



Resolution Number:	W-22-02	Sponsored By:	Senator Hoogwerf Senator Kreger
Introduced On:	2-17-2022		
Voted On:	3-3-2022		
Result:	Passed		
Vote Count:	21-1-0		

A RESOLUTION TO: Extend Grand Valley State University’s admissions test-optional policy until the 2026 admissions cycle with a possibility of further implementation.

Whereas, The Grand Valley State University Student Senate would like to propose the application of an extension of the test-optional policy in the matter of admissions; and

Recognizing, as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Grand Valley State University granted the incoming classes of 2021 and 2022 test optional applications¹; and

Whereas, the admissions process is equipped with the tools necessary to foster and implement test-optional policies due to previously administering test-optional applications²; and

Recognizing, standardized test scores are not a reliable indicator to academic success in college; High school GPA is the more reliable indicator of academic success in college³; and

Whereas, continuing the requirement for standardized tests scores in the admissions processes creates added stress and obstacles for all students; and

Recognizing, students across the country from marginalized communities, specifically low-income students, and students of color, continue to under-perform on standardized tests⁴; and

Whereas, standardized tests and test scores could act as a deterrent to low income students and students of color from applying to college; and

¹ <https://www.gvsu.edu/gvnext/2020/gvsu-announces-test-optional-applications-for-fall-2021-11491.htm>

² <https://www.gvsu.edu/catalog/navigation/admissions.htm#anchor-2>

³ <https://www.nwmissouri.edu/library/fieldstudies/2015/Kwon,%20Jamie.pdf#:~:text=There%20is%20no%20correlation%20between%20students%E2%80%99%20standardized%20scores,GPA%20upon%20graduation,%20Anticipated%20Benefits%20of%20the%20Study>

⁴ <https://ips.library.utoronto.ca/index.php/cie/article/view/26430/20714>

Recognizing, the SAT includes two sections: math and reading; each section is scored within a range of 200-800 points⁵; and

Recognizing; the average SAT reading score for students whose household income is below \$20,000 is 433; While the average reading score for students whose household income was above \$200,000 is 570⁶; and

Whereas, judging admissions qualifications upon standardized tests that pertains to a system working against underrepresented students, goes against what the university strives to achieve⁷; and

Recognizing, the three highest overall scoring ethnic groups, white, other, and Asian/Asian American/Pacific Islander, are leading by at least seventy four points to the bottom five ethnic groups⁸; and

Recognizing, nationally, universities have seen decreases in enrollment over the past year⁹; and

Recognizing, public, four-year universities across the country have seen an average of a three percent drop in enrollment from fall of 2021¹⁰; and

Recognizing, GVSU has seen a four percent decrease in enrollment from last year (fall of 2020)¹¹; and

Recognizing, public universities saw an average increase of eleven percent in applications after implementing test optional policies¹²; and

Whereas, Grand Valley State University as a public, and comparably young, university has room to grow; Thus, future applications and enrollment to Grand Valley State University, could be boosted with the implementation of the test-optional policy; and

Recognizing, students who chose not to submit their scores consisted of groups of underrepresented minority students, first generation students, female students, and pell grant recipients, compared to the students that chose to submit their test scores¹³; and

⁵ <https://blog.prepscholar.com/sat-score-range>

⁶ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2014/03/05/these-four-charts-show-how-the-sat-favors-the-rich-educated-families/>

⁷ <https://www.gvsu.edu/sasc/mission-vision-and-value-statements-97.htm>

⁸ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2014/03/05/these-four-charts-show-how-the-sat-favors-the-rich-educated-families/>

⁹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/01/13/us/college-enrollment-2021-omicron.html>

¹⁰ <https://nscresearchcenter.org/current-term-enrollment-estimates/>

¹¹ https://www.gvsu.edu/cms4/asset/AB12929F-A59F-E70C-D683F00BD7BCE54D/f21_census_report_for_webpage_091321.pdf

¹² <https://www.nacacnet.org/globalassets/documents/publications/research/defining-access-report-2018.pdf>

¹³ <https://www.gvsu.edu/sasc/mission-vision-and-value-statements-97.htm>

Recognizing, students who do not submit their test scores enroll at a substantially higher rate than students who do submit their test scores¹⁴; Additionally, both types of students go on to graduate at the same rate¹⁵; and

Whereas, many higher education institutions across the country have implemented a test optional policy due to the ongoing pandemic, whether it be indefinitely or temporarily; and

Recognizing, Wayne State University has gone test optional for the 2022 admissions cycle; Rather than submitting standardized test scores, applicants are required to submit two additional essays to help diversify the applicant pool¹⁶; and

Recognizing, Michigan State University's commitment to test optional merit-based scholarships and admissions processes¹⁷; and

Recognizing, the University of Maryland has implemented test-optional policies for all aspects regarding admissions, merit-based scholarships, living and learning centers, and other special academic programs through 2023¹⁸; and

Recognizing, George Washington University has had test optional policies for most applicants since 2015 that extends to the consideration in admission, special programs, and merit based scholarships¹⁹; and

Recognizing, the action of the University of California across all campuses to not consider SAT scores in the admissions or scholarship processes²⁰; and

Recognizing, Stanford University's test optional policies have been extended to all 2023 applicants²¹; and

Recognizing, Harvard University's decision to allow applicants to apply test optional through the 2026 application cycle²²; and

Whereas, the extension of the test-optional policy gives GVSU ample time to collect admission data to revisit in 2026 with a possibility of further implementation; and

¹⁴ <https://www.nacacnet.org/globalassets/documents/publications/research/defining-access-report-2018.pdf>

¹⁵ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2014/03/05/these-four-charts-show-how-the-sat-favors-the-rich-educated-families/>

¹⁶ <https://wayne.edu/admissions/admissions-process-updates>

¹⁷ <https://admissions.msu.edu/apply/freshman>.

¹⁸ <https://www.admissions.umd.edu>.

¹⁹ <https://undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/test-optional-policy>

²⁰ <https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/freshman-requirements/exam-requirement/>

²¹ <https://admission.stanford.edu/>

²² <https://college.harvard.edu/about/news-announcements/admissions-update-2023-2026-application-cycles>

Whereas, GVSU empowers its students "to challenge oppressive systems, create socially and culturally diverse communities, and empower each other not only on Grand Valley's campus but also in our society"²³; and

Recognizing, becoming test optional will not further ostracize individuals from applying to GVSU; Especially students and applicants who have low access to test preparation tools (i.e. tutors, books, supplemental classes, access to more testing sessions, etc.); and

Recognizing, Reach Higher 2025 promotes diversity while addressing "systemic issues that impact outcomes for those who have been historically excluded from higher education"²⁴; and

Recognizing, GVSU and the Division of Academic and Student Affairs values and strives to "invest in economic, social, environmental, and culturally sustainable initiatives that have the potential to benefit our institution, our region and state, our nation, and the world."²⁵; and

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that the Grand Valley State University Student Senate, acting on behalf of the student body, recommends that Grand Valley State University extends its current test-optional policy for admissions until the 2026 admissions cycle with a possibility of further implementation.

²³ <https://www.gvsu.edu/studentaffairs/diversity-equity-inclusion-41.htm>

²⁴ <https://www.gvsu.edu/reachhigher2025/values-vision-mission-strategies-24.htm>

²⁵ <https://www.gvsu.edu/sasc/mission-vision-and-value-statements-97.htm>