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Which ivy leagues are test-optional 2025

there! As of now, Ivy League schools have different policies regarding standardized testing. To help you keep track, here's a summary of each Ivy League school's current test-optional policy. 1. Brown University: Requiring SAT or ACT scores for all applicants. 2. Columbia University: Permanently test-optional. 3. Cornell University: Will require test scores again starting with the 2025-2026 cycle. 4. Dartmouth College: Requiring SAT or ACT scores for all applicants. 5. Harvard University: Requiring SAT or ACT scores for all applicants. 6. University of Pennsylvania: Test-optional through at least the 2024-2025 application cycle. 7. Princeton University: Test-optional through at least the 2025-2026 application cycle. 8. Yale University: Requiring SAT, ACT, or IB or AP exam scores for all applicants. Please note that these policies are subject to change, so always double-check each institution's website for the most up-to-date information on their standardized testing policies. Keep in mind that if you feel your standardized test scores are an accurate representation of your academic abilities, it would likely be beneficial to submit them, even if the school is test-optional, since the Ivy League schools are so selective. If you want to learn more about how to navigate test-optional policies, I'd recommend checking out this blog post from CollegeVine: if you want a complete list of schools that have gone test-optional, please see our guide to test-optional colleges. However, many students who choose to go test-optional do so because they're nervous about standardized tests, and many schools have solidified their stance on remaining test optional. On the other hand, other schools have softened their stance on remaining test optional. In this guide, we'll break down how we ended up with so many test optional schools and explore the current landscape of test optional colleges. We'll start by answering the question, "What is a test optional college?" then explore some of the best test optional colleges in the U.S. You'll find: A history of test optional schools Our list of the top 35 test optional colleges SAT requirements and ACT requirements of Ivy League schools Resources from CollegeAdvisor on how to navigate your application to test optional schools, from building your college list to getting your acceptance letter. Before we dive in, let's start with the basics: what is a test optional college? Test optional colleges are schools where students do not have to submit test scores to be considered for admission. Crucially, when applying to test optional schools, choosing not to submit an SAT or ACT score will not negatively affect your application. There is no penalty for choosing not to submit a test score to test optional schools. Consequently, test optional schools have to put more emphasis on other college application requirements. When the college application requirements included SAT and ACT scores, they were another piece of data that admissions officers could use to learn about applicants. Now, at many test optional schools, that piece of data no longer exists. This lends weight to your grades, essays, and letters of recommendations. You can still submit an SAT or ACT score to test optional schools, and they will use it as they did in the past. A strong score can help set you apart from other applicants and counteract any weaknesses in your academic record. However, if you don't submit a test score to a test optional college, it won't hurt your chances at admission. Now that we've answered the question "what is a test optional college?", let's look at the beginning of standardized testing in the U.S. In 1900, the College Board created the SAT. The SAT was used to measure students' knowledge of English, mathematics, and science. It was a race-based pass. Soon the SAT was being used to secure scholarships for students who were not the typical elite university applicants. The SAT became a tool of meritocracy. By 1957 there were over half a million students taking the SAT every year. However, there has been pushback to the SAT. In the early 2000s, research that high school grades were a better predictor of college success caused the SAT to adapt and add a writing section. Studies at test optional schools like Bates also went against commonly held ideas about the test. They saw students who had not submitted scores performed just as well as students who did. They even saw that these students had slightly higher college graduation rates. This caused some colleges to become test optional schools. Additionally, various cheating scandals followed the SAT and the ACT into the 2010s. During Covid-19, students could no longer take tests in-person. Consequently, many colleges became test optional schools in the name of fairness. Simply put, they could not assess student performance based on a test that so many students could not take. Some heralded this as a positive change that would ultimately increase diversity and equality in college admissions. However, the move towards test optional schools was not celebrated by all. And there are still debates about the policy's benefits. Next, let's dig a little deeper into the nuances of test optional policies. When applying to colleges, it's important to know the differences between test optional colleges and test-blind colleges. Test optional schools don't require you to submit an SAT/ACT to be considered, and they won't penalize you if you do not submit a score. However, test optional schools still accept SAT/ACT scores, and will take your score into consideration as part of your application. Test-blind colleges, on the other hand, do not accept test scores at all. If you were to submit a test score to a test-blind college, they would not look at it or take it into account when evaluating your application. Test-blind schools can be an advantage or a disadvantage depending on your situation. If you're a student who does well on standardized tests, submitting a score to a test-blind school could be an advantage. However, if you're a student who struggles with standardized tests, submitting a score to a test-blind school could be a disadvantage. When applying to test-blind colleges, some of the best test-blind colleges include the University of California system, which went test-blind in Fall 2021. Regardless of a school's standardized testing policy, remember that college admissions is a holistic process. Admissions teams consider all aspects of your application, and standardized testing is just one factor. If you want to apply to test optional schools, double check the school's SAT requirements and ACT requirements before applying. Many schools have changed their requirements just within the last few years post-Covid. So, it's important to have the most up-to-date information. You can generally find information about a school's test optional policy on their admissions website. To give you one example, Cornell's testing policies have changed a lot in recent years. In 2020, Cornell became one of the many test optional schools that sprung up due to the pandemic. However, the school is now reinstating mandatory testing policies, starting with fall 2026 enrollment. Essentially Cornell has decided that, when combined with other college admissions requirements, test scores help them better understand a student's academic potential. To ease this transition, Cornell will be test recommended this year. That means students applying for fall 2025 enrollment are highly encouraged to submit SAT or ACT scores. After that, test scores will once again be mandatory. Now, let's turn our attention to the best test optional colleges. If you're looking for flexibility in your admissions process, you're in luck. Many of the best colleges in the US are test optional schools. In the next section, you'll find our list of colleges that currently have test optional policies. As you explore these test-optional schools, remember that the decision to submit your test scores is entirely yours. If you feel your scores aren't as competitive as you'd like, don't let that discourage you from applying. Conversely, if you're proud of your scores, don't hesitate to share them with the admissions team! Here's our list of the top 35 test optional schools: If you want to apply to a test optional school, you need to know whether the school is test optional or test-blind. If you're unsure, you can check out our guide to test optional colleges. If you're looking for a school that is test optional, you can check out our list of test optional colleges. If you're looking for a school that is test-blind, you can check out our list of test-blind colleges. If you're looking for a school that is test-recommended, you can check out our list of test-recommended colleges. If you're looking for a school that is test-required, you can check out our list of test-required colleges. If you're looking for a school that is test-optional, you can check out our list of test-optional colleges. If you're looking for a school that is test-blind, you can check out our list of test-blind colleges. If you're looking for a school that is test-recommended, you can check out our list of test-recommended colleges. If you're looking for a school that is test-required, you can check out our list of test-required colleges. If you're looking for a school that is test-optional, you can check out our list of test-optional colleges. If you're looking for a school that is test-blind, you can check out our list of test-blind colleges. 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