

Resolution in support of extending the Test-optional admissions pilot program
Approved by the Student Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate May 5, 2022

WHEREAS, the Faculty Senate has the authority “To review and establish policy with respect to admissions standards and prerequisites” (Constitution and By-Laws 1.1.d); and

WHEREAS, in spring 2020, in response to the global pandemic disrupting normal processes for secondary students taking standardized tests, UVM waived its standardized testing requirement for students applying to UVM during Fall 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Student Affairs Committee passed a motion to extend the Standardized Testing Requirement Waiver in November 2020, stating, “In part due to the challenges and risks associated with COVID-19, as well as inequity and bias that may be ingrained into standardize tests, the SAC moves to extend the test-optional option for UG admission, for TWO admission cycles, with later consideration of making this change permanent. This would apply to students entering for the fall of 2021 through 2023.”; and

WHEREAS, research suggests that standardized tests are not as good a measure of student success as high school gpas; and

WHEREAS, there remain important questions of equity associated with standardized tests; and

WHEREAS, the University of Vermont has not had sufficient time to collect data to determine whether to make the test-optional policy permanent;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Faculty Senate supports the following recommendations from the Vice Provost for Enrollment management, to:

- Extend the test-optional admission pilot for three additional years through the entering classes in Fall 2026 and Spring 2027
- Collect standardized test scores from all students who have test scores, upon enrollment, regardless of whether or not they applied under the test-optional policy. This allows us to understand the difference in scores between the submitters and non-submitters.
- Regularly review the data from the classes of Fall 2021 through Fall 2026 to understand first-year GPA, retention rates, graduation rates, and other outcomes (placement, salary, etc.); this should be an annual exercise in the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment