HAN MI YOON-WU, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS

Re: Digital SAT and the Entry Level Writing Requirement

Dear Han Mi:

At its July 26 meeting, the Academic Council approved the attached recommendation from the University Committee on Preparatory Education (UCOPE) concerning the use of scores from the Digital SAT Reading and Writing test that is being introduced by the College Board in January 2024. UCOPE recommends a full analysis of new test scores before approving the assessment as one mechanism to demonstrate satisfaction of the Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR). UCOPE looks forward to working with UC Undergraduate Admissions and UC Institutional Research and Academic Planning (IRAP) on such a study.

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

Sincerely,

Susan Cochran, Chair
Academic Council

Cc: UCOPE
    IRAP Vice President Brown
    Academic Council
    Senate Division Executive Directors
    Executive Director Lin
June 26, 2023

SUSAN COCHRAN, CHAIR
ACADEMIC SENATE

RE: THE DIGITAL SAT AND SATISFACTION OF THE ENTRY LEVEL WRITING REQUIREMENT

Dear Susan:

UCOPE has been notified by the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at the Office of the President that the SAT is changing. Students who registered for an SAT administration outside of the U.S. anytime in 2023 are taking the Digital SAT, and the SAT will switch from a paper and pencil format to a digital format for test administrations in the U.S. in January 2024. With this change, the paper and pencil version of the exam will be eliminated.

The new Digital SAT will no longer provide an Evidenced-Based Reading and Writing (EBRW) score, and instead will provide a Reading and Writing score. It is only the EBRW score from the paper-based SAT that is currently approved by UCOPE to satisfy the Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR).

The College Board indicates that students’ digital SAT scores are strongly correlated to their scores on the current SAT, suggesting that the digital and current SAT scores measure highly similar constructs. However, UCOPE has agreed that the Digital SAT Reading and Writing score should be fully analyzed, as additional data become available, before UCOPE considers this new exam for satisfying the ELWR. The committee asks Academic Council to advise Undergraduate Admissions about this decision.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Best wishes,

Eileen Camfield, Chair
University Committee on Preparatory Education