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UC Berkeley “Test-Free” for the Fall 2022 Admissions Cycle

During the summer of 2020, the announcement was made that starting with the Fall 2021 admissions cycle UC Berkeley will not use SAT/ACT scores in any part of our admissions process, including evaluation, selection, or scholarship processes. The entire University of California system also removed SAT/ACT scores in the admissions process.

Today, we are reaffirming our commitment to offering a test-free environment, and Berkeley will be test-free for Fall 2022. Current juniors considering applying to Berkeley should be aware that we will not require or use SAT/ACT exam scores in our admissions process. And while subject exams, such as the Advanced Placement (AP) exam, can demonstrate advanced proficiency, they should not be considered a replacement for the SAT/ACT exams and are completely optional.

Berkeley has employed a holistic review process for decades, and standardized testing was only one of the many factors considered in admissions. UC Berkeley did not rely heavily on standardized test scores prior to the implementation of the test-free policy. The removal of SAT/ACT scores does not significantly change our review process, given each student’s context and school environment.

Berkeley acknowledges that excellence emerges in a variety of ways. Our hope is that the continuation of our test-free policy promotes the message that UC Berkeley, while highly selective, is achievable. We believe that standardized testing is a barrier and hope that more students will now consider the possibility of Berkeley with the removal of testing in our admissions process.