



# **EXPLORING TEST OPTIONAL POLICIES**

# **EXPLORING TEST OPTIONAL POLICIES : A SHORT GUIDE FOR AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE STUDENTS**



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# You're an AI/AN Student who is interested in higher education. Where do you begin?

Here are the first 9 steps you can take when beginning the admissions process. In this presentation we will focus on step 3: Test Optional Policies



- 1 Research and Identify Potential Institutions
- 2 Meet General Admissions Requirements
- 3 Explore Test Optional Policies**
- 4 Prepare Application Materials
- 5 Submit Applications
- 6 Consider Financial Aid
- 7 Track Application Status
- 8 Await Admission Decisions
- 9 Accept or Decline Offers

# **WHAT ARE TEST OPTIONAL POLICIES?**

**Test-optional colleges and universities will not require SAT or ACT test scores when determining admission eligibility. This gives students the choice to decide whether to submit test scores or not.**





# **WHY ARE SCHOOLS GOING TEST OPTIONAL?**

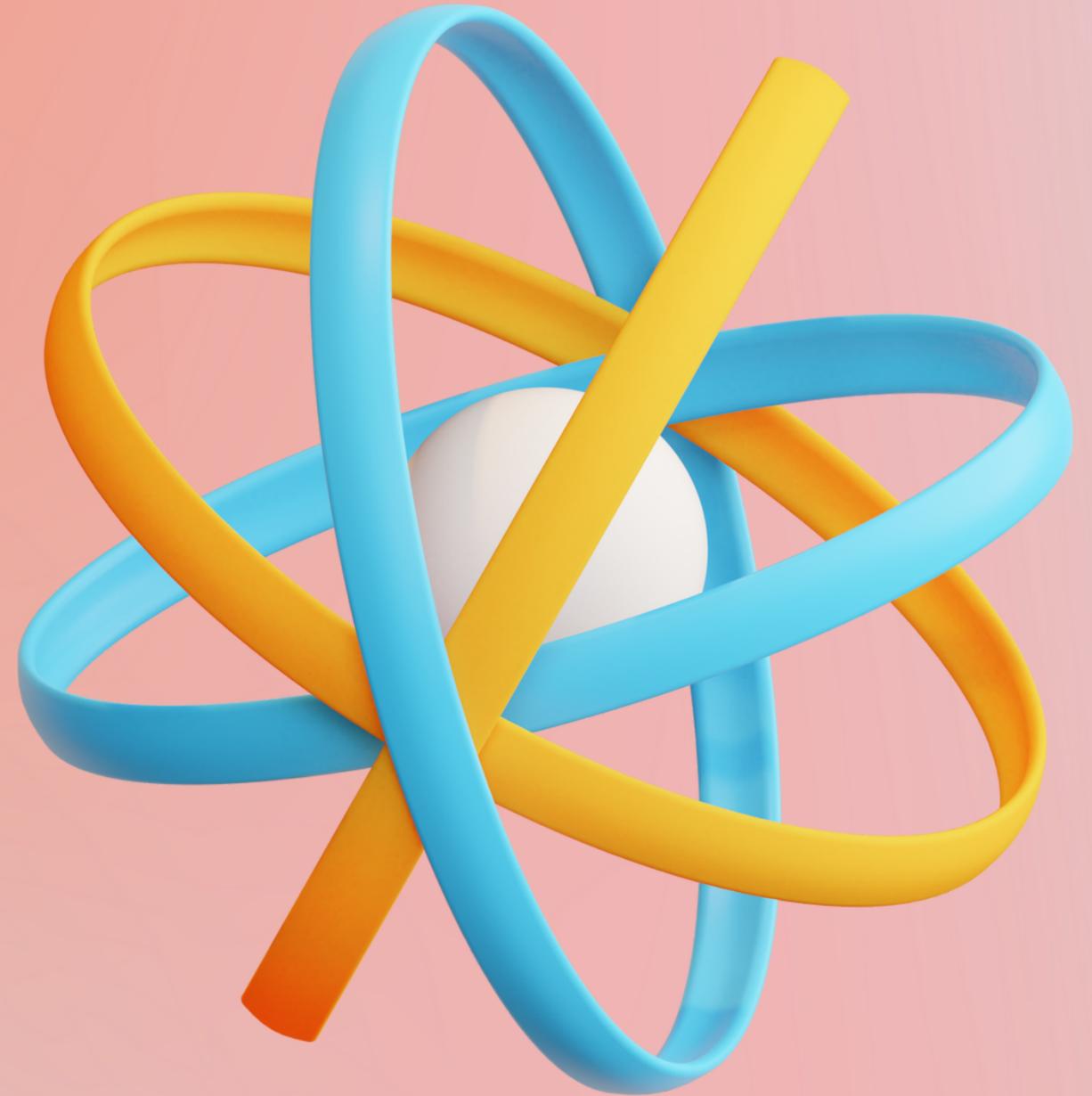
**Many colleges and universities chose test-optional policies due to Covid-19-related hardships.**

**These schools also began to review standardized tests and found they provided negligible value to the admissions process.**

**After considering the equity and fairness of the tests, systems like the CSU opted for the permanent discontinuation of their use in admission consideration.**

**80% of colleges & universities in the United States have put test-optional policies in place**

For more information about California schools, look here: <https://tinyurl.com/bdzzppea>



# HOW DO I KNOW WHAT SCHOOLS ARE TEST OPTIONAL?



This list compiled by the National Center for Fair & Open Testing lets you find bachelor degree granting institutions that do not require students to submit test scores. You can filter the list to easily find schools in CA that are test optional

<https://fairtest.org/test-optional-list/>

**HOW CAN TEST  
OPTIONAL  
POLICIES BENEFIT  
AI/AN STUDENTS?**



Test Optional Policies may remove 3 key barriers to accessing and preparing for tests.

# **Test Optional policies may help remove these barriers and make higher education more accessible**



**Lack of geographic accessibility to testing centers**



**Lack of accessibility to college and test preparation courses**



**Lack of financial resources to take tests**

# **HOW DO TEST OPTIONAL POLICIES BENEFIT FAMILIES OF AI/AN STUDENTS?**

**Eases monetary burden of paying  
for tests and prep courses**

**Allows families to focus on student's  
extracurricular activities**

**Allows first generation, and  
students from any socio-economic  
standing to have an equal chance  
at college admissions**



# HAVE QUESTIONS?

**Contact your local  
counselor or the  
college/university  
admissions  
department of  
interest.**



**Reach out to tribal  
organizations to  
access resources  
and information  
specifically for  
AI/AN students**

**MORE  
INFO**

**[WWW.CSUSM.EDU/CICSC/](http://WWW.CSUSM.EDU/CICSC/)**

