

2015 SAT Redesign
October 1, 2015

The Commission on Higher Education (CHE) has collaborated with College Board in respect to identifying potential concerns with the redesigned SAT that will be effective starting March 2016. For the state scholarship programs, and as a statewide program, discussions and deliberations as to how to move forward will need to ensue. A principal concern is regarding using scores from the new SAT combined with scores from the old SAT without having any concordance table made available until at the earliest two months after the March 2016 roll-out.

Presently, the established regulations for the LIFE and Palmetto Fellows Scholarship programs (see below) allow for students to use the highest critical reading and highest math scores from multiple tests which is commonly known as “super scoring.” In an effort to effectively and appropriately administer the scholarship programs CHE would need to provide ample opportunity and time regarding any changes to the scholarship programs in respect to eligibility to all necessary parties. Additionally, to make any necessary changes to accurately reflect what is provided to CHE by College Board would possibly require a regulatory and/or statutory change which cannot be addressed or processed immediately.

During August 2015, the College Board has provided to CHE language that will be shared externally regarding super scoring. In the months that CHE and College Board have collaborated, it has been shared with CHE that the two tests do not follow the same structure with the new test including elements and subject matter that was not integrated in any prior SAT test. The SAT is used primarily as a predictive tool of anticipated success in college. As such, it is the position of the College Board that super scoring is considered sub-optimal in respect prediction and measurement of a student’s aptitude, as well as goes against appropriate use of concordances to prepare scores. The act of super scoring allows for the potential to lead to an over prediction. That being said, College Board is not in a position to prohibit institutions and the like from allowing super scoring to occur. Therefore, the College Board has provided language to address these potential issues:

“We recognize that many institutions have built effective predictive models and comparative processes using “Super Scoring.” During the transition from the current SAT to the redesigned SAT, colleges will need to develop policies on use of scores from students who have taken both the current and redesigned SAT.

The current and redesigned assessments vary in design and content tested. We ask that colleges consider the implications of comparing and combining scores from two different tests as they design their score use policies. We will continue to work with institutions to communicate their defined policies to students.”

Upon receipt of the concordance table provided by College Board in May 2016, CHE will be able to reassess the eligibility requirements as they pertain the SAT required scores.

LIFE Scholarship Legislation:

SECTION 59-149-50. Graduating classes covered; cumulative grade point average requirements; regaining eligibility; eligibility for freshman beginning 2002-2003.

...In addition, the student must have graduated from high school with a minimum of a 3.0 cumulative grade average on a 4.0 scale and have scored 1100 or better on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) or have the equivalent ACT score...

(D) Beginning with school year 2002-2003, an entering freshman at a four-year institution to be eligible for a LIFE Scholarship in addition to the other requirements of this chapter shall meet two of the following three criteria

(2) have the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) or equivalent ACT score required by this section

LIFE Scholarship Regulation:

62-1200.10. Student Eligibility: LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement.

A. To be eligible for a LIFE Scholarship, students must:

3 (b). Score at least an 1100 on the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) or an equivalent ACT score of 24. Test scores will be accepted through the June national test administration of the SAT and ACT during the year of high school graduation. The student must use the highest SAT Math score combined with the highest SAT Critical Reading score (formerly known as the Verbal score). It is permissible to select scores from different test administrations in order to obtain the qualifying composite score. Students cannot use the Writing subsection score to obtain the qualifying composite score. The composite ACT score must be based upon one test administration.

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Legislation:

SECTION 59-104-20. Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Program established

(G) In addition to qualifications established by regulation, to qualify for a Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, a student shall:

(1) Meet the following three criteria:

(a) A minimum score of 1200 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) or an equivalent ACT score;

(2) Meet the following two criteria:

(a) A minimum score of 1400 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) or an equivalent ACT score;

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Regulation:

62-320. Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Application.

Early Award

C (1). Score at least 1200 on the SAT or 27 on the ACT through the November test administration of the senior year; earn a minimum 3.50 cumulative GPA on the current SC Uniform Grading Policy (UGP) at the end of the junior year; and rank in the top six percent of the class at the end of either the sophomore or the junior year; or

C (2). The alternate criteria of a score at least 1400 on the SAT or 32 on the ACT through the November test administration of the senior year and earn a minimum 4.00 cumulative GPA on the UGP at the end of the junior year, without regard to class rank.

Late Award

D (1). Score at least 1200 on the SAT or 27 on the ACT through the June test administration of the senior year; earn a minimum 3.50 cumulative GPA on the UGP at the end of the senior year; and rank in the top six percent of the class at the end of the sophomore, junior or senior year; or

D (2). Score at least 1400 on the SAT or 32 on the ACT through the June test administration of the senior year and earn a minimum 4.00 cumulative GPA on the UGP at the end of the senior year, without regard to class rank.

The SAT Redesign Concordance Table is expected to be available in May 2016. The CHE staff will be able to reassess the SAT Redesign scores as they compare with previous SAT test scores, and how the scores will affect the current the eligibility requirements for state scholarships.