Test Optional FAQs

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.

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.

For which semesters will test optional admissions be offered?
Stony Brook will utilize a test optional admissions policy for first-year applicants applying for spring 2021, fall 2021 and spring 2022 entry. We will assess options to continue utilizing test optional policies for future semesters at a later time, in coordination with SUNY.

Can I still report my scores if I’ve taken an SAT or ACT already?
Yes.

If I have taken SAT or ACT exams already, am I required to report my scores?
You are not required to report your scores at the time of your application, but if you are accepted and choose to enroll, you must report your scores prior to your orientation. These scores may be used for placement purposes.

Will SAT or ACT scores be required to be considered for honors programs?
The Honors College, WISE and University Scholars and Scholars for Medicine admissions committees will review your application and consider your whole file to make a determination about your candidacy for the respective program. Your grades, transcript, activities, recommendation letters, and more, all tell us your story. Admissions for the academic year 2021-2022 will consider your SAT/ACT test scores, only if you want the committee to have them. Your test scores may or may not convey an accurate picture of your academic ability, and consequently, the admissions policy for each program will be “test-optional.” Please indicate in your file if you wish to elect this option.

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

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
How can students best prepare for the admissions process at this time?
This is a stressful time in your lives. We understand, and those who are being personally impacted by COVID-19 due to health and economic challenges should focus on the most important priorities for them and their families. As circumstances permit, students are encouraged to use this time productively, for your studies, your passions, and other functions that serve the social good. We also encourage you to use this period to start doing more research into colleges. Explore our academic programs, take a virtual tour, join a live virtual info session and make an appointment with an admissions counselor for a video chat.

Will SAT or ACTs be required for any specific majors? Will those who submit scores be prioritized over those without them?
No. We are committed to the equitable treatment of first-year applicants with and without test scores for entry to all lower-division undergraduate majors.

Are there exceptions to the test-optional policy?
International students are required to submit standardized test scores as proof of English proficiency. Stony Brook accepts the following tests for demonstrating English proficiency: TOEFL iBT, IELTS, Duolingo, SAT and ACT. Transfer students can submit two college-level English (non-ESL) courses or equivalent from a U.S. college or university in place of an exam.

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 no later than our preferred first-year application deadline of January 15.