Test-Optional Admissions

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Discussion by Adam Kapor, Princeton University

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 - 3 Obscuring scores prevents society from finding the cases of extreme disagreement.
 - \blacksquare Application: society bans AA \Longrightarrow colleges may drop SAT, harming society.

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 - Perhaps declaring test-optional provides info about what college wants?

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 - Borghesan (2023): (1) SAT is informative and not more biased than other measures; (2) dropping it in eqbm would harm elite colleges; not help minorities.
 - Dynarski et al (2022): little evidence that SAT-optional improved 1st-year diversity.
- Empirically, doesn't look like dropping exams has worked out so far, except perhaps in cases involving *legal* commitment + transparency (e.g. TTP).

You persuade them by gerrymandering their beliefs.

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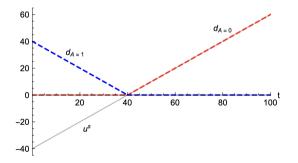


Figure 1 – Disagreement cost from accepting (A = 1) and rejecting (A = 0) an student.

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 - Journalism and litigation worse for colleges if there are obvious cases.

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 - ▶ U.S. has competing private exams, unlike other countries w/ national college entrance exams.

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- Is world in 2023 very different from 2018? Maybe we want model with multiple eqba?

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- A lot of interesting stories involve multiple firms:
 - Many questions for next paper...