
20 Great Colleges for Students with Low SAT Scores

Posted by alankar - 2010/01/06 12:34

Let's face it -- some strong students just don't do well on standardized tests. More and more schools are recognizing this fact, and the list of test-optional colleges continues to grow. Other excellent colleges require standardized test scores, but their average scores are well below what we see for the Ivy League and elite liberal arts colleges.

Of the 20 colleges and universities in the list below, many are highly selective schools with test-optional admissions policies. Others are colleges that offer top-notch academics, but are likely to admit students with mid-range SAT scores.

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Re:20 Great Colleges for Students with Low SAT Scores

Posted by alankar - 2010/01/06 12:37

Arcadia University

Located just 25 minutes from Center City, Philadelphia, Arcadia University features small classes and one of the best study abroad programs in the country. Visitors can't miss the stunning historic landmark, Gray Towers Castle.

Location: Glenside, Pennsylvania
SAT Reading (Middle 50%): 500 / 610
SAT Math (Middle 50%): 490 / 590
Test-Optional? No

http://alumnivacations.com/images/arcadia_pic.jpg <http://www.arcadia.edu/images/castle1.jpg>

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Re:20 Great Colleges for Students with Low SAT Scores

Posted by alankar - 2010/01/06 12:41

Bowdoin College

Bowdoin is the most selective college on this list, so applicants will need an impressive academic and extra-curricular record. The school was awarded a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa for its excellent in the liberal arts and sciences, and the school recently changed its financial aid practices so that all new students will graduate debt free.

Location: Brunswick, Maine
SAT Reading (Middle 50%): 650 / 740
SAT Math (Middle 50%): 650 / 730
Test-Optional? Yes

<http://homepage.mac.com/chriswjohnson/gatekeeper/postcards/bowdoin-college.jpg>
<http://www.mcbdp.org/images/bowdoin2.jpg>

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Re:20 Great Colleges for Students with Low SAT Scores

Posted by alankar - 2010/01/06 12:46

College of the Atlantic

COA features a beautiful location on the Maine coast, a carbon-neutral campus with impressive environmental initiatives, a 9 to 1 student / faculty ratio, and an innovative interdisciplinary curriculum with a Human Ecology focus.

Location: Bar Harbor, Maine
SAT Reading (average score): 647
SAT Math (average score): 589
Test-Optional? Yes

<http://www.isbi.com/isbiimages/p41500a.jpg>
http://amazingdata.com/mediadata41/Image/fun_cool_offbeat_weird_coa_200907291753292497.jpg

Re:20 Great Colleges for Students with Low SAT Scores

Posted by alankar - 2010/01/06 12:48

George Mason University

The 2009 U.S. News & World Report ranked George Mason #1 among "up and coming" colleges, and it's easy to see why with the school's rapid expansion since its founding in 1972. The university's preprofessional programs such as business, engineering, education and nursing are all popular among undergraduates.

Location: Fairfax, Virginia
SAT Reading (Middle 50%): 500 / 600
SAT Math (Middle 50%): 520 / 610
Test-Optional? Yes

<http://graphics.fansonly.com/photos/schools/gema/nonsport/facilities/p-fairfax-surrounding-275.jpg>
<http://ipdp.gmu.edu/images/montenegro.jpg>

Re:20 Great Colleges for Students with Low SAT Scores

Posted by alankar - 2010/01/06 12:51

Hampshire College

Hampshire College has never been fond of conformity, so it's no surprise the school has test-optional admissions. If you like to think outside the box, if you enjoy debate, if you'd like to design your own major, if you'd like to be evaluated qualitatively, not quantitatively -- then Hampshire might be a good choice.

Location: Amherst, Massachusetts
SAT Reading (Middle 50%): 610 / 700
SAT Math (Middle 50%): 540 / 660
Test-Optional? Yes

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/8d/Hampshire_College_Library.jpg
<http://www.stateuniversity.com/assets/logo/image/3886/large/hampcoll.jpg>

Re:20 Great Colleges for Students with Low SAT Scores

Posted by alankar - 2010/01/06 12:53

Mount Holyoke College

Founded in 1837, Mount Holyoke College is the oldest of the "seven sister" colleges, and it consistently ranks as one of the top women's colleges in the country. Mount Holyoke features a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa and a beautiful campus where students can enjoy the college's botanic gardens, two lakes, waterfalls, and horseback-riding trails.

Location: South Hadley, Massachusetts
Test-Optional? Yes

<http://www.newchaptercoach.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/11/abbeychapel.jpg>
<http://www.peopleandplaces.us/mass/holyoke06.jpg>

Re:20 Great Colleges for Students with Low SAT Scores

Posted by alankar - 2010/01/06 12:56

Pitzer College

Don't be fooled by Pitzer's small size -- students can easily take courses at any of the Claremont Colleges. The college places a strong emphasis on study abroad and community service, and students can expect lots of student/faculty interaction. Pitzer is particularly strong in the social sciences.

Location: Claremont, California
SAT Reading (Middle 50%): 580 / 680
SAT Math (Middle 50%): 560 / 650
Test-Optional? Yes

<http://www.scrippscollege.edu/campus/conferences/images/performing-arts-center.jpg>
<http://www.stateuniversity.com/assets/logo/image/5576/large/Hall.jpg>

Re:20 Great Colleges for Students with Low SAT Scores

Posted by alankar - 2010/01/06 12:58

Ripon College

Ripon has much to be proud of: Phi Beta Kappa membership; high retention and graduation rates; generous financial aid; excellent value; and a Collaborative Learning Center that provides valuable support for students who need a little extra help

Location: Ripon, Wisconsin
SAT Reading (Middle 50%): 440 / 610
SAT Math (Middle 50%): 480 / 650
Test-Optional? No

http://www.go-study.com/images/Ripon_rdx_361x325.jpg
<http://www.riponmainst.com/riponmainst/Web%20Site%20Historic%20Images/Carnegie%20Library%20%282%29.jpg>

Re:20 Great Colleges for Students with Low SAT Scores

Posted by alankar - 2010/01/06 12:59

Sarah Lawrence College

Located in Bronxville, New York, Sarah Lawrence has an amazing 6 to 1 student / faculty ratio and students will find that teaching truly is valued more than faculty research. The application process does not consider standardized test scores at all; in fact, Sarah Lawrence was a leader in the test-optional movement. The college's quaint campus has the feel of a European village.

http://www.weblo.com/asset_images/large/Way_Back_When_Sarah_Lawre_4627d70225d74.jpg
http://www.nyu.edu/socialwork/images/photos/SarahLawrence_sm.jpg

Re:20 Great Colleges for Students with Low SAT Scores

Posted by alankar - 2010/01/06 13:02

Sewanee, The University of the South

Sewanee can boast of a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, small classes, and an 11 to 1 student / faculty ratio. The university has a particularly strong English program that is home to The Sewanee Review and Sewanee Writers Conference.

Location: Sewanee, Tennessee
SAT Reading (Middle 50%): 570 / 680
SAT Math (Middle 50%): 580 / 670
Test-Optional? Yes

<http://pics4.city-data.com/cpicc/cfiles14450.jpg> <http://unitinteractive.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2009/07/sewanee.png>

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Re:20 Great Colleges for Students with Low SAT Scores

Posted by alankar - 2010/01/06 13:04

Smith College

Smith is one of the top women's colleges in the country, and it also features test-optional admissions. Smith is a member of the five college consortium along with Amherst, Mount Holyoke, Hampshire, and UMass Amherst. Students at any of these five colleges can easily take classes at the other member institutions. Smith has a beautiful and historic campus that includes the 12,000 square foot Lyman Conservatory and the Botanic Garden.

Location: Northampton, Massachusetts
SAT Reading (Middle 50%): 590 / 710
SAT Math (Middle 50%): 560 / 670
Test-Optional? Yes

<http://smithcollegesquash.files.wordpress.com/2009/08/college-hall-resized.jpg>
<http://www.valleyadvocate.com/blogs/gallery/College%2520Hall%2520by%2520Ken%2520Mitchell.jpg>

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Re:20 Great Colleges for Students with Low SAT Scores

Posted by alankar - 2010/01/06 13:06

Texas A&M at College Station

If you have a strong GPA or high class rank, you don't need to report SAT or ACT scores when applying to Texas A&M. The university has many strengths in engineering and agriculture, but the liberal arts and sciences are also extremely popular among undergraduates. In athletics, the Texas A&M Aggies compete in the Division I Big 12 Conference.

Location: College Station, Texas
SAT Reading (Middle 50%): 520 / 630
SAT Math (Middle 50%): 560 / 670
Test-Optional? Yes

<http://media-2.web.britannica.com/eb-media/86/117886-004-2887620A.jpg>
<http://images.forbes.com/media/2009/08/03/texas-am-university-college-station.jpg>

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Re:20 Great Colleges for Students with Low SAT Scores

Posted by alankar - 2010/01/06 13:09

University of Hawaii at Manoa

Manoa's strengths are many, including highly ranked programs in astronomy, oceanography, cancer research, and

Pacific Island and Asian studies. The university has a diverse student body representing all 50 states and 103 countries. UH at Manoa is the only college in Hawaii to have a chapter of the prestigious Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society.

Location: Manoa, Hawaii
SAT Reading (Middle 50%): 480 / 580
SAT Math (Middle 50%): 510 / 610
Test-Optional? No

<http://www.hawaii.edu/campuses/images/campus%20pics/manoa.jpg>
<http://www.soest.hawaii.edu/users/bzelt/Images/POSTfront.jpg>

Re:20 Great Colleges for Students with Low SAT Scores

Posted by alankar - 2010/01/06 13:12

University of Iowa at Iowa City

Iowa has strong programs in nursing, creative writing and art, to name just a few. Some of the University of Iowa's graduate programs are consistently ranked among the top in the country. The Iowa Hawkeyes compete in the NCAA Division I Big Ten Conference, and historically the football, basketball and wrestling teams have enjoyed great success.

Location: Iowa City, Iowa
SAT Reading (Middle 50%): 520 / 650
SAT Math (Middle 50%): 550 / 670
Test-Optional? Yes

<http://media-2.web.britannica.com/eb-media/60/117460-004-7A400DD7.jpg>
<http://www.cardcow.com/images/administration-building-state-university-of-iowa-iowa-city-us-state-town-views-iowa-iowa-city-32301.jpg>

Re:20 Great Colleges for Students with Low SAT Scores

Posted by alankar - 2010/01/06 13:14

University of Texas at Austin

UT Austin does not require SAT or ACT scores from students who have a high enough GPA or class rank. The university is one of the top public universities in the country. It has numerous selling points including a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, a top business school, and membership in the Division I Big 12 Athletic Conference.

Location: Austin, Texas
SAT Reading (Middle 50%): 530 / 660
SAT Math (Middle 50%): 560 / 690
Test-Optional? Yes

<http://www.stateuniversity.com/assets/logo/image/10374/large/CAmpus.jpg>

Re:20 Great Colleges for Students with Low SAT Scores

Posted by alankar - 2010/01/06 13:20

University of Montevallo

Most students submit ACT scores, not SAT, but applicants with average scores won't find the admissions standards beyond their reach. As a public liberal arts college, Montevallo is a true value. The campus is charming, and students can expect strong student-faculty interaction.

ACT Composite (middle 50%): 19 / 24
ACT English (middle 50%): 19 / 25
ACT Math (middle 50%): 17 / 23
Test Optional? No

<http://www.montevallo.edu/sswd/images/Gate.JPG>
<http://www.stateuniversity.com/assets/logo/image/5122/large/PalmerhallMontevallobldg.jpg>

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Re:20 Great Colleges for Students with Low SAT Scores

Posted by alankar - 2010/01/06 13:23

Ursinus College

Ursinus is a highly selective college, but they do not require SAT scores if an applicant has a strong enough GPA and high class rank. Ursinus is a top-rate liberal arts college with a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, a 12 to 1 student / faculty ratio, generous financial aid, an excellent observatory and art museum, and a new performing arts building. In 2009, the college was ranked #2 for "up-and-coming" colleges by US News & World Report.

Location: Collegeville, Pennsylvania
SAT Reading (Middle 50%): 550 / 660
SAT Math (Middle 50%): 560 / 660
Test-Optional? Yes

<http://www.centennial.org/members/photos/ursinus.jpg>
<http://eveningprograms.ursinus.edu/himages/Ursinus%20College%20Myrin.png>

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Re:20 Great Colleges for Students with Low SAT Scores

Posted by alankar - 2010/01/06 13:24

Wake Forest University

Wake Forest is one of the most selective colleges to move to test-optional admissions. The university combines the small classes and low student/faculty ratio of a private liberal arts college with the excitement of Division I athletics as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Location: Winston-Salem, North Carolina
SAT Reading (Middle 50%): 610 / 700
SAT Math (Middle 50%): 630 / 710
Test-Optional? Yes

<http://media-2.web.britannica.com/eb-media/33/8733-004-BE98BC66.jpg>
<http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/59/WakeForestBensonCenter.jpg>

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Re:20 Great Colleges for Students with Low SAT Scores

Posted by alankar - 2010/01/06 13:26

Washington College

Founded in 1782 under the patronage of George Washington, Washington College has a long and rich history. The college was recently awarded a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa for its many strengths in the liberal arts and sciences. The college's scenic location provides students with opportunities to explore the Chesapeake Bay watershed and the Chester River.

Location: Chestertown, Maryland
SAT Reading (Middle 50%): 520 / 630
SAT Math (Middle 50%): 520 / 610
Test-Optional? Yes

<http://www.stateuniversity.com/assets/logo/image/3743/large/1washcoll1-med.jpg>
<http://puka.cs.waikato.ac.nz/custom/cic/collect/cic-hcap/index/assoc/p1904.dir/Old%20Main,%20Washington%20and%20Jefferson%20College-large.jpg>

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