

Stop Using Standardized Test Scores to Determine Students' Futures [flier]

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Stop Using Standardized Test Scores to Determine Students' Futures!



This pamphlet will include a list of flaws within the system and propose changes universities need to make to have a fair admissions process.

3. Designed Improperly

According to a TED-Ed video by Arlo Kempf, standardized tests are not accurately designed to determine a student's academic ability. The test scores do not represent a student's potential because it is measuring something it wasn't designed to do. The video has great examples like students who have test anxiety, reading disabilities, comprehension issues, and cultural differences. Since the test doesn't produce a score that reflects a student's academic ability, it shouldn't be used in admissions.

4. Profitable Industry

Businesses like the College Board and ACT produce and distribute tests. They have become reliant on universities' need for the scores in their admissions. A person's future education and career shouldn't be in the grasp of a corporation.

Corona Virus's Impact

The year 2020 has produced many hardships in every facet of life, especially in education. Since schools had to shut down in March, many high school juniors were not able to take standardized tests in the spring. Without being able to take the test, students weren't able to use their scores to apply to college. Many universities changed their policies to accommodate for the lack of scores.

Western Illinois University adapted its policy to be test-optional. Rather than using test scores in its admission process, they review students' GPAs and overall high school transcripts.

This method will benefit all students who may not have done well on their test for a multitude of reasons. A student's ability to get into college shouldn't rely on a 4 hour test, but instead 4 years of hard work and determination.

Flaws

1. Outdated

"A Short History of Standardized Tests" written by Livia Gershon outlines the history of standardized testing. She highlights how the original intent of the test was to assess a school's performance rather than an individual student's academic ability. The use of standardized tests wasn't originally meant to be used for college admissions but now universities rely on these scores for entry.

2. Disadvantages low-income students

According to Gershon, "standardized test scores largely reflect socio-economic privilege." Students who have the extra money to spend on test preparation courses and expensive tutors are more likely to achieve higher scores on their tests. The use of standardized tests in college admission makes acceptance unequal.

All universities need to have a test-optional policy!

