

## Your Question:

You asked for information on test-optional state admissions policies.

## Our Response:

The [National Center of Fair and Open Testing](#) has found that over the past year there has been an increase in the number of colleges that are now test-optional. In part, the shift is in response to accessibility limitations brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. The National Association for College Admissions Counseling offers a [powerpoint](#) that addresses the pros and cons of test-optional admission policies and offers institutional case studies and statistics to support claims. Lastly, [Education Next](#) and the [American Education Research Association](#) share available research regarding test-optional policies and recommendations.

During the 2021 legislative session, Maryland introduced [legislation](#) that would prohibit public higher education institutions from requiring an applicant to submit a standardized test score as part of the admissions process.

## Test-Optional State Policies

In a 2017 [50-State Comparison](#), Education Commission of the States reviewed statewide or systemwide admissions policies for four-year institutions. Six states — **Arizona, Massachusetts, North Dakota, Washington** and **Wisconsin**, have flexibility with postsecondary institution admissions requirements about standardized admission tests. The chart below highlights these states with links to policies and summaries regarding admissions requirements.

State	Summary
<a href="#">Arizona</a>	According to the Arizona Board of Regents, universities may require, above admissions minimums, submission of college admission standardized tests for placement in basic proficiency courses. (C-1)
<a href="#">Massachusetts</a>	The admissions standards for freshmen applicants to the state universities and the University of Massachusetts include submitting an SAT or ACT score except for eleven listed institutions with test-optional policies.
<a href="#">North Dakota</a>	The North Dakota State Board of Higher Education authorized institutions to temporarily waive the requirement of standardized test scores (ACT or SAT) through summer 2022.
<a href="#">Washington</a>	Official SAT or ACT test scores must be sent directly to the college or university to which a student is applying unless the institution has implemented a test-optional policy. Test-

	optional policies may include other college readiness measures such as successful completion of dual credit coursework or exams, or scores on high school college readiness assessments.
<a href="#">Wisconsin</a>	The University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents temporarily suspended the board policy that requires all freshman applicants to submit ACT or SAT scores with their application for admission through the academic year 2022-23.