

MEMO

From: Ayşe Şahin; Chair of the Faculty Senate Ad-Hoc Committee on Test Optional Admissions

To: Brian Boyd; Faculty President

CC: Faculty Senate Ad-Hoc Committee on Test Optional Admissions Membership:
Susan Carrafiello: Director of University Honors Program.
Ashley Hall: (former) Director of the Writing Program, Department of English.
Daryl Hausman: (former) Director of Developmental Writing, Department of English.
Peggy Kelly: Director of Developmental Mathematics, Department of Mathematics.
Nathan Klingbeil: Chair of Undergraduate Student Success Committee.
Tim Littell: Associate Vice Provost for Student Success.
Jen McCamis: Interim Chief Recruitment and Admissions Officer.
Geoffrey Owens: Chair of Undergraduate Academic Policies Committee.
Aaron Skira: Director of Institutional Research and Effectiveness.

Date: April 13, 2022

Re: Test Optional Admissions Recommendation

Recognizing the disruption to testing in the high schools, during the spring semester of 2020 the Faculty Senate and university administration agreed upon an interim policy to not require standardized test scores (such as the ACT or SAT) for admissions through Spring 2023. While the disruptions to testing may be temporary, concerns about the biases embedded within the test systems and controversies surrounding claims that they are strong indicators of college success, have been present for some time. Many universities across the country have become test optional or test blind as part of their efforts to increase access to their campuses and to address inequities in their admissions policies. The Faculty Senate Ad Hoc committee was formed in September, 2020 to continue the discussion of permanently changing the university's admissions policy to become "test optional".

The committee was charged with working closely with the Undergraduate Academic Policies Committee to facilitate their ability to make a recommendation to Faculty Senate. In particular, we were charged with determining the impact of a test optional policy on various units and functions of the university:

1. *Placement policies, especially in math and English.*
As of this spring there are new placement policies in place that use multiple measures beyond test scores to place students in math and English courses.
2. *Admissions and scholarship criteria for the University Honors program.*
The University Honors program has developed a holistic admissions and scholarship policy that no longer relies on test scores.

3. *Individual programs that might use test scores for accreditation, or other internal criteria.*

The committee has done due diligence and contacted programs that would be potentially impacted. All identified programs have viable alternatives to test scores that they can use for admissions or accreditation purposes.

4. *Potential new challenges to student success of an admissions policy that would depend solely on the high school GPA.*

Since placement leverages the entire transcript, in some cases using both course history and grade criteria beyond the GPA, this question is related to

- a) establishing an admissions policy that can identify academically vulnerable students using metrics other than standardized test scores and
- b) determining what supports we can provide for students we identify as vulnerable.

We recommend that these questions be considered by the committee(s) that will be charged with revising Policy 3110 (see discussion below).

During the test optional period Enrollment Management has developed a new admissions process to accommodate the temporary lack of test scores and deems the process robust and appropriate to adopt as a permanent policy.

Based on these considerations, and the fact that many Ohio universities have already adopted test optional admissions as a permanent policy, the committee recommends that **the test optional admissions policy be adopted as the permanent admissions policy of the university.**

The committee has the following recommendations for consideration on the revision of the existing admissions policy, Policy 3110.

1. The new policy be drafted based on the university admissions process during our test optional years. New policies from other universities (the California State System for example) provide good examples of criteria put in place by other access oriented institutions.
2. The committee recommends that any GPA cut-offs for admissions:
 - a. Are determined using institutional data with a formal process to regularly review and revise,
 - b. Our admissions policy still supports our mission to provide access to higher education to our entire local community, and
 - c. Consideration is given to additional admissions requirements that guarantee students are engaged with the student success resources we have available.