What Does “Test Optional” Really Mean for Students?
Bryan Contreras
VP, K12 & Ed Partnerships
myOptions Encourage
● Why is college match critical to degree completion?

● What are the factors to consider as you sign up for the ACT?

● What are key questions to ask colleges related to “test optional”?
Student-Centered College Planning

Multiple Factors Inform College Planning

- Personal Preferences
- Academic Profile
- Institution Type
- Affordability
Student-Centered College Planning

Multiple Factors Inform College Match

- Personal Preferences
- Academic Profile
- Institution Type
- Affordability
Student Testimonials

College planning is a process that takes time and when done with care leads to self-exploration and self-discovery. The level of focus you place on one aspect of the college application elements is all relative to you.

Former students and families always share how important this was in completing their degree.

- **Student A**
  - AVG GPA
  - Strong course load
  - STEM focused
  - Lots of activities & summer programs

  Less focus the ACT.

- **Student B**
  - Slightly below AVG GPA
  - Strong course load & repeated some courses
  - Business
  - Limited activities.

Focus on ACT.
What’s in the decision to take the ACT test?

• Admissions: Testing Policy at colleges on your list
• Are there other reasons to submit a test score?
• Does your high school profile capture and tell your complete academic potential?
• Are there private scholarships or programs that require a test score?
Key Questions for College Admissions Offices

**Test Optional**

- How much weight is given to my GPA for admissions purposes?
- How much weight is given to strength of my course load? And types of classes I have taken?
- How important are my personal statements (essays)?
- If I work, and do not have many co-curricular activities, how do I share this? Will this negatively impact my chances?
- Are there programs on campus that require test scores, despite the school allowing test optional admission?
- Am I able to use other assessments or measures to place into the right levels of coursework if I believe my ACT/SAT scores do not reflect my ability?

**Test Blind**

- How will I be considered for scholarships without a test score?
- Without test scores, how do I place into appropriate levels of Math, English, World Languages, etc?
- Are you need blind in the admission consideration process?
- How do you weight the other components of my application: rec letters, high school profile, and portfolios (Fine Arts)?
- Does a visit to your admissions office play a critical role in admissions?
- Is demonstrated interest part of the admission process? If yes, how is that measured?
- How much weight is given to strength of my course load? And types of classes I have taken?
Bryan Contreras
bryan@myoptions.org

Learn more about us:
https://myoptions.org/
THANK YOU FOR JOINING US

act.org