whytotaketheACT/SAT

**THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT HOW COLLEGES USE NATIONAL TESTS FOR ADMISSIONS**

# #1 – Most 4-Year Colleges Require Scores

Nearly all 4-year colleges require you to submit your test scores. The SAT and ACT are both accepted by most colleges.

Those small amount of colleges that do not require the scores often still use them for placement or scholarships.

# #2 – Most 4-Year Colleges Use the Test Scores During Their Admission Decisions

SAT and/or ACT scores help the colleges compare students (i.e. if you are comparable to another candidate and you have higher test scores you are more likely to gain admissions, get the scholarship, etc.) The scores show your areas of strength and your readiness for college.

In addition to test scores, colleges also look at your grades, recommendations, rigor of HS courses, volunteer/community work, and your overall application.

# #3 – Colleges May Use Test Scores to Award Scholarships

Some colleges use test scores alone or a combination of test scores and other achievements to make their selections on who receives their scholarship! You can essentially earn money by doing well on these tests!!

# #4 – Many Colleges Use Test Scores to Determine Placement in College Courses

SAT/ACT tests evaluate your skills in multiple subject areas. Some colleges use that to place students in the correct level during their first year. What does that mean?

* Higher Scores = Starting off at a HIGHER level in college = SAVING MONEY & TIME

# #5 – Colleges Publish Test Score Information & Consider Scores in Multiple Ways

Some colleges post the average and/or range of the test scores for the students that are attending their institution. This can give you an idea of where you stand when applying, but do keep in mind that they do look at other information so just because you don’t fit in that range doesn’t mean you shouldn’t apply.

If you take the SAT and/or ACT multiple times colleges have their own respective policies regarding what they want, i.e. require all scores, highest from one date, highest combined. You will want to check those policies!

# #6 – Admission Tests Help Colleges Find You

You have the opportunity to indicate your desire to have your name shared with interested colleges.

You make the decision on which colleges you want your test scores to be sent.