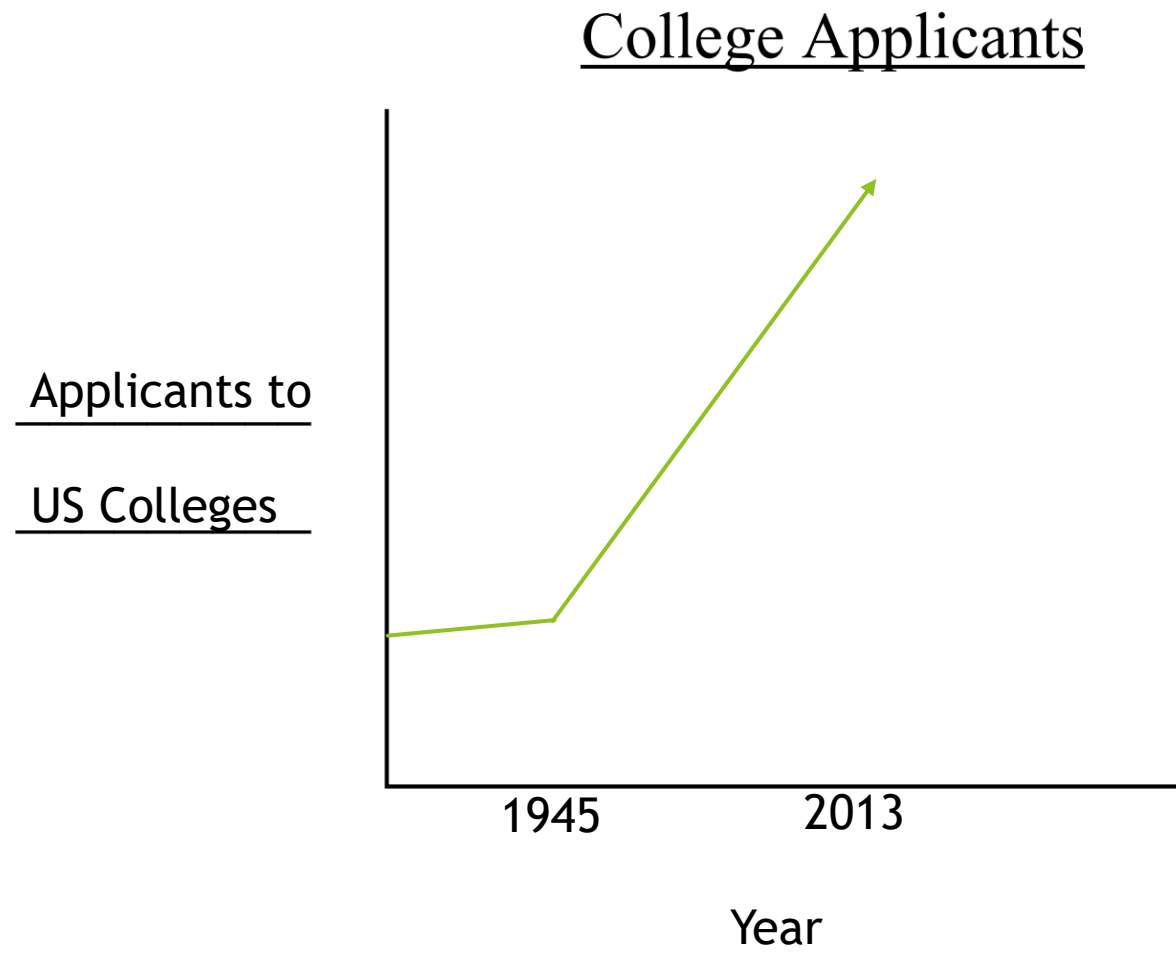
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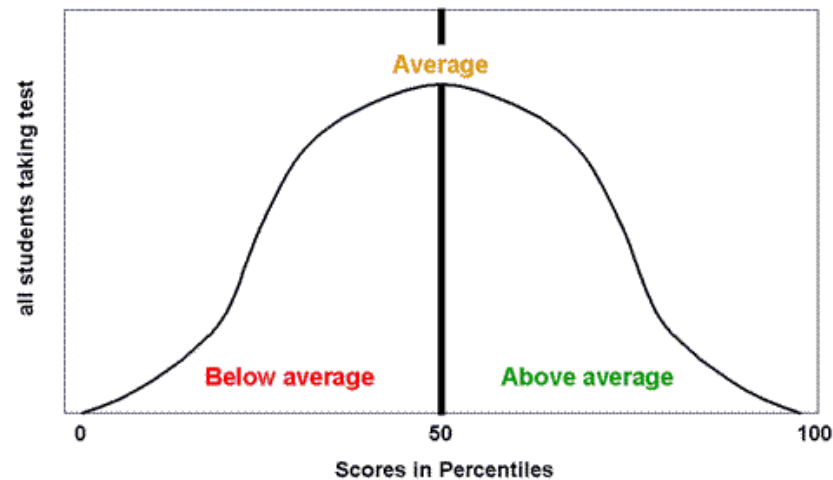
Why Standardized Tests



What It Is Really All About

SAT

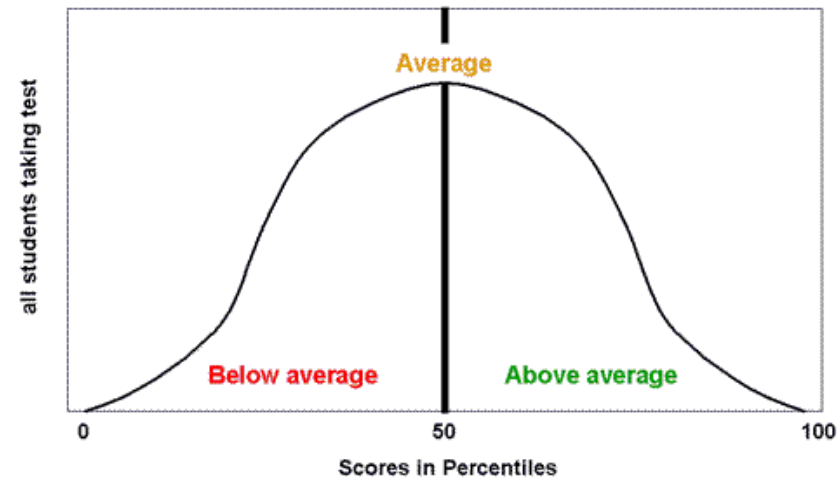
The Bell Curve



Easy Q - Most Get Right
Med Q - Half Get Right
Hard Q - Most Get Wrong

ACT

The Bell Curve



Questions Straight-Forward
Huge Time Crunch
More Advanced Math

Score Optional Movement

- ▶ Why Go Score Optional?
 - ▶ Instantly Increase the Number of Applicants and Selectivity
 - ▶ Students Who Apply with Scores Have Higher Scores
 - ▶ Raises the Average SAT and ACT Score for the College
 - ▶ Good for Schools Facing Financial Uncertainty
- ▶ Are Scores Really Optional?
 - ▶ Varies from One School to Another - Parsing “**Test-Preferred**” Language and Statistics
 - ▶ If Applying without Scores, Strength of Application Should be High (GPA, Resume, etc.)
 - ▶ Potential for Admissions that Many Students Did Not Use to Have!

Some Statistics From Classes of 2021 and 2022: Applications

- ▶ **Huge Surge in Number of Applicants (Class of 2021)**
 - ▶ Harvard: 42% increase
 - ▶ Columbia: 51% increase
 - ▶ UPenn: 33% increase
 - ▶ Penn State: 11% increase (over 100,000 applications in 2022)
- ▶ **Admissions Rates (Class of 2022)**
 - ▶ MIT: 3.9%
 - ▶ Northwestern: 7%
 - ▶ Harvard: 3.19%
 - ▶ Boston College: 16%
 - ▶ Auburn: 24% → down from 85%
- ▶ **Popular Schools Becoming Even More Sought After and Competitive**

Some Statistics From Classes of 2021 and 2022: Acceptances and Score Submission

- ▶ Emory
 - ▶ 2021: 70%
 - ▶ 2022: Not Released
- ▶ UVA
 - ▶ 2021: 72%
 - ▶ 2022: 84%
- ▶ Georgetown
 - ▶ 2021: 89%
 - ▶ 2022: Required
- ▶ U Penn
 - ▶ 2021: - 76%
 - ▶ 2022: Not Released
- ▶ Vanderbilt
 - ▶ 2021: 56%
 - ▶ 2022: 61%
- ▶ U Georgia - Comparable to Penn State
 - ▶ 2021: 60%
 - ▶ 2022: Required
- ▶ Most Colleges Continuing Score Optional
- ▶ Colleges Returning to Score Requirement
 - ▶ MIT, Georgetown, Georgia Tech, Georgia, Tennessee, Florida

Very Broadly Speaking 50%-80% of Admitted Students Nationwide Submitted Test Scores

Penn State, Pitt, CMU

- ▶ Penn State Main Campus - No Statistics Disclosed - **Possible Test Preferred?**
 - ▶ If a student indicates that they would like Penn State to evaluate their application including SAT and/or ACT scores, we are happy to do so. For many applicants, an SAT or ACT exam score can reflect their preparation for college. **The results from an SAT or ACT exam will continue to be a part of Penn State's admission process for students electing to send scores and indicate that they would like them to be part of the consideration of their application. These tests can provide supplemental information about a student which Penn State will consider alongside the other academic indicators in a student's application.** Penn State encourages any applicant who has taken the SAT or ACT to share their scores with us if the student believes that they are reflective of their ability and potential.
 - ▶ <https://admissions.psu.edu/faq/test-optional/>

Penn State, Pitt, CMU

- ▶ Pitt Main Campus - A Clearer Picture
 - ▶ Middle 50th Percentile (Not All Admitted Students)
 - ▶ Class of 2021 - More Score Optional than Class of 2022 Due to Pandemic
 - ▶ Arts and Sciences - 54%
 - ▶ Engineering - 60% (Additional Supplemental Testing May Be Submitted)
 - ▶ Computer Science - 66%
 - ▶ Nursing - 89%
- ▶ <https://admissions.pitt.edu/first-year-student/class-profile/>
- ▶ The Drive to Become More Selective Pre-Pandemic - Divergence Post-Pandemic?
 - ▶ Pitt
 - ▶ Ohio State
 - ▶ Purdue

Penn State, Pitt, CMU

From the Pitt Admissions Department

<https://admissions.pitt.edu/blog/applying-test-optional/>

▶ To test or not to test?

- ▶ If taking a test is an available and affordable option and you feel safe doing so, taking the ACT or SAT can help you make an informed decision on what to include in your application...
- ▶ When signing up for the test, be careful to select the option to see your scores before you determine whether to submit them to colleges. That will also help you to decide whether you want to retake the test to see if you can improve your performance.

▶ To submit your scores or apply without them?

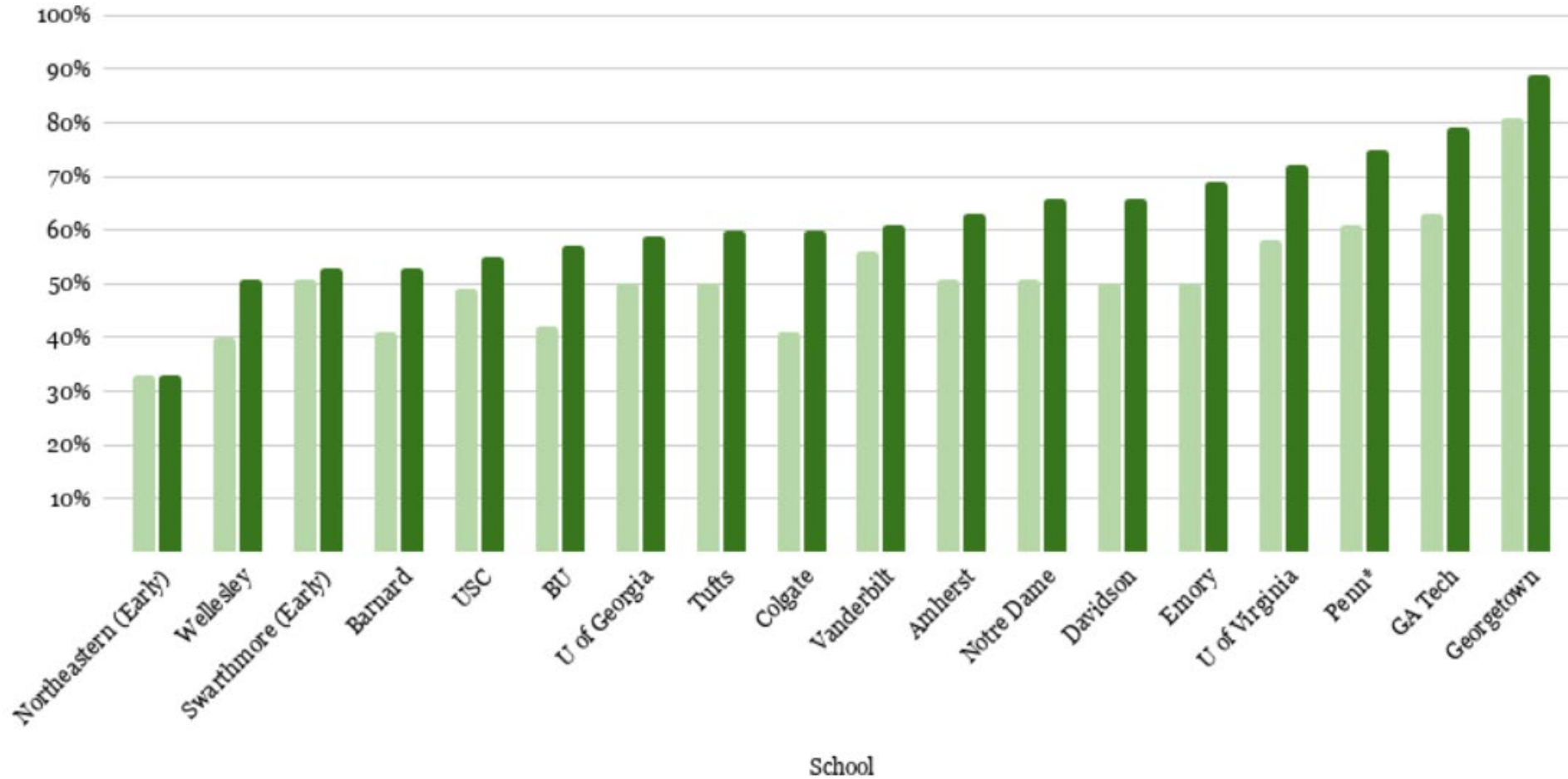
- ▶ After you have your scores, there's another question to answer—and this one can feel trickier. Should you share your scores or apply without them? Remember, this decision is entirely yours, and what is best varies on a case by case basis. **In general, if you have high test scores, submitting them can potentially bolster your application.**

Penn State, Pitt, CMU

- ▶ CMU - No Statistics Disclosed... but clear “**Test Preferred Language**”
 - ▶ Carnegie Mellon University is extending our test-optional policy through Fall 2023, removing the SAT/ACT standardized testing requirement for all first-year applicants.
 - ▶ Pursuant to this policy, students who are unable to take either the SAT or ACT or choose not to submit their standardized test scores will be considered equally for admission along with those who submit scores. **While we encourage those who have been able to take the SAT or ACT to submit their scores**, we also recognize that candidates who do submit scores may not have been able to take the SAT or ACT more than once as planned.
- ▶ What the Admissions Officers Say
- ▶ <https://www.cmu.edu/admission/admission/standardized-testing>

Class of 2021 Submitters: Applicants and Admitted Class

■ Percent of Applicants: Test Submitters ■ Percent of Admitted Class: Test Submitters



<https://www.compassprep.com/how-schools-used-test-scores-2021/>

Score Optional Example

- Colleges report the middle 50th percentile of each incoming freshman class

	25 th -75 th percentile of admitted freshman	Average/Median
GPA	3.58-4.00	3.86
SAT Scores (Math and Evidence-based Reading and Writing)	1180-1380	1279
ACT Scores (Composite)	25-32	28

Do Your Research: Part 1

- ▶ What kind of undergraduate school is this?
 - ▶ GPA and Test Scores may be inflated by presence of an honors college, engineering school, business school, or some other type of niche program.
- ▶ Are you applying to the college of arts and science, or to one of the niche programs?
 - ▶ The average SAT score at Pitt is around a 1260
 - ▶ The average SAT score for Pitt's nursing program is around a 1360
 - ▶ Duquesne is score optional for their college of arts and sciences, but not score optional for their pharmacy program.
 - ▶ May differ for class of 2023

Do Your Research: Part 2

- ▶ Does every college you are considering offer score optional admissions?
- ▶ Are you capable of achieving competitive scores?
 - ▶ If the answer is yes, you will likely be a more competitive applicant with scores
 - ▶ If you aren't sure, consider not testing and find something else that makes you stand out
- ▶ Is financial aid part of your process?
 - ▶ Financial aid has historically been tied to test scores at many schools
 - ▶ At many colleges, more merit money may be available to students with strong test scores, though each college's policy will differ
- ▶ **TALK TO YOUR COLLEGE COUNSELORS**

How to Proceed???

SAT Testing Dates

SAT Testing Dates

- ▶ June 4
- ▶ August 27
- ▶ October 8
- ▶ November 5
- ▶ December 3
- ▶ March 11
- ▶ May 6
- ▶ June 3

ACT Testing Dates

ACT Testing Dates

- ▶ June 11
- ▶ July 16
- ▶ September 10
- ▶ October 22
- ▶ December 10
- ▶ February 11
- ▶ April 8
- ▶ June 10

Contact Information

- ▶ If you want help planning, please be in touch!
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