



## **If the school is test optional, here's how I like to break it down:**

If your score's above the college's 50%, especially if all scores are above the 50% (see common data set to find that info) definitely submit. I also suggest sending if all score breakdowns begin with 7s for both SATs and 3s for ACT no matter what the total score is and where it lies.

Between 25 and 50% consider submitting based on how it plays within your high school/environment. For example if your score is between 25th and 50th percentile for a college, but it's in the top 75% for your high school, I think you should submit. Colleges will look at the context of your background and educational experiences.

On the common data set (google common data set and school name, see section C9), you can see the breakdown for individual scores. Where do your scores lie? And what's your potential major? That all has to be part of the equation too.

So if you're a math major and your math score is below their 50% you need to take that into account — again unless your math score is in the top range for your high school.

I probably wouldn't submit if it's below the 25% of a college unless your score is tippy top for your high school.

You can find out if a school is test optional by looking at their website or searching on [www.fairtest.org](http://www.fairtest.org).

You can find the common data set to see where your test scores fall by googling common data set and your colleges name.

Interesting article about testing by Akil

bello: <https://akilbello.com/2021/10/02/should-you-take-the-sat-act-or-not/>

Great Twitter thread from Andy Borst, from UIUC Admissions and Enrollment:

<https://twitter.com/erichoov/status/1535084349602807808?s=21&t=K4SF8G11uXPUaye6Ms2olq>

CNN Article on Test Optional Practices: Here's the Real Tragedy in College Admissions:

[https://www.cnn.com/2022/04/09/politics/sat-act-college-admissions-what-matters/index.html?fbclid=IwAR3WubjM4dQOmPtx9p1fnOVWyuA5oga2cWwxspAHsGaPjQVC1M\\_KX4Y3NI](https://www.cnn.com/2022/04/09/politics/sat-act-college-admissions-what-matters/index.html?fbclid=IwAR3WubjM4dQOmPtx9p1fnOVWyuA5oga2cWwxspAHsGaPjQVC1M_KX4Y3NI)