

# **Diversity Implications of SAT-Optional Admission Policies at Selective Colleges**

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Table 1  
Academic Predictors of College Success

Predictor Variables	First-Year Class Rank	Graduated in Six Years	Class Rank at Graduation
<i>SAT I Score</i>			
1400-1600	10.7**	1.00	8.7**
1300-1399	3.1	1.17	3.3
(1200-1299)	–	–	–
1100-1199	-6.2†	0.95	-7.3**
1000-1099	-8.7*	0.87	-15.3***
<1000	-20.8***	1.21	-22.0***
<i>Average SAT II Score</i>			
750 and above	16.3***	1.45	19.8***
650-749	8.7**	0.91	5.5**
(<650)	–	–	–
<i>High School GPA</i>			
A+	15.1***	2.67*	16.3***
A	6.5†	1.93†	9.9**
A-	4.9	1.17	2.8
(B+ or lower)	–	–	–
<i>High School Class Rank</i>			
Top 10 percent	5.2	0.88	2.4
Next 10 percent	0.1	1.04	-2.4
(Bottom 80 percent)	–	–	–
<i>Elite High School</i>			
Yes	2.3	4.67***	3.4
(No)	–	–	–
<i>Number of Observations</i>	2,224	4,390	3,788

Table 2  
Academic Outcomes in High School Among Applicants to Selective Colleges,  
by Social Class and Race

Item	Percent with			
	SAT I Score 1400+	Average SAT II Score 650+	High School GPA of A+	Top 10% of Graduating Class
<i>Total</i>	25.4	48.5	26.6	61.8
<i>Social Class</i>				
High	28.7	53.8	23.9	61.4
Middle	24.0	46.2	27.7	63.4
Low	13.9	31.8	35.2	58.0
<i>Race</i>				
White	24.9	50.9	27.3	61.7
Black	7.2	18.3	11.4	34.2
Hispanic	14.6	38.5	25.5	59.9
Asian	36.0	52.8	29.6	70.8

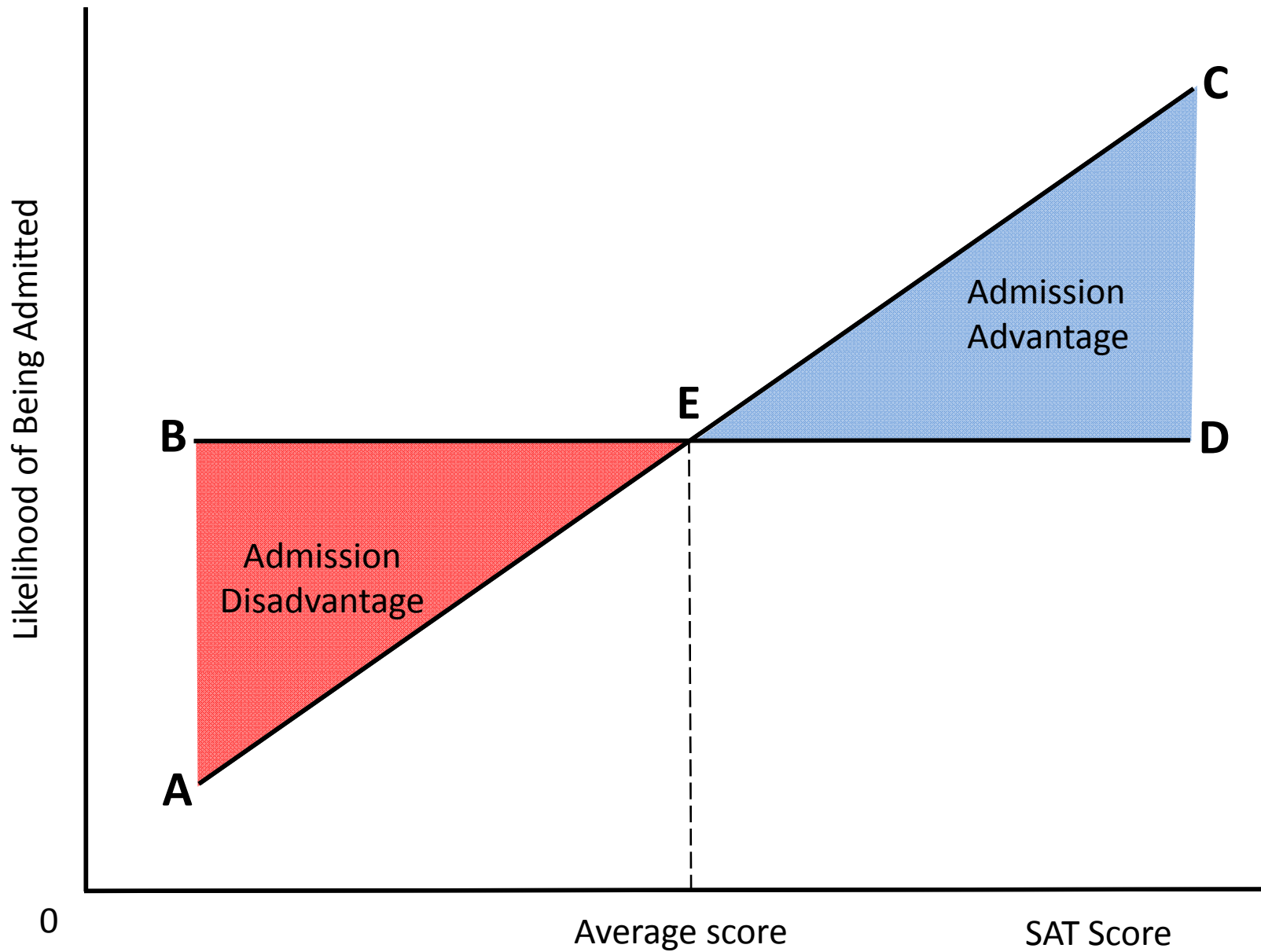


Figure 1. Hypothetical Relationships between an Applicant's SAT Score and the Likelihood of Being Admitted to a Selective College, Other Things Equal.

Table 3  
Implications of Alternative Admission Policies and Changing Applicant Pools  
for the Profile of Admitted Students at Selective Private Institutions

Item	Observed Baseline Admitted	Difference from Observed Baseline Admitted			
		SAT-Optional		Don't Ask Don't Tell	
		More Apps: I	More Apps: II	More Apps: I	More Apps: II
<i>Total</i>	12,233	0	0	0	0
<i>Race (%)</i>					
White	59.9	-5.1	-2.6	-6.1	-3.2
Black	8.3	3.0	1.6	5.5	3.8
Hispanic	7.9	2.7	1.3	4.1	2.6
Asian	23.9	-0.6	-0.3	-3.5	-3.2
<i>Social Class (%)</i>					
Upper	7.2	-0.7	-0.4	0	0.4
Upper-Middle	49.6	-4.0	-2.9	-6.6	-5.4
Middle	33.4	1.3	1.5	0.4	0.6
Working	8.3	2.5	1.2	5.1	3.5
Lower	1.6	0.8	0.5	1.0	0.7
<i>Mean SAT I Score</i>	1,405	-21	-23	-59	-63
<i>SAT II Score (%)</i>					
750 and above	15.1	0.5	0.6	-3.1	-3.0
650-749	56.8	-1.6	-2.1	-6.1	-6.8
Below 650	28.0	1.2	1.6	9.3	9.8
<i>H.S. GPA (%)</i>					
A+	42.1	1.5	1.2	-2.3	-2.6
A	37.9	-0.3	-0.3	-0.6	-0.6
A-	14.3	-0.9	-0.6	2.0	2.4
B+ or lower	5.8	-0.4	-0.5	0.8	0.7
<i>H.S. Class Rank (%)</i>					
Top 10 percent	81.1	0.6	0.2	-4.0	-4.4
Next 10 percent	14.8	0	0.4	2.9	3.4
Bottom 80 percent	4.1	-0.6	-0.6	1.1	1.0

Table 4  
 Implications of Alternative Admission Policies and Changing Applicant Pools  
 for the Profile of Admitted Students at Selective Public Institutions

Item	Observed Baseline Admitted	Difference from Observed Baseline Admitted			
		SAT-Optional		Don't Ask Don't Tell	
		More Apps: I	More Apps: II	More Apps: I	More Apps: II
<i>Total</i>	14,185	0	0	0	0
<i>Race (%)</i>					
White	87.3	-2.3	-0.6	-4.2	-2.6
Black	7.8	2.1	1.0	3.5	2.3
Hispanic	1.5	0.4	0	0.7	0.3
Asian	3.4	-0.2	-0.4	0	0
<i>Social Class (%)</i>					
Upper	2.8	0	-0.1	-0.2	-0.1
Upper-Middle	52.5	0.3	1.7	-1.4	0.1
Middle	38.1	-1.9	-2.4	-2.2	-2.2
Working	6.1	1.4	0.7	3.6	2.1
Lower	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1
<i>Mean SAT I Score</i>	1,206	-11	-16	-8	-14
<i>SAT II Score (%)</i>					
750 and above	0	0	0	0	0
650-749	35.6	-0.4	-1.5	-2.7	-4.6
Below 650	64.4	0.4	1.5	2.7	4.6
<i>H.S. GPA (%)</i>					
A+	26.1	1.4	1.5	1.9	1.8
A	37.7	-0.5	0.9	0.8	2.4
A-	15.3	-0.1	-0.2	0.7	0.5
B+ or lower	20.9	-0.7	-2.1	-3.4	-4.7
<i>H.S. Class Rank (%)</i>					
Top 10 percent	52.2	0.6	0.3	3.7	4.0
Next 10 percent	30.3	0.5	2.3	-0.6	0.5
Bottom 80 percent	17.5	-1.0	-2.6	-3.1	-4.5