

**VII. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES (CONTINUED)**  
**C. Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS)**  
**Barbara Sawrey, Chair**

**1. Proposed amendment to Senate Regulation 418 Article 1.**  
**Submission of Test Scores (Action)**

The proposed Senate Regulation amendments specified below concern undergraduate admissions. Specifically, they are proposed to address the fact that the ACT and SAT tests will change effective for freshmen applying to enter UC in fall 2006.

These proposed changes were approved by the Academic Council in April 2003 and sent to the University Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction to ensure that these regulations are consonant with the Bylaws and Regulations of the Academic Senate.

**PROPOSED CHANGE TO SENATE REGULATION (SR) 418**

**Present Wording:**

**Article 1. Submission of Test Scores**

**(Existing language, to be valid for freshmen entering through spring 2006)**

**418.**

Each applicant for admission must submit scores either in the SAT I: Reasoning Test or the American College Test. The applicant must also submit scores in three tests of the SAT II: Subject Test of the College Board. The SAT II tests must include English Composition (i.e., Writing Test), Mathematics, and one from the following areas: English Literature, Foreign Language, Science, or Social Studies. (Am 4 May 95)

The minimum scores acceptable shall be determined by the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools, and may vary depending upon the overall grade-point record of the applicant.

**Article 1. Submission of Test Scores**

**(New language, to be valid for freshmen class entering fall 2006)**

**418.**

Each applicant for admission must submit scores ~~either in the SAT I: Reasoning Test or the American College Test.~~ **on an approved core test of Mathematics, Language Arts, and Writing.** The applicant must also submit scores ~~in three tests of the SAT II: Subject Test of the College Board. The SAT II tests must include English Composition (i.e., Writing Test),~~

~~Mathematics, and one from the following areas: English Literature, Foreign Language, Science, or Social Studies.~~ **on approved supplementary subject matter tests to be taken in two different “a-f” subject areas: History/Social Science, English, Mathematics, Laboratory Science, Language other than English, or Visual Performing Arts.** (Am 4 May 95)

**Approval of tests shall be determined by the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools, with the concurrence of Academic Council and the Assembly of the Academic Senate.** The minimum scores acceptable shall be determined by the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools, and may vary depending upon the overall grade-point record of the applicant.

#### **JUSTIFICATION:**

A change is necessary because the nature of the ACT and SAT tests will be changing, effective for freshmen applying to enter the University of California in fall 2006. Both the ACT and SAT tests will include writing components beginning in spring 2005, and will have a name change. At that time prospective applicants will be able to take any of the new tests that BOARS, Council, and Assembly have approved. Rather than list the new names of the tests in the proposed bylaw change, we believe they should be removed all together.

The proposed regulation is now completely generic, with responsibility for approving specific tests assigned to BOARS, with concurrence of the Academic Council and Assembly. This means that tests could be added or subtracted from an approved list by Senate vote, but without changing the regulations. In BOARS' view it is inappropriate to name commercial companies or agencies in the Academic Senate regulations.

Inclusion of a writing component in the new core tests will obviate the need for the SAT II Writing exam, and the College Board will eliminate the administration of that test. Therefore the supplementary subject tests will be reduced in number from three to two. Similar to the removal of the names of the core tests, the removal of the reference to the SAT II exams as specific supplementary subject matter tests allows us to maintain our flexibility for approving tests that other testing agencies may present in the future to the University and BOARS for approval as tests of subject matter.

A mathematics subject matter test will no longer be required since the level of the new ACT and SAT I core tests in mathematics will be approximately equivalent to the SAT II Mathematics Level 1C test.

The names of the areas in which the subject matter tests will be taken have been changed to correspond exactly with wording of the “a-f” requirements for high school courses. A new Visual and Performing Arts requirement was

added, effective 2003 (the “g” requirement is now an elective course). Foreign Language is changed to Language Other than English, and English Literature to English, Science to Laboratory Science, and Social Studies to History/Social Science.

## **2. Proposed transition planning for testing (Action)**

BOARS seeks the approval of the Assembly for its proposed transition plan with respect to admissions testing. This transition plan was approved unanimously by BOARS on April 25, 2003, and approved by the Academic Council on April 30, 2003

As a transition plan, BOARS recommends that beginning with the entering freshman class of 2006, the University will accept on an interim basis scores on the ACT with Writing and the new SAT examinations in satisfaction of the core test requirement. These interim approvals will be in effect for two years.

BOARS will complete a comprehensive review of admissions tests and their alignment with the University testing principles no later than 2008. In the intervening years BOARS will undertake to collect data that will enable an evaluation, according to BOARS principles, of the tests for which the University accepts scores.

## **JUSTIFICATION**

This plan allows the University to temporarily accept scores on the new ACT with Writing and SAT core exams for meeting eligibility requirements of the University during the period of transition from the current tests to the newly developed tests. Both ACT and the College Board are developing their new tests to be ready for administration in early 2005. This corresponds in timing to when applicants for admission to the University for fall 2006 would take the tests.

ACT will continue to offer their current core test, but will add a writing component (optional for other schools, mandatory for University of California applicants). The College Board is revising their SAT exam more extensively, including the addition of a writing component. BOARS is confident that ACT with Writing will align with BOARS testing principles, and see positive signs that the SAT will do so also.

At the present time students who will enter the University in fall 2006 are preparing to enter their sophomore year in high school in fall 2003. They must know very soon which test scores will be acceptable to the University when they apply, since they are preparing for them now. The University does not yet have the new tests to review and judge, so BOARS feels we should give only provisional approval until the time we are able to ascertain whether

a test satisfies BOARS testing principles. BOARS continues to work with the testing agencies, and will have information and data forthcoming over the next few years. Yet BOARS will not have its own University of California data until after the tests are administered in 2005. So there will be a time period when BOARS may still be assessing a test or tests, but when the students need to know which test scores BOARS will accept. Thus BOARS' request for an interim/provisional acceptance of scores from ACT with Writing and SAT during their first two years of use in the University of California system (for students entering fall 2006 and 2007). By the end of this time period, BOARS expects to have determined longer term acceptability. In addition, BOARS is committed to periodic reviews of any approved tests, plus any new tests that may be proposed to satisfy admissions requirements.

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January 18, 2003

GAYLE BINION  
Chair, Academic Council

Subject: Admissions Tests

Dear Gayle,

At its meeting on December 16, BOARS discussed the process and timeline for completing the Senate discussion of our recommendations regarding the University's policy on admissions tests. Several members indicated that their campus divisions had received the BOARS paper "Proposal for Use of Supplemental Subject Matter Tests in the UC Admissions Process," but had questions about its relationship to our earlier paper ("The Use of Admission Tests by the University of California," January 2002) and about the nature and timing of input Academic Council is seeking. At the request of BOARS, I am writing to address some of these questions and suggest an approach and timetable—which I hope the Council can discuss at our January 29 meeting—to completing Senate deliberations on this issue.

*As you know, the context for our discussion of admissions tests has changed substantially since BOARS issued its first discussion paper in January 2002. At that time, BOARS recommended a new "core" test of critical reading, writing, and mathematics, to be supplemented by two tests in specific subject areas—a concept BOARS refers to as "Core-Plus-Two." Because at that time neither the ACT nor the SAT I included a test of writing and the SAT I was generally found to be insufficiently related to the college preparatory curriculum to meet BOARS' requirements, BOARS*

*concluded that “no currently available test” met its requirements. Thus it appeared that new core tests—possibly unique to California—would have to be developed.*

*Since that time, however, both of the major national testing agencies have announced changes to their existing tests that appear to bring those tests into conformance with BOARS’ recommendations. Thus it now appears that, in terms of actual policy changes, the action required by the Senate in order to adopt BOARS’ recommendations may be relatively narrow: essentially conforming the names of the two currently accepted core tests to their new names, changing the number of subject tests required from three to two, and modifying the language specifying the mix of tests that can be used to meet the subject test requirement.*

At the same time, however, BOARS faces some challenges with regard to timing. We have proposed that the first applicants to whom the new requirement will apply would be the high school class graduating of 2006. Both testing agencies have announced that their new core tests will be available in 2004 and BOARS is working actively with them to review blueprints and specifications as these become available. However, the exact timetable for when additional details on these core tests become available is out of the University’s hands and it is not in the interests of the faculty or our future students to rush this review process.

With regard to finalizing the subject matter portion of the requirement, however, we face some urgency. As you know, at present students are required to take three subject examinations in addition to the core (SAT II Math, SAT II Writing, and one additional SAT II exam), only one of which they are allowed to choose. Under the new policy, the SAT II Mathematics and SAT II Writing exams will no longer be required, their content essentially being subsumed in the core exams. So students will now need to identify two subjects, not one, in which they will take supplemental tests. Students who will apply for Fall 2006 are already high school freshmen and many of them will enroll during their sophomore year (2003-04) in courses for which they may want to take subject matter tests. They would take these tests in May or June of 2004 and we would need to inform them of the new requirement in Fall 2003 publications and at counselors’ conferences scheduled for September 2003. Thus there is pressure to take action on the subject matter test portion of the new policy this spring, so that it can be taken to The Regents no later than their July 2003 meeting.

In order both to ensure sufficient time to continue BOARS’ work with the testing agencies and to address our need to inform potential applicants of the expanded subject test requirement, I would like to suggest that Academic Council consider taking the following actions no later than its April meeting.

1. Endorse in concept the “Core-plus-Two” testing proposal recommended by BOARS in January 2002.
2. Endorse BOARS’ recommendation that the number of additional subject tests required be reduced from three to two, to be chosen from two of the six “a-g” subject areas.
3. Affirm that the approval of specific examinations that meet requirements is delegated to BOARS and renew Council’s previous endorsement of BOARS’ continued work with ACT, Inc. and the College Board/Educational Testing Service in specifying the overall design of new core examinations.

4. Pass these actions onto the Academic Assembly for approval at the Assembly meeting on May 28.

On behalf of BOARS, let me express our deep appreciation for the continued support and advice we have received from you and the members of the Academic Council.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Sawrey  
Chair, Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS)

cc: BOARS members

**(For additional background please refer to the March 12, 2003 Assembly's NOTICE OF MEETING or to the following website: <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/senate/assembly/mar2003/mar2003viib.pdf> )**