

Test Optional FAQs

What is Test Optional?

Stony Brook University has adopted a test-optional admissions policy for first year students applying for the Spring 2021, Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 semesters. We will assess options to continue utilizing test optional policies for future semesters at a later time, in coordination with SUNY.

Test-optional means that the decision is yours whether to submit SAT/ACT scores with your application. If you believe test scores add value to your application then you can submit them. You can choose not to submit them if you would like us to focus with more scrutiny on your high school record and other supporting documents.

What type of factors will be considered if I do not report scores?

Admission to SBU has never been based on one single attribute, but a complete examination of a student's academic record, plus many other academic and personal factors, including high school GPA, strength of curriculum, course-level grades and number of classes taken in core subjects, evidence of leadership, special talents or interests, and other personal qualities through extracurricular activities, volunteer work, and other non-academic pursuits. We'll continue to review applicants in a holistic manner.

If I have taken SAT or ACT exams, am I required to report my scores?

You will have the option of letting us know if you would like your scores considered when you fill out your application. By selecting "No" to the question on your application asking if you want to have your test scores considered, your SAT/ACT scores will not be used during your admissions evaluation and decision.

How do I know if I should submit test scores with my application?

If you feel that your test scores accurately reflect your abilities and support your application, you may decide to submit your scores. The profile below represents the middle 50% of the entering class for Fall 2020.

Grade point average - 92-97 or 3.7 - 4.0 (4 point scale)

SAT Reading/Math Composite 1240-1420

ACT Composite Scores 26-32

Will SAT or ACT be required for any specific majors? Will those who submit scores be prioritized over those without them?

We are committed to the equitable treatment of first-year applicants with and without test scores for entry to all lower-division undergraduate majors.

What if I change my mind about submitting a test score after I apply?

If you decide to change your decision on submitting a test score before we have made an admission decision, you can notify us of the change by contacting us at enroll@stonybrook.edu. Students can not change their mind after the application review has been completed and a decision has been made.

Will SAT or ACT scores be required to be considered for honors programs?

Your response to the test optional question on your admission application will determine how you will be evaluated for honors programs which include the Honors College, WISE, University Scholars and Scholars for Medicine.

Will students without test scores still be considered for merit scholarships?

Yes.

Are there exceptions to the test-optional policy?

International students are required to submit standardized test scores as proof of English proficiency. Submit your English Proficiency via an official score report for the TOEFL, Duolingo, SAT, ACT, IELTS, AP, IB, A levels or PTE Academic. View eligibility requirements for international students below:

Exam	Minimum Score
TOEFL (Internet-based)	80
IELTS	6.5
Duolingo	105
ACT English	19
SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (New Exam)	480

IB English Higher Level	5
AP English Language/Comp or Literature/Com exam	3
A -level (Advanced) English	C
PTE Academic	53

Applicants from countries listed below may be exempted from submitting an English proficiency test score: Australia, The Bahamas, Canada, Guam, Ireland, Jamaica, Kenya, New Zealand, Nigeria, Singapore and the United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland)

Transfer students who have not completed a college-level writing course at a US college (or have received a grade below a C in the course) are also required to submit scores from one of these exams.

I'm a junior and won't be applying until next year. Should I take the SAT or ACT?

The test-optional policy is in place for students applying for spring 2021, fall 2021 and spring 2022. Therefore, at this time, we encourage juniors to plan to take the SAT or ACT to submit as part of their fall 2022 application.