Superscoring:
Lessons from Enrollment Experts
This Session

Learn more about:

1. Recent ACT research on superscoring
2. Practical implications for changing your score-use policy
3. Factors to consider when adopting superscoring
4. Lessons learned from those who currently superscore
Presenters

Kenton Pauls
National Director, Higher Education
ACT

Tammy Aagard
Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management
University of Florida

Kellie Kane
Executive Director of Admissions
University of Pittsburgh

Ashley Nguyen
Associate Director of Admission
Pepperdine University
Superscoring Practice

It’s Inconsistent and Confusing for students

Changing testing patterns, trends and expectations

Regional & school type variations

More students take more ACT tests

Increases complexity for practitioners

Research & guidance dated
2019 ACT Score Use Survey

April 2019
115 schools

Survey Revealed

• Approaches vary greatly

2019 ACT Score Use Survey

Multiple ACT's
- Superscore, 34%
- Highest Score, 50%

Multiple SAT's
- Superscore, 49%
- Highest Score, 34%

15% points

• Old ACT advice still driving current policy
  • Old ACT advice didn’t support superscoring so “…we never changed.”
  • Receptive to change in policy, but it will take time
Other Notable Findings

- Superscoring math: SAT sum easier than ACT Average
- Student athlete eligibility considerations
- Open to change, though challenges exist
- Faculty & governance
- Technology
- Perception that superscoring capitalizes on privilege
- Scholarship/aid impacts, etc.
TESTING, TESTING:
WHAT IS THE FAIREST SCORE WHEN APPLICANTS RETAKE ADMISSIONS TESTS?

The Latest ACT Research on Superscoring
The Latest ACT Research on Superscoring

Compared possible approaches
- Last
- Average
- Highest
- Superscored

Compared accuracy of 1st year GPA prediction

Minimized error of the prediction
280,000 students

1st time full time

@ 4 yr schools
Research Findings

Super-scoring is best way to minimize prediction error

Holds true across sub-groups as well
  • no expected impact on diversity
## RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Performance</th>
<th>Last</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Highest</th>
<th>Superscore</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACT Composite</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FYGPA predicted</td>
<td>2.73</td>
<td>2.67</td>
<td>2.79</td>
<td>2.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FYGPA earned</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>3.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prediction Error</td>
<td>0.27</td>
<td>0.33</td>
<td>0.21</td>
<td>0.16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(FYGPA earned - FYGPA predicted)
Superscoring Model Provides Best Prediction of FYGPA

![Graph showing prediction errors for different testing occasions and superscores.](image)
Align Practice with Research

- **Validity**
  - Superscores show strongest relationship with FYGPA
  - Superscoring will minimize prediction error

- **Impact on Diversity**
  - Superscoring did not result in a less diverse admitted class
Align Practice with Research

- Build system to incorporate superscoring as best practice
- Navigate policy shift
- Embrace superscoring as best practice to minimize prediction error
Lessons from Enrollment Experts

Tammy Aagard  
*Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management*  
University of Florida

Kellie Kane  
*Executive Director of Admissions*  
University of Pittsburgh

Ashley Nguyen  
*Associate Director of Admission*  
Pepperdine University
• R1 Institution, AAU member, Ranked #8 in public institutions (US News and World Report)
• 43,000 freshman applications; 13,000 admits; 6571 enrolled
• Historically only superscored SAT; Now superscoring ACT for 2020 class
• Predominantly SAT state, but more applicants submitting ACT
• State repository for scores
• SLATE/Campus Solutions school – superscore calculations included in rosters for holistic review, admission, scholarship and honors offers
The University of Pittsburgh is a large, public, research university and AAU Member. Last year, Pitt had 32,000 first-year fall applications for an incoming class of 4,200.

- Kellie Kane, Executive Director of Admission with 20 years of experience

- Pitt currently superscores the SAT and plans to superscore the ACT as soon as possible.

- Pitt has historically been an SAT-prominent school, but that is changing with more than 50% of applicants now taking the ACT.

- As Pitt plans to superscore the ACT, there will need to be major changes to the student information system, which has been Pitt’s only reason for the delay to begin superscoring the ACT.

- Superscoring the tests is a more student-friendly approach and aligns with our holistic admissions and scholarship reviews.
• 3,400 undergraduates, Private, Christian, Liberal Arts
• 14,000 applications, admitted 4,241, enrolled 826
• Superscore SAT and ACT*
  • *ACT superscoring starting Fall 2020
• Observations you have seen or expect to see regarding:
  • EA deadline vs. RD deadline
    • EA scholarship decisions & testing deadlines, ACT cut off is October
  • In line with holistic review of applications
Live Q&A

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THANK YOU

More resources available at https://pages2.act.org/super scoring-lessons.html