

ACT & SAT Analysis

Providing visibility and directions if SAT & ACT test should be used as a requirement for college admission

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Agenda

- Problem Statement
- Data Exploration
- Directions and Recommendations

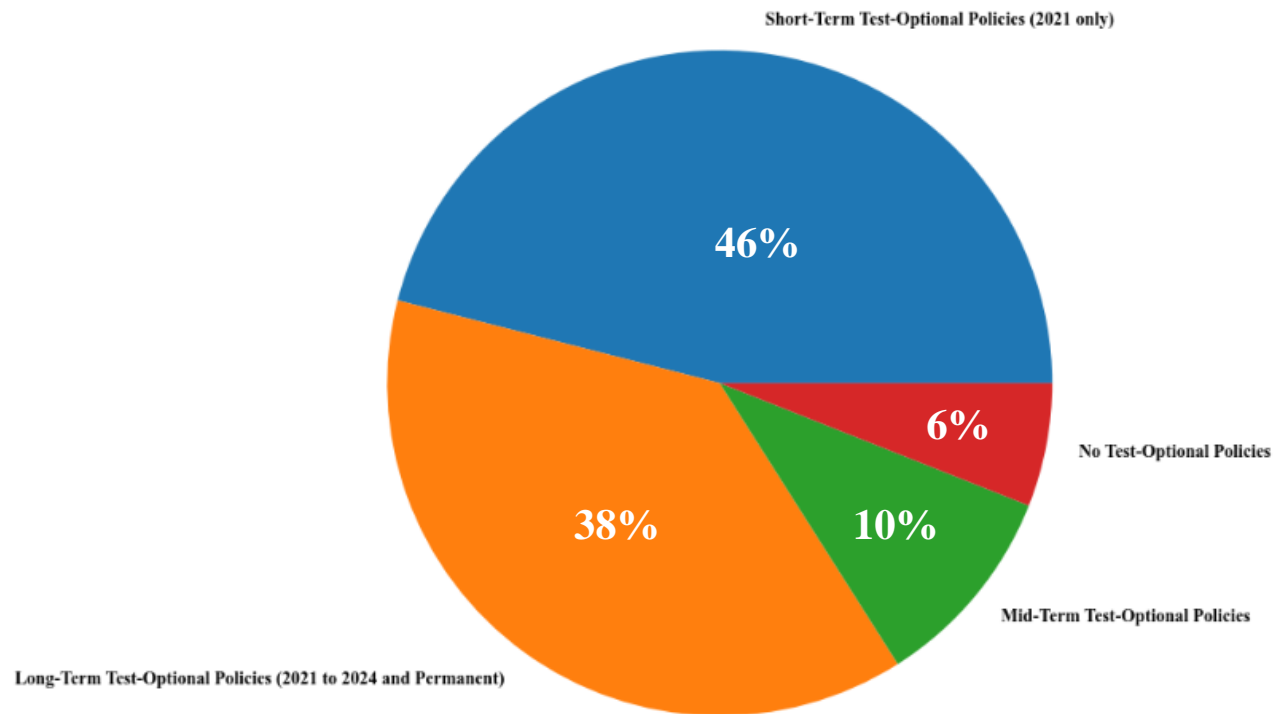
Problem Statement

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, many colleges have introduced test-optional policy for their admission requirement.

To promote diversity and equity as well as gaining a larger pool of talents, an assessment needs to be made if standardize test such as ACT & SAT should be dropped as an admission requirement.

Data Exploration

Number of universities by test-optional policies



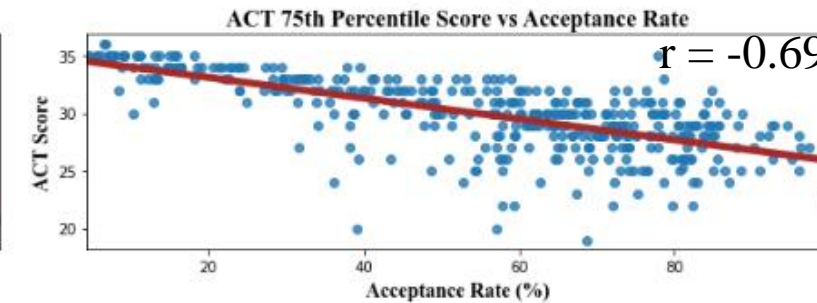
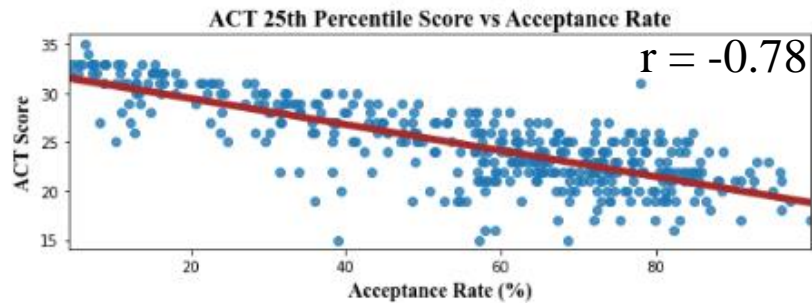
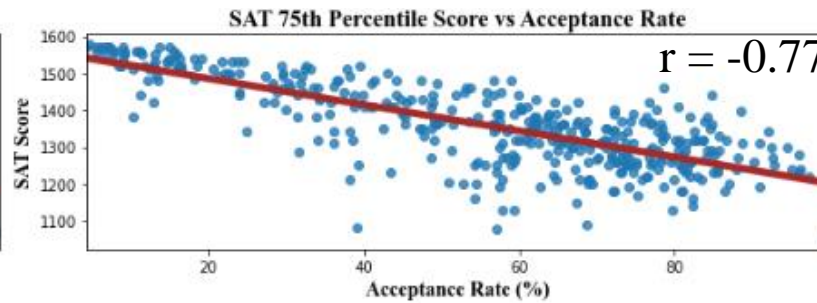
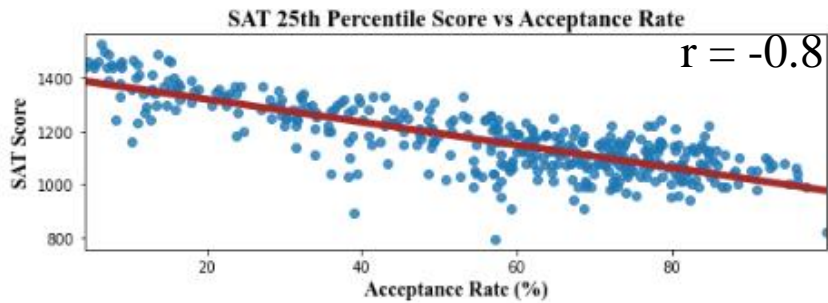
Observed that only 6% of universities do not implement test-optional policy

Data Exploration

school	test_optional	class_years	policy_details	number_of_applicants_int
University of California—Los Angeles	Yes	2021 2022 2023 2024	The UC system has adopted a two-year test opti...	111322
University of California—San Diego	Yes	2021 2022 2023 2024	The UC system has adopted a two-year test opti...	97901
University of California—Santa Barbara	Yes	2021 2022 2023 2024	The UC system has adopted a two-year test opti...	93457
University of California—Berkeley	Yes	2021 2022 2023 2024	Cal has adopted a four-year test blind policy ...	89621
New York University	Yes	2021	NYU has adopted a one-year test optional polic...	79462

Based on popularity, majority of the top schools applied are University of California campuses and all of them have implemented test-optional policy

Data Exploration

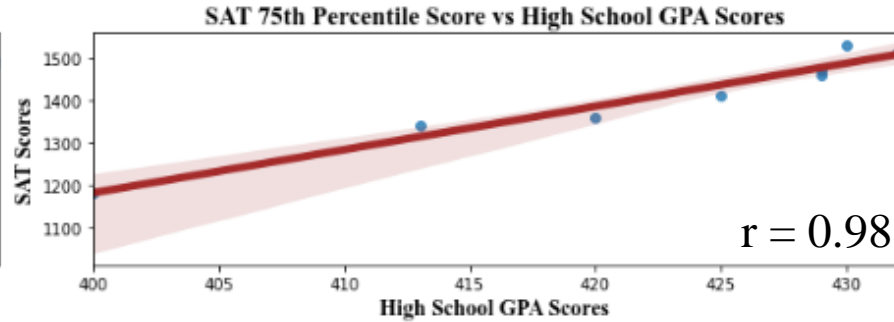
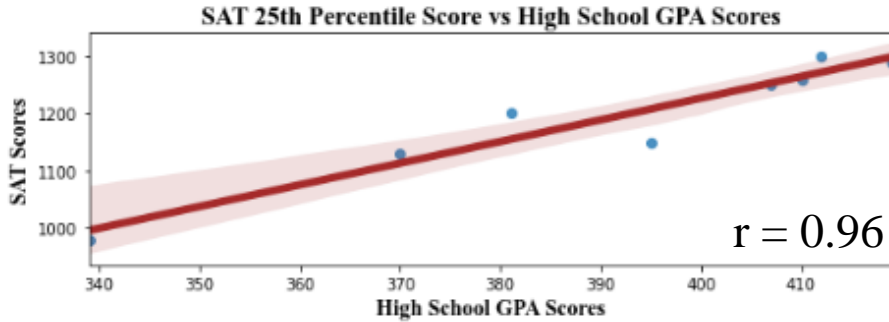


There is an inverse relationship between SAT & ACT scores and college acceptance rate

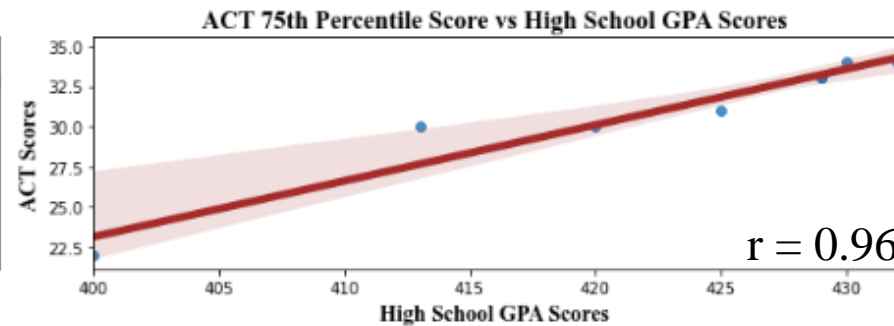
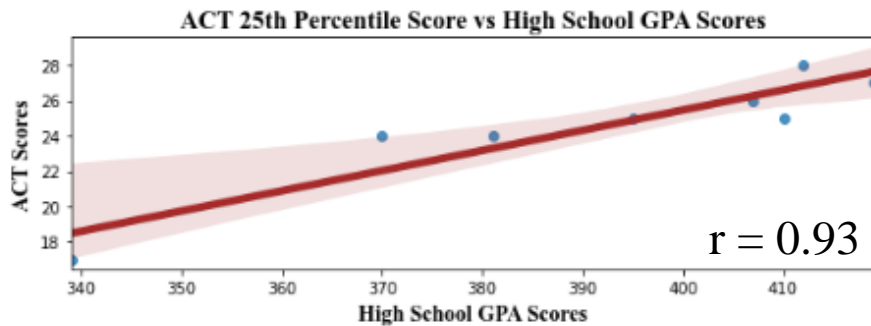
This implies that universities with low acceptance rate tend to have students with high SAT or ACT scores

It reduce opportunities for students to enter their dream colleges

Data Exploration



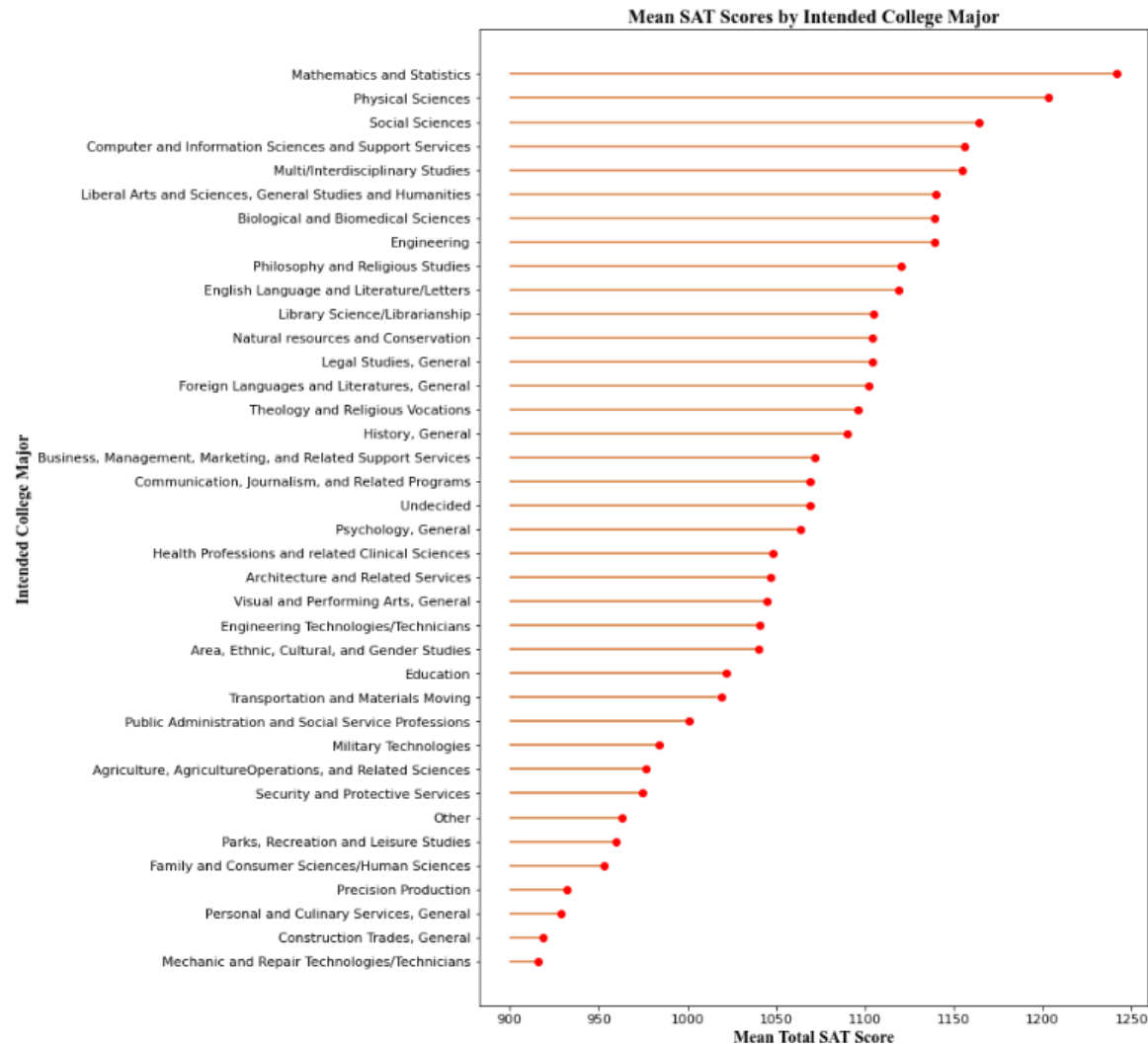
However, there is a positive relationship between students' SAT & ACT scores and high school GPA scores



This means that high school GPA scores can be used as an indicator for academic performance

Data only includes University of California campuses

Data Exploration



With diverse backgrounds, the total scores of SAT vary by a significant amount.

If universities were to apply strict SAT & ACT tests, they will miss out a large pool of diverse talents.

Directions & Recommendations

- As COVID-19 hits, there is a need to revise SAT & ACT tests as college admission requirement
- While both SAT and ACT tests are a good measure to assess academic performance, universities should look at a bigger picture and be more flexible in applying college admission requirement to attract more diverse background
- The university should move towards implementing test-optional policy as there is a key indicator that high school GPA is representative of academic performance