

**UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND  
FACULTY SENATE  
ADMISSIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Memorandum**

**TO:** Faculty Senate

**FROM:** Admissions Advisory Committee  
Judy Beckman, BUS, (09)  
Alan Graham, BUS, (08)  
Bahram Nassersharif, MCE, (09), Chair  
Margaret Ordonez, TMD, (09)  
Paula Viau, NUR, (08)  
Ronald Lee, MUS, (09)  
Celia MacDonnell, PHP (08)  
Gerald Williams, Talent Development  
Jayne Richmond, Dean of University College and  
Special Academic Programs,  
Carla Simonini, Associate Dean, Feinstein College of  
Continuing Education,  
Cynthia Bonn, Dean of Admissions, ex officio

**CC:** M. Beverly Swan, Provost and Vice  
President for Academic Affairs

**ENCLOSURES:** Annual Report of the Admissions Advisory Committee (3/27/07)  
Freshman Application Review Process, Office of Admissions  
Entrance Examination Scores as a Predictor of Academic Success at  
the University of Rhode Island, Office of Institutional Research,  
July 2007

**DATE:** March 13, 2008

**RE:** Final Recommendations of the Admissions Advisory Committee  
on the topic of "SAT Optional Admission"

This memorandum with attachments constitutes the final recommendations of the Admissions Advisory Committee on the topic of "SAT Optional Admission."

After a very careful and comprehensive study of the implications of eliminating the requirement for the SAT/ACT scores for admission of freshman to URI, it is the final recommendation of the Admissions Advisory Committee that the requirement for SAT/ACT as a component of the holistic admission process at URI remain.

The committee invested a great deal of time reviewing the literature, reports, and processes for admission at URI as well as other institutions. In particular, three key reports are attached to this final recommendation for reference. Our final recommendation is in part based on the following facts and observations:

1. The University of Rhode Island is a research university with a high level of research activity (RU/H Carnegie Classification). Most of the institutions that have implemented SAT/ACT optional with no exceptions are small, private, liberal arts colleges.
2. The current admissions process at URI is a holistic system. Admissions office weighs the high school transcripts most heavily which are also the best predictor of students' success at URI. Additional materials submitted by applicants are also considered (e.g., special talent in music, art, athletics, and leadership). SAT/ACT scores are required but weigh in only as a secondary measure for admission.
3. No compelling evidence has been presented that there will be positive impacts or improvements with respect to academic quality and student diversity at URI by eliminating the requirement for SAT/ACT optional.
4. The faculty of the professional colleges at URI including business, engineering, pharmacy, and nursing (as well as many individual degree programs in other colleges) rely on student SAT/ACT scores for reporting to their professional organizations, NSF or NIH, and national organizations that track and report program and college rankings.
5. It is not feasible to eliminate the SAT/ACT requirement for admission to only certain programs. Admission of students is to URI as a university and not to individual programs.
6. The Admissions Office is currently understaffed. The committee recommends additional staffing for the Admissions Office to be able to process the increased quantity of applications and improve the quality of their processes. Any process changes that would increase the workload of the Admissions Office is not advisable in this environment.

If you have any questions or need additional information, the Admissions Advisory Committee will be pleased to meet with you.

#### ENCLOSURES

[http://www.uri.edu/facsen/AAC\\_07-08\\_Enclosures.html](http://www.uri.edu/facsen/AAC_07-08_Enclosures.html)