

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, ACADEMIC SENATE

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August 7, 2017

STEPHEN HANDEL
ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT, UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

**Re: UCOPE Recommendations for the Revised SAT and ACT and UC's Entry
Level Writing Requirement**

Dear Steve,

At its July 26, 2017 meeting, the Academic Council endorsed the attached recommendations from the University Committee on Preparatory Education (UCOPE) regarding the revised Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and American College Test (ACT) and the University's Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR).

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Chalfant".

Jim Chalfant, Chair
Academic Council

Cc: UCOPE
Senate Director Baxter



*Brad Queen, Chair
University Committee on Preparatory Education
bradley.queen@uci.edu*

*University of California
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200*

July 20, 2017

JIM CHALFANT, CHAIR
ACADEMIC SENATE

**RE: THE REVISED SAT AND ACT AND UC'S ENTRY LEVEL WRITING
REQUIREMENT**

Dear Jim,

UCOPE held a special videoconference on July 19th to make a decision about whether the revised Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and American College Test (ACT) will satisfy the University's Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR).

The specific components of the SAT and ACT used for this purpose have recently changed.

- SAT no longer provides a combined score on its writing section, but does provide an Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (EBRW) score and a separate SAT Essay score.
- ACT no longer provides a Combined English/Writing score, but does provide an English Language Arts (ELA) score.
- Students were able to meet the ELWR by achieving a score of 30 or higher on the ACT ELA in the fall 2016 and fall 2017 admissions cycles.
- For the fall 2017 cycle, UCOPE has suspended ELWR credit for the new SAT since score concordance data was not available. No threshold score for meeting ELWR via the SAT had been established, so students were not able to use this exam to meet the requirement.

At its recent videoconference, UCOPE considered whether to revise the ACT ELA threshold and whether to set an SAT threshold going forward. UCOP's Institutional Research unit analyzed data from the fall 2017 freshman admissions cycle to compare SAT EBRW, SAT Essay, and ACT ELA scores to scores on UC's own Analytical Writing Placement Exam. The analysis (attached) covered students who plan to enroll at UC as indicated by submitting a Statement of Intent to Register, referred to as "SIRs" in this analysis.

The committee voted on three separate recommendations as follows.

Recommendation 1: Set a threshold of 690 on SAT EBRW for meeting the ELWR for a pilot period until more data are available. At this threshold, available data suggest that over 75% of students will pass the AWPE, consistent with the pattern in the last year of the old SAT writing test.

Action: The committee unanimously voted in favor of Recommendation 1 after it had decided to set the threshold at 680, define the pilot period as the 2017-2018 admissions cycle, and stipulate that the pilot will include analysis and reporting of scores on the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (EBRW) score, a separate SAT Essay score, and the AWPE scores. UCOPE asked IRAP to do effect size analysis and to generate correlation coefficients comparing EBRW scores to AWPE scores, EBRW and SAT Essay scores to AWPE scores, and SAT Essay scores to AWPE scores.

Recommendation 2: Do not use the SAT Essay score as a method for meeting the ELWR until more data are available. Currently available data show that even for a threshold at the highest score of 24, the AWPE passing rate was only 69%. Such a high threshold would not benefit many students, since only 2% of test takers achieved this score.

Action: The committee unanimously voted in favor of Recommendation 2.

Recommendation 3: Maintain the current threshold of 30 for meeting the ELWR using ACT ELA. Available data for the ACT ELA score show similar results in fall 2017 to the old ACT Combined English/Writing score in fall 2015.

Action: The committee unanimously voted in favor of Recommendation 3.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Brad Queen", is displayed within a light blue rectangular box.

Brad Queen Ph.D.
Chair, University Committee on Preparatory Education