

The Relationship Between SAT Scores and Student Retention

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Abstract

This article examines the relationship between SAT scores and student retention. Using data from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), we regress first year institutional retention rates on SAT scores.

Methods

Data from the 2009 IPEDS (?, ?) was used to compare SAT scores with student retention. Since institutions are required to report the 25th and 75th percentile scores for applicants, the mean of these two scores was calculated and used as an approximation of the institutions' median SAT score.

Results

The results can be seen in Table 1 and Figure 1.

	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t)
(Intercept)	21.7183	3.3820	6.42	0.0000
SATWriting	0.0133	0.0113	1.17	0.2420
SATMath	0.1019	0.0108	9.46	0.0000
AcceptanceTotal	-2.3036	1.4789	-1.56	0.1198
UseAdmissionTestScoresRecommended	-4.4103	2.4407	-1.81	0.0712
UseAdmissionTestScoresRequired	-2.9979	2.0828	-1.44	0.1505

Table 1: Regression Results

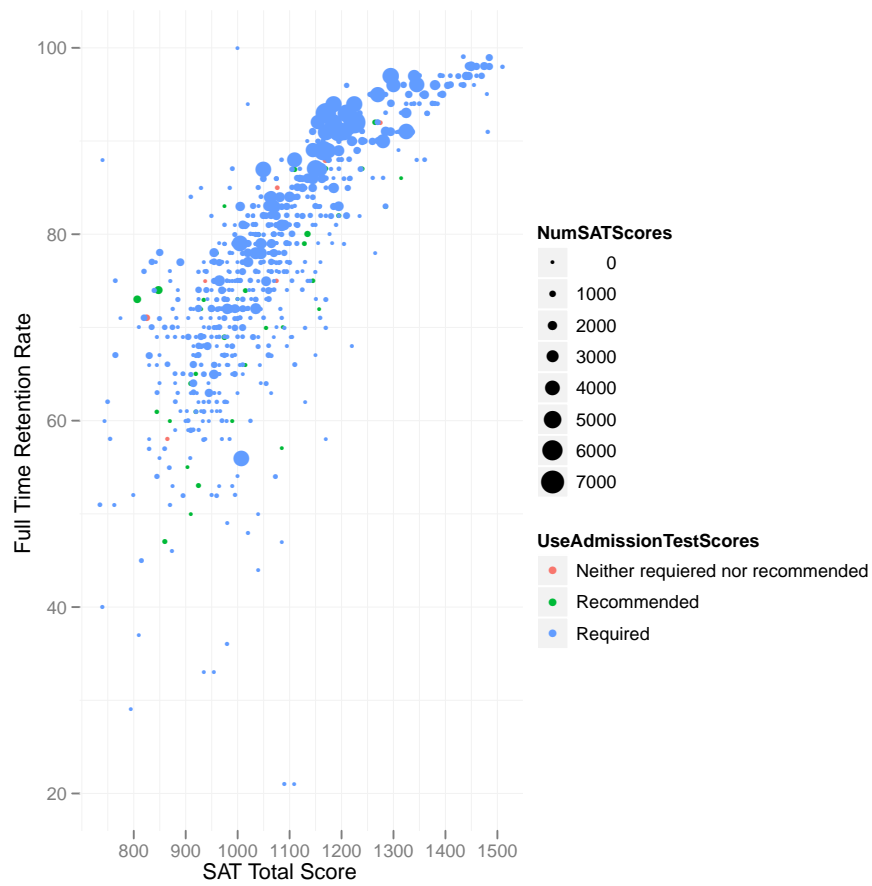


Figure 1. Relationship Between SAT Scores and Student Retention

Discussion

References

National Center for Education Statistics. 2009. The Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System The integrated postsecondary education data system. <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/datacenter/>