

1. Why did Southwestern make submitting test scores optional?

Southwestern has always engaged in a holistic review of applicants and the test-optional alternative allows us to consider your strengths that may be demonstrated in areas other than your ACT or SAT score. We believe that your high school record, in particular your grades in challenging core subjects, is the most important academic component in the review for admission.

2. How do I know if I should apply test optional?

The middle 50% of the Class of 2018 first-year students scored between 1140 and 1310 (EBRW+M) on the SAT and between 23-29 on the ACT. If you are satisfied with your test scores and believe they are indicative of your academic achievement, then we are happy to consider them as part of your application. However, if you have a strong academic record demonstrated by above average grades in challenging courses, but do not feel your test results are a good reflection of your academic performance, you can choose not to submit them.

Here are two good rules:

Student A: My test scores are above average, but I didn't do as well on the SAT/ACT as I personally would have liked... We recommend that this student submit his/her test scores.

Student B: Standardized testing has been a weakness of mine throughout my high school career. My grades and curriculum are rigorous and competitive, but my SAT/ACT scores aren't as strong as I would have liked... We do not recommend that this student submit his/her test scores.

3. Is there a test score needed for competitive scholarships?

Yes, to be eligible for consideration for the Brown or Garey Scholarships, a test score is required. A test score is not required for consideration for the Dixon Scholarship.

4. Are there any students who cannot apply test optional?

Yes, there are two groups of students who cannot apply test optional: Homeschooled students and international students. International students may consult the international admission counselor for more information on their requirements.

5. What if my test scores are sent by the test agency or are included on my transcripts?

If your scores are sent to us from the testing agency or are included on your high school transcript, you can still apply test optional as long as you indicate that preference on your application. If you apply test optional, your test scores will not be taken into consideration as part of the admission or merit scholarship review.

6. How will SU evaluate students who do not submit test scores?

As with all applications, Southwestern takes a holistic approach to application review. The University considers a student's transcript, academic rigor, essay, counselor/teacher recommendation, activities, and leadership as it seeks to enroll students with the greatest potential for success at SU.

7. What is required in lieu of test scores?

Test-optional candidates will be asked to complete a special evaluative interview, which will be considered in lieu of the test score.

8. At what point should an interview be scheduled?

Once you have submitted your application, essay, and transcript, you may schedule your Test Optional Interview.

9. How can an interview be scheduled?

You can schedule an interview by call the Admission Office at 1-800-252-3166 and requesting a Test Optional Interview. Your admission counselor may also contact you to set up your Test Optional Interview, after your application for admission with official transcript and essay are received by the Office of Admission. Interviews can be scheduled during a campus visit, at a time your admission counselor will be in your local area, or via Skype, Facetime, or telephone.

10. Can transfer students apply test optional?

Test scores are not required for transfer students.