



The SAT and International Recruitment and Admission

The SAT is a higher education admission test that reflects the work that students do in high school, focusing on the core knowledge and skills in reading, writing, and math that research has shown to be critical for students to be ready for higher education and career (College Board, 2017). In the most recent cohort, the SAT was taken by more than three million students worldwide in the class of 2022 and is accepted at nearly all four-year colleges and universities in the United States (College Board, 2019). In addition, there are over 500 postsecondary institutions outside of the United States that consider SAT scores in their enrollment-related decisions.

The SAT is one of the most accessible and widely used admission credentials in the world:



1,600

test centers



187

countries



7

admins/year

Students send scores to over **3,000 institutions** in **82 countries**.

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While the SAT is optional for admissions at many colleges, it still plays a vital role in our holistic admissions process and opens the door for students to postsecondary and scholarship opportunities, including English-language based study abroad programs.

Rosemary Bai, International Admissions Officer, Chinese University of Hong Kong Shenzhen

The SAT is a powerful predictor of international student success

A [recent study](#)¹ conducted by the College Board examined the SAT's validity in predicting the academic performance of students attending higher education institutions outside of the United States. The findings revealed that the SAT is a strong predictor of student performance at English-instructed institutions abroad above high school GPA alone, similar to its predictive power for international students at U.S. institutions.

At the international universities participating in the study, the SAT was **26% to 37% more powerful** over high school GPA alone in predicting first year grades in college. These results from indicate that the SAT can be an invaluable tool for making enrollment-related decisions and helping all students succeed in higher education by identifying those who may require additional academic support upon admission or enrollment.



The value of additional context

Evaluating students' college readiness requires a comprehensive understanding of the academic rigor of local high schools and the contextual factors that shape prospective students' preparation for college. Most university admission officers cannot be expected to be familiar with every high school in the nation—or the world. The SAT can be an extremely useful tool to inform admission decisions and aid institutions in identifying students who may need additional academic support upon enrollment.

The SAT is an important channel for international student recruitment

College Board Search makes it possible to connect with millions of students around the world who have taken College Board assessments like SAT or engaged with our college planning tool, BigFuture(C). Use Search to communicate with:

6M

Nearly 6 million students in the United States

500K

Nearly 500,000 students in over 200 countries around the world

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We value the SAT for its ability to evaluate students and set a clear international benchmark. The test's content is globally and academically relevant. Many educational systems in international markets have different structures, grading systems and expectations for students. The digital SAT sets an international standard and ensures its content is both culturally relevant and easily accessible to native English speakers and English learners alike.

Cesar Wazen, Director of International Affairs, Qatar University

ACTION ITEMS:

- ✓ Establish an SAT policy if your university doesn't have one. College Board provides guidance and a research-based approach to help you use scores to benefit your students and your institution.
- ✓ Consider how you're communicating with students, parents, and counselors regarding your test score policy. Remember, the SAT isn't just for students from the U.S.: Consider allowing students from other countries to include their SAT scores when they apply for admission to your university, and remind them of this opportunity in your outreach materials.
- ✓ Take advantage of the College Board's free [Admitted Class Evaluation Service \(ACES\)](#) to study the relationship between your students' SAT score and key outcomes, like first year grades.