

Average SAT Scores – Indiana University & National

During its December 2019 meeting, the IU Board of Trustees approved a change in policy allowing each IU campus the option to adopt a test-optional admissions policy. As of spring 2020, more than 1,050 public and private colleges and universities have allowed for this change due to various reasons. Substantially more applicants submit Scholastic Aptitude Test (“SAT”) scores rather than American College Testing (“ACT”) scores with 78.1% of IU applicants for fall 2020 submitting SAT scores. The following table shows the average math and verbal score on the SAT over the past five years for all beginning students new to the University, regardless of class, and excluding transfer students to the University, as compared to the national average math and verbal composite:

Undergraduate Beginner Average SAT Scores^{1,2,3}						
Indiana University				National		
Fall Semester	Historic Scale	Fall 2017-2018 Scale	Current Scale	Historic Scale	Fall 2017-2018 Scale	Current Scale
2016	1072	1149	NA	1002	NA	NA
2017	NA	1153	NA	NA	1060	NA
2018	NA	1160	NA	NA	1068	NA
2019	NA	NA	1163	NA	NA	1059
2020	NA	NA	1156	NA	NA	1051

Source: University Institutional Research and Reporting

¹ For fall 2019, the College Board SAT test structure changed to the current SAT test scale (“Current Scale”). Prior to the Current Scale, in March 2016, the College Board SAT test structure changed the SAT test scale (“Fall 2017 – 2018 Scale”). Prior to either the Current Scale or the Fall 2017 – 2018 Scale is referred to as the “Historic Scale” and conversion between scales is shown for Indiana University to allow for comparison. Indiana University scores were converted to the Current Scale using the official College Board conversion scale.

² Fall 2016 was based on a 1600-point scale for math and verbal.

³ As of fall 2020, IU Bloomington, IU Kokomo, IU Northwest, and IU Southeast are test-optional. Many applicants already submitted their test scores by November 1, 2019, which was the early action (non-binding) deadline for fall 2020 to receive highest scholarship consideration on the Bloomington campus. As of spring 2021, IUPUI and its satellite campuses in Columbus and Fort Wayne, IU East and IU South Bend are test-optional. IU became test-optional to increase access and equity among low- and middle-income students, first-generation students, and underrepresented minorities. Also, some applicants felt that their standardized test scores did not accurately reflect their academic potential. Additionally, there were some challenges related to standardized test administration because of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

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