

TEST OPTIONAL



Holding standard procedure to a higher standard.

For the record, it's not that we think standardized tests are evil. We just think that the measure of your intelligence and potential requires a deeper dive. It's about life experience, aspiration, work ethic, engagement and all of what makes you who you are. That's why we believe so strongly in the interview process. Numbers rarely tell the whole story.

In May of 2008, Wake Forest announced that it would no longer require applicants to submit scores in standardized tests such as the SAT or the ACT. The policy went into effect with the class that entered in the Fall of 2009, and we're very glad we made the move. Ethnic diversity in the undergraduate population increased by 54 percent from Fall 2008, the final year in which scores were required, to the Fall of 2015. Furthermore, there has been no difference in academic achievement at Wake Forest between those who submitted scores and those who declined to do so.

Others are starting to take notice. In January 2016, the Harvard Graduate School expressed support for the test-optional concept by including it on a list of methods colleges should consider in the name of reducing test-related stress.

Again, numbers cannot tell the whole story, but they have provided hard evidence to support what our instincts originally told us: Making test scores optional would not compromise the academic quality of our institution, but it would make our university more diverse and intellectually stimulating.

It's simple. If you think your scores are an accurate representation of your ability, feel free to submit them. If you feel they are not, don't. You won't be penalized.

Update For Fall 2017 Applicants

If you are a Fall 2017 applicant for the freshman class and would like to submit your test scores as part of your application, please be aware of the following:

- An official ACT or SAT score report must be submitted directly from the testing agency in order for your scores to be considered.
- We will accept scores from the “old” SAT and the “new” SAT. Wake Forest will consider your highest section scores from any sitting *on the same version* of the SAT to form the highest possible composite score. We will not combine section scores from the old and new tests.
- The scores from the Writing section of the ACT and the Essay section of the new SAT are not required.