

Email from Provost Stevens incorporating email from Ethan Logan: June 11, 2020

Thank you both for the conversations regarding the prospective implementation of WKU's "Test Optional" admission standard for the upcoming class of 2021. With the application for 2021 already open and the national conversations focused on whether or not institutions will be test optional (among the other conversations of COVID-19 enrollment), this is an important component of our institutional access going forward.

I have talked to Jace Lux about the presentation and process of Test Optional and we've talked through two cases for implementation. Jace drafted these two cases here and I would like to share them with you:

*A. Undergraduate students applying to WKU who have at least a 2.5 unweighted GPA are eligible for admission without submitting standardized test scores. Students with a 2.0-2.49 unweighted GPA must achieve a [composite admission index](#) score of at least 60 to be eligible for admission. (this would be my preferred statement, as I believe it's the most transparent).*

*or*

*B. Undergraduate students applying to WKU are not required to submit test scores for admission consideration. However, students with a 2.0-2.49 unweighted GPA will be required to submit additional materials to assess college readiness, including standardized test scores.*

Admittedly, I was originally focused on the second case, but Jace has made a compelling argument that perhaps the first case is the best and most transparent policy for test optional admissions. In both cases, we are addressing the concerns about the persistence and retention of students which drops dramatically when correlated with sub GPA 2.5.

With your approval, we will move forward with preparing our processes and communications to reflect this change. Though not something which I believe requires Board approval (this is an academic standard which is recommended to the Academic Division), I do believe that it requires both Provost and Presidential approval. Additionally, we would not make an announcement about this until after the Board meeting as it perhaps should be a board information item prior to release.

Thank you for your consideration and authorization to proceed.