

PURDUE UNIVERSITY | WEST LAFAYETTE

OFFICE OF ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

April 18, 2022

Standardized Test Use in Admissions

Different types of testing policies

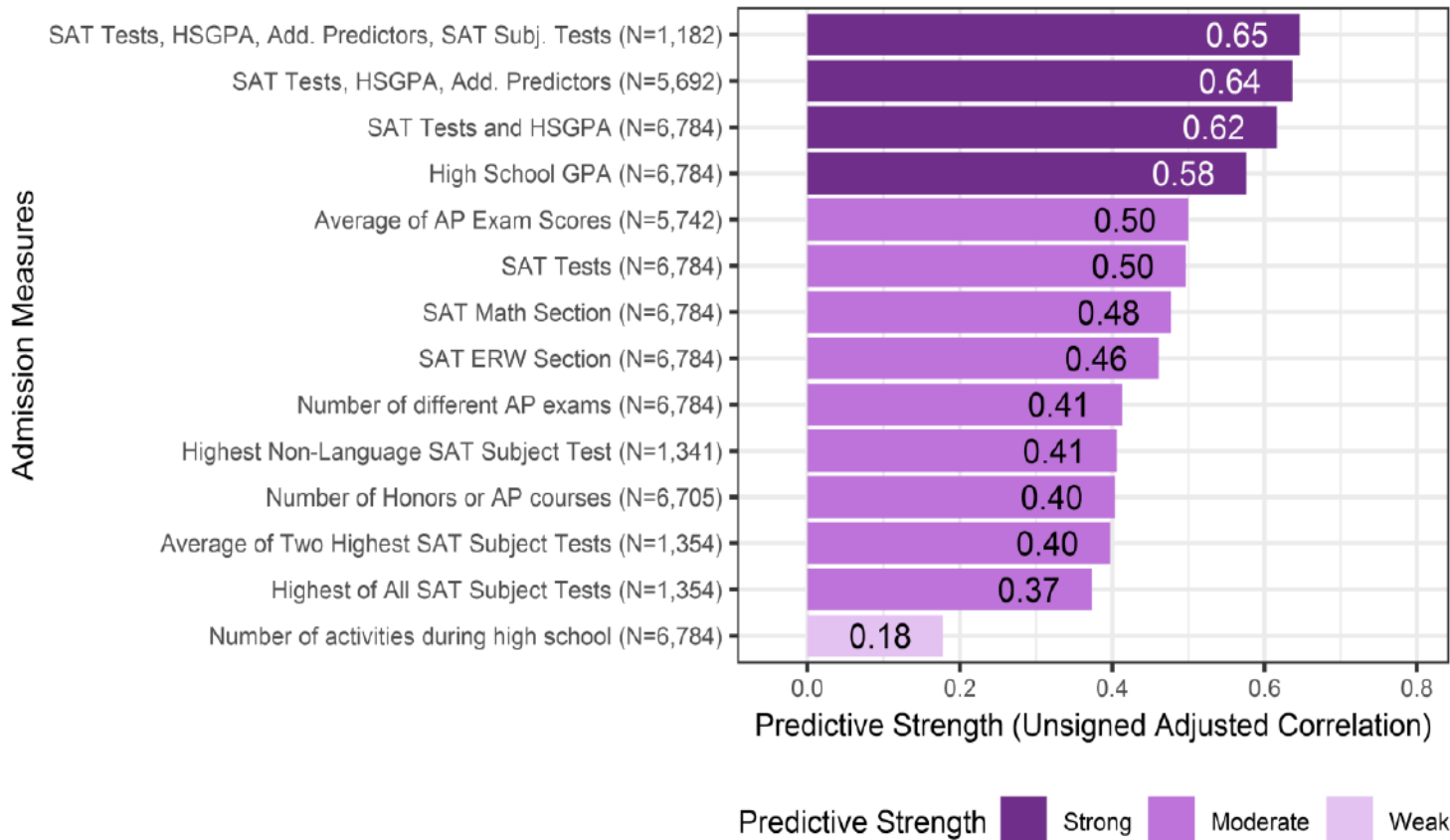
- **Test Flexible (Purdue's Current Policy in the Pandemic)** – Test score strongly encouraged, not required
- **Test Optional** – multiple types of formats but generally allow students to choose whether to submit a score or not
- **Test Blind** – test score not considered in decision, most common to 'open admission' institutions and those who are not meeting enrollment goals

Admissions Evaluation

- Purdue employs a holistic application review process.
- **No single factor alone determines a student's admissibility.**
- The strength of our admissions decision process lies in the use of context to understand a student's individual performance relative to their home and learning environments.
- The holistic review is important in understanding how to admit the student academically (by major) for success.
- **Test scores add important information in our holistic review process.**

Predictive Validity

Predictive strength of admissions measures across all applicants and all majors



Effects of Test Optional Policies

- On going study to understand impacts on student performance, retention, persistence
- Too early for conclusions, however evidence of grade inflation increases during pandemic, making test scores even more important.
- Increasingly difficult to understand potential learning loss from the pandemic without test scores to identify content gaps masked by grade inflation
- Students with test scores that did not submit scores were those in the lowest scoring bands regardless of economic status

- High schools with the largest increases in high school GPA over time also had the lowest percentage of students who were Black or Hispanic and students who were eligible for free or reduced-price lunch.
- Students whose parents had the lowest levels of education experienced the least grade inflation.
- Students in private high schools (both independent and religiously-affiliated) were three times more likely to experience grade inflation than students in public or charter schools.

Some Recent Developments

- MIT returning to the use of scores to appropriately admit academically prepared students
- Wisconsin study shows that diversity did not increase with test optional policies
- The University of California system and the California State System remain test blind in admission but just made decisions to use test scores for first-year placement

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Questions