

FairTest

National Center for Fair & Open Testing

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NEW SAT “ADVERSITY SCORE” CONCEDES EXAM’S FUNDAMENTAL FLAWS; TEST-MAKER ADMITS RESULTS ARE NOT “A COMMON YARDSTICK” AND IMPEDE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY; 1,025+ COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES NOW DO NOT REQUIRE SAT OR ACT SCORES

“Promotion of ‘adversity scores’ is the latest attempt by the College Board to defend the SAT against increasingly well-documented critiques of the negative consequences of relying on admissions test results,” according to Robert Schaeffer, Public Education Director of the National Center for Fair & Open Testing (FairTest).

Schaeffer continued, “Test-makers long claimed that their products were a ‘common yardstick’ for comparing applicants from a wide range of schools. This latest initiative concedes that the SAT is really a measure of ‘accumulated advantage’ which should not be used without an understanding of a student’s community and family background.”

He concluded, “In fact schools do not need the SAT or ACT – with or without ‘adversity scores’ – to make high-quality, admissions decisions that promote equity and excellence.” More than 1,025 accredited, bachelor-degree institutions now will evaluate all or many applicants without regard to test scores. The test-optional list includes more than half of all “Top 100” liberal arts colleges and a total of 335 schools ranked in the top tiers of their categories by *U.S. News & World Report*.

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- See 2018 SAT Scores by gender, ethnicity and parental education below
- Comprehensive free directory of 1,025+ test-optional and test-flexible colleges and universities:
<http://fairtest.org/university/optional>
- List of 335+ schools that de-emphasize ACT/SAT scores ranked in U.S News’ top tiers
<http://www.fairtest.org/sites/default/files/Optional-Schools-in-U.S.News-Top-Tiers.pdf>
- Chronology of higher education institutions dropping admissions testing requirements
<http://www.fairtest.org/sites/default/files/Optional-Growth-Chronology.pdf>

2018 COLLEGE-BOUND SENIORS SCORES ON “REDESIGNED” SAT
(2,136,539 Test-Takers in Graduating Class)

	READING/ WRITING	MATH	TOTAL
ALL TEST-TAKERS	536	531	1068*
Female	539	522	1061
Male	534	542	1076
Amer. Indian or Alaskan Native	480	469	949
Asian, Asian Amer. or Pacific Islander	588	635	1223
Black or African American	483	463	946
Hispanic, Latino or Latin American	501	489	990
Two or more races	558	543	1101
White	566	557	1123

2018 COLLEGE-BOUND SENIORS SAT SCORES BY PARENTAL EDUCATION

	READING/ WRITING	MATH	TOTAL
No High School Diploma	473	471	944
High School Diploma	507	497	1005*
Associate Degree	526	513	1039
Bachelor’s Degree	566	563	1129
Graduate Degree	599	598	1197

* scores do not add precisely due to College Board rounding

Calculated by FairTest from: College Board, *2018 SAT Suite of Assessments Annual Report: Total Group*