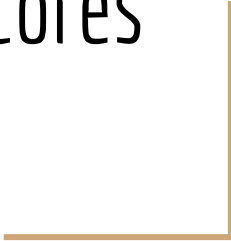


Data analysis on
test-optional policy
and SAT/ACT scores



Problem Statement

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, many colleges have switched to a test-optional policy in regard to SAT and ACT score submission.

Is it still important for students to submit their SAT and ACT scores even when tests are optional for most schools?

Is there a relationship between the scores and college acceptance rate?

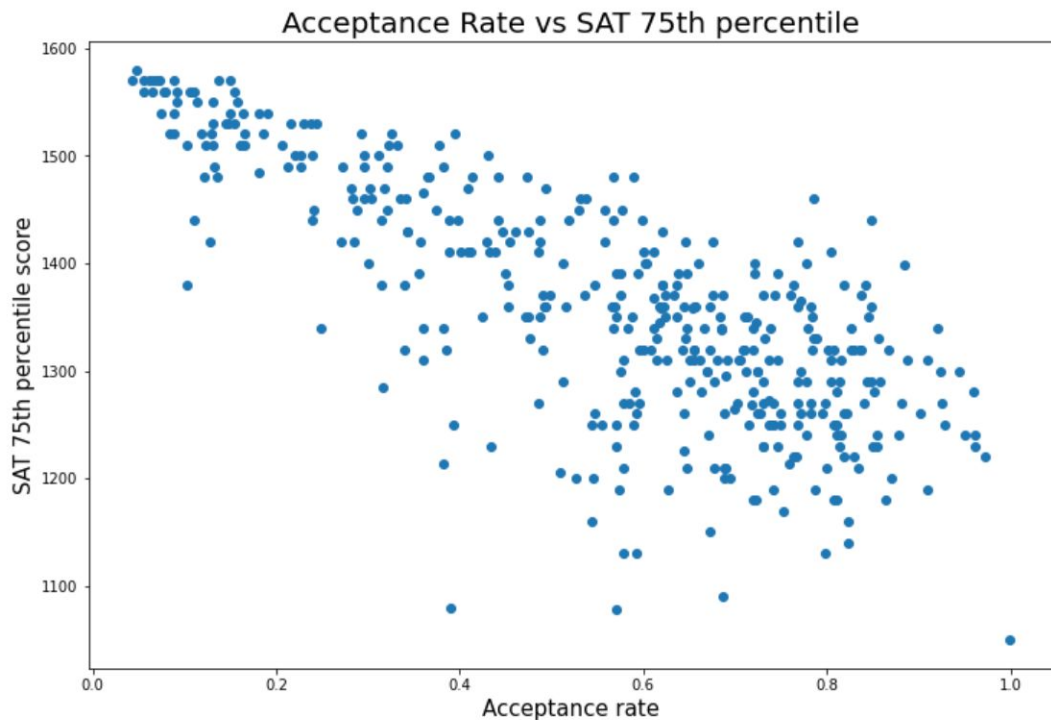
What SAT and ACT scores students should aim for in order to enter their dream schools?

Test-Optional Policy

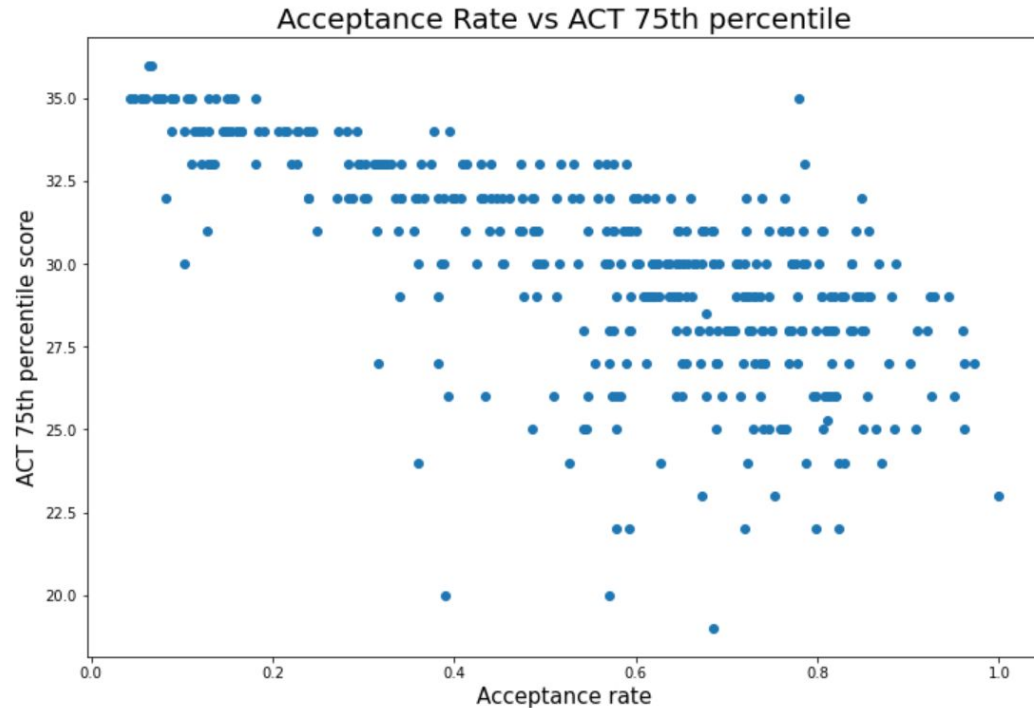
25 out of 405 colleges have test mandatory policies, which is only 6.17%.

The large majority of schools have adopted test-optional policy, which means that if a student does not want to submit his/her score, it will not be counted against them in their college application review.

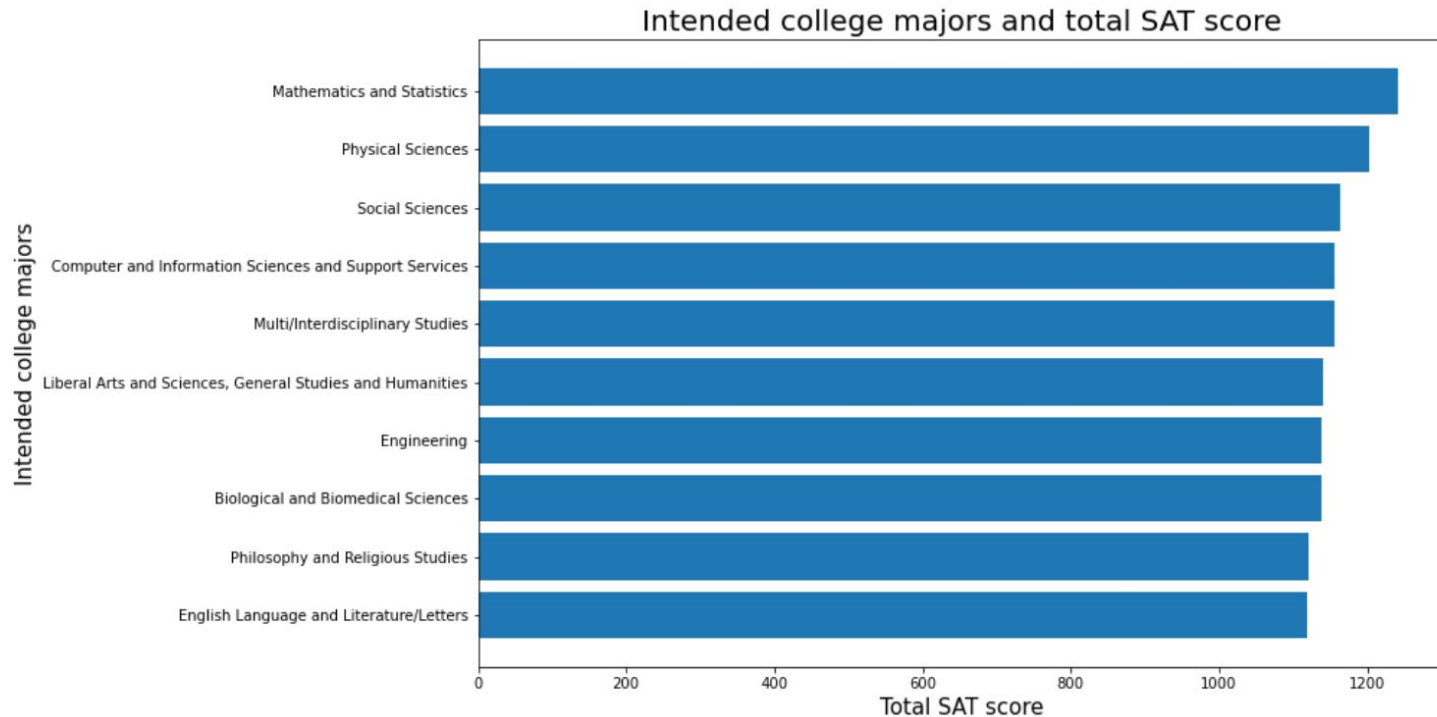
The lower the acceptance rate, the higher the SAT 75th percentile score.



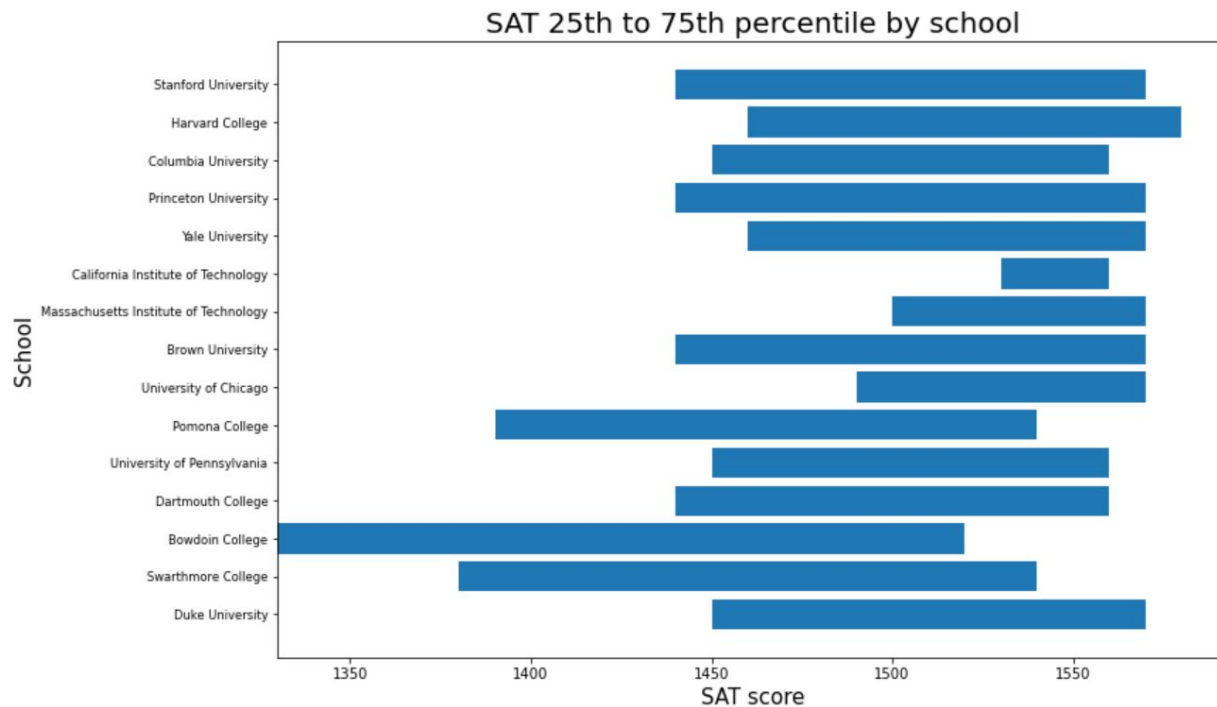
Similarly, the lower the acceptance rate, the higher the ACT 75th percentile score.



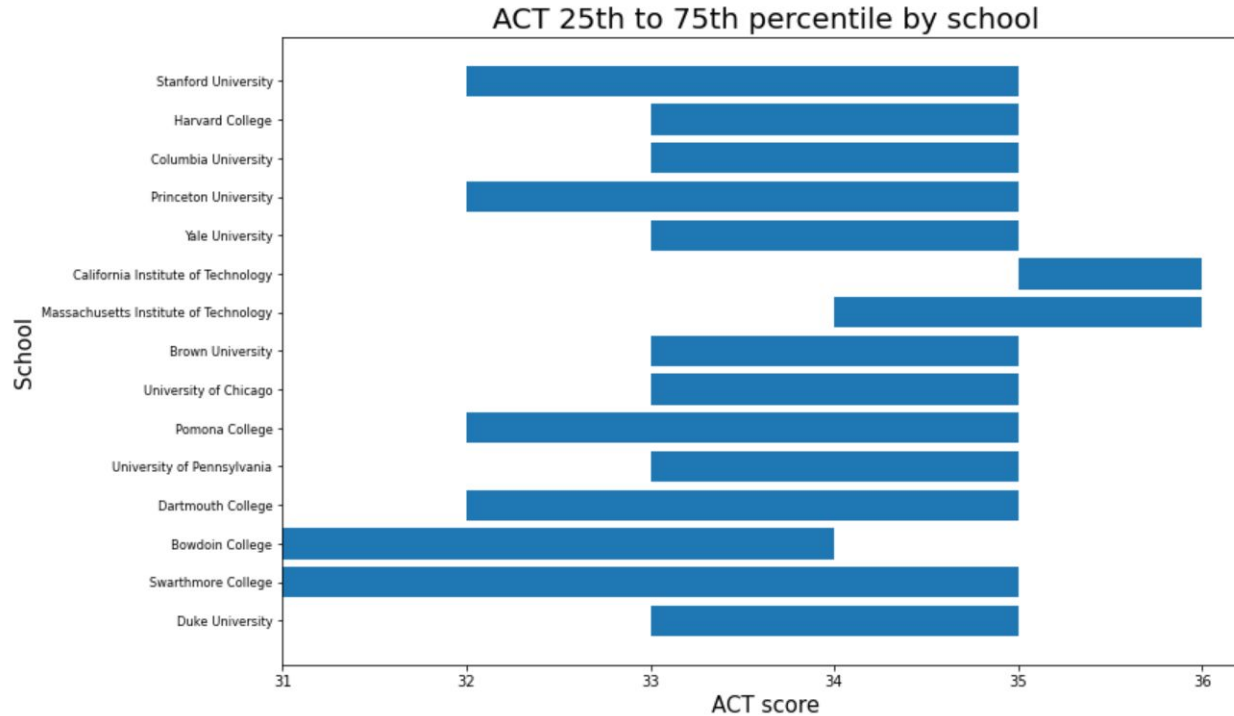
Top 10 college majors with the highest SAT scores



Top 15 schools and SAT score range



Top 15 schools and ACT score range



Conclusion

Even with most colleges adopting test-optional policies, SAT and ACT scores still play an important role for college admissions especially for top schools with very low acceptance rates and for popular STEM related majors.

It might be beneficial for students to take the tests and then decide whether to submit their scores by comparing against that the score range of the school.

Students should aim for 75th percentile of the SAT and ACT score of the school which they wish to enter for higher chances of college acceptance.