



ACT + SAT = Confusion!

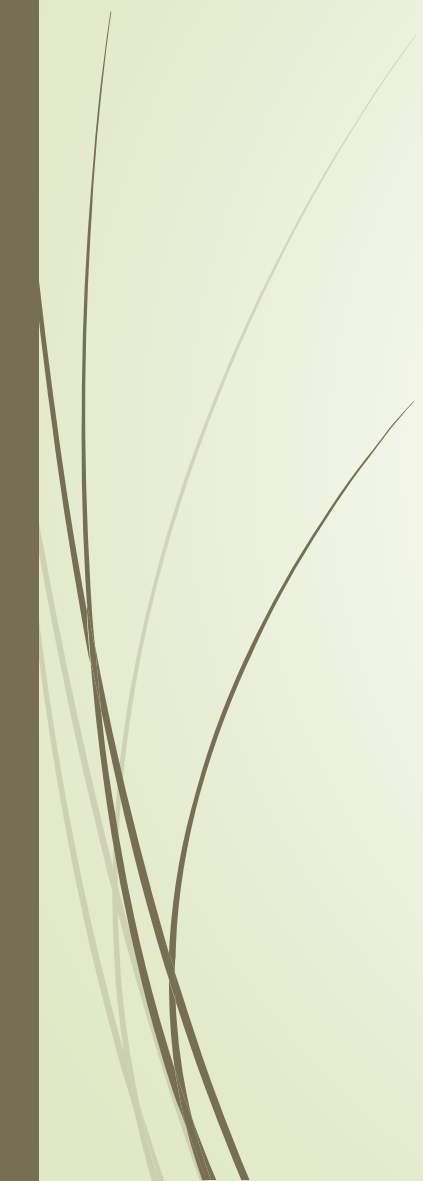
Susanne Condron

Reuben Ternes

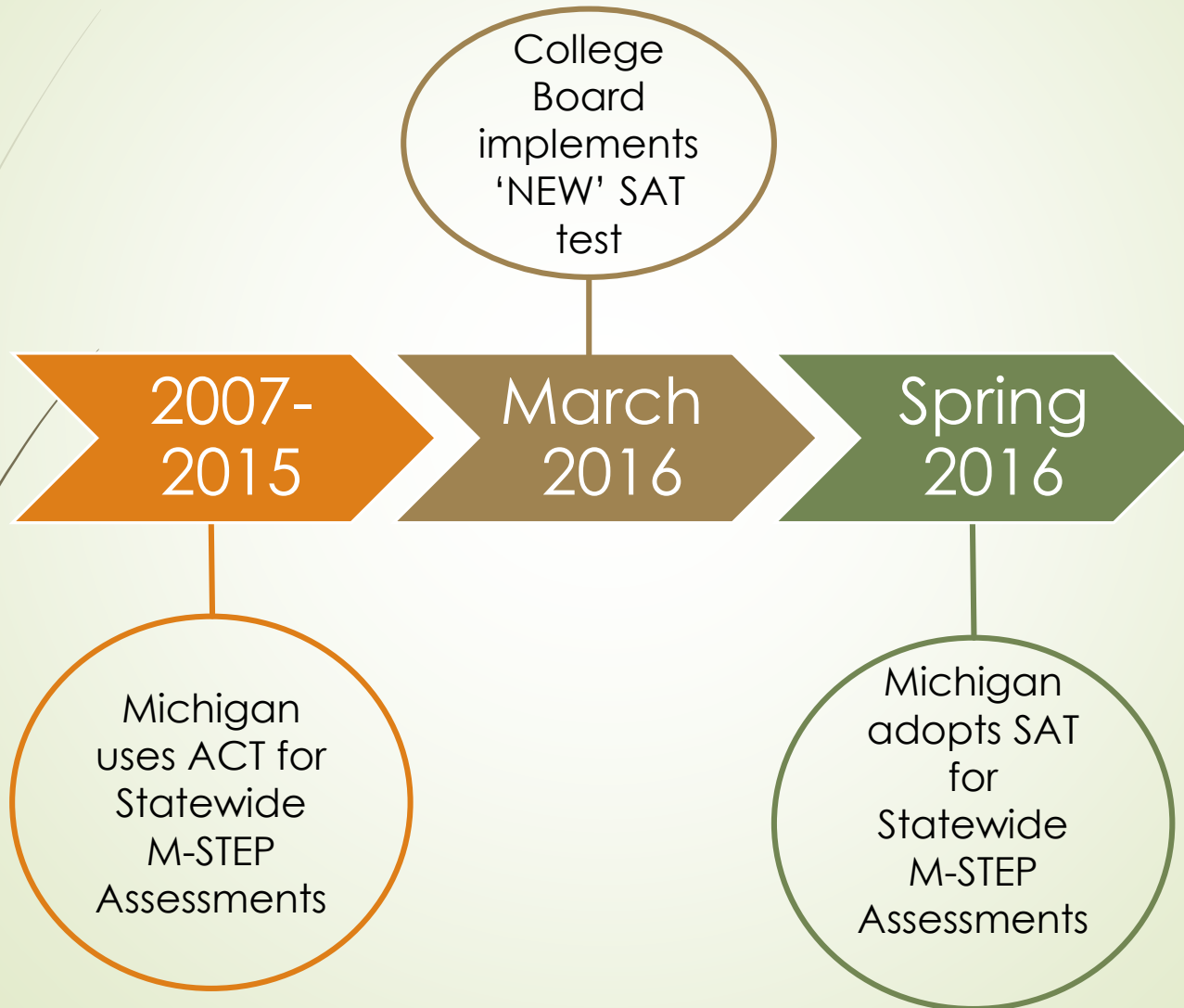
Office of Institutional Research and Assessment – Oakland University



Presentation Overview

- Background on changes in Michigan testing
 - Impact on statewide test results
 - Impact on Fall 2017 first year cohort at OU
 - Considerations for ACT and SAT score equivalence
- 

Background





Why all the changes?

State of Michigan

- ▶ Switching from ACT to SAT saved Michigan \$15 million over the course of a 3-year contract
- ▶ SAT is aligned with Michigan's learning standards



Why all the changes?

College Board

- Measures achievement rather than aptitude, more representative of curriculum learned in school
- Marketed as more transparent and accessible to more students
- Removed unpopular guessing penalty



Are the old and new SAT comparable?

- ▶ Different scales (old) 600 - 2400 (new) 400 - 1600
- ▶ Cut points for concordance were raised upwards
- ▶ Used 'equipercentile' concordance methods to relate old SAT and new SAT score distributions

College Board. (2017, September 22). Concordance. Retrieved October 5, 2017, from <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/educators/highertoed/scoring/concordance>

Are the ACT and SAT comparable?

ACT	SAT
5 sections: English, math, reading, science, writing (optional)	3 sections: reading, writing, math
Math: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• wider range of math concepts and more questions on geometry/trig• Formulas NOT provided• Calculator can be used	Math: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• focused on algebra, with questions on data analysis and modeling• Formulas provided• Calculator can only be used for 2/3 of questions
Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focused on grammar, punctuation, sentence structure• Location of text not referenced in questions	Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focused on writing style, vocabulary• Provides references to location of text in questions
Less time per question	More time per question



Are the ACT and SAT comparable?

- ▶ Public disagreement between College Board (SAT) and ACT on concordance tables published by College Board
 - ▶ ACT not involved in process (was in 2006)
 - ▶ Derived concordance methods (new SAT to old SAT to ACT)
 - ▶ Score equivalents based on less than one year of test takers

Jaschik, S. (2016, May 16). Discord on Test Scores. Retrieved April 6, 2017, from <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2016/05/16/acttoandtocollegeboardtooffertoonconflictingtoviewstohowtocomparetosattoandtoacttoscores>

Anderson, N. (2016, May 12). What's a college test score worth? An ACT- vs. -SAT dispute. Retrieved April 6, 2017, from https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/gradetopoint/wp/2016/05/12/whatstoatocollagetotesttoscoretoworthtoantosattovstoacttodispute/?utm_term=.6a51e11dc932



Statewide Impact



Statewide Test Results Class of 2013-2018

SAT Test Results 2017-2018

Class of	Students Tested	Average Scores			Percent Who Met Benchmarks		
		Evidence-based Reading/Writing	Math	Comp	Evidence-based Reading/Writing	Math	Met All
2018	105,983	510	498	1,008	60	37	35
2017	104,267	507	494	1,001	60	37	35

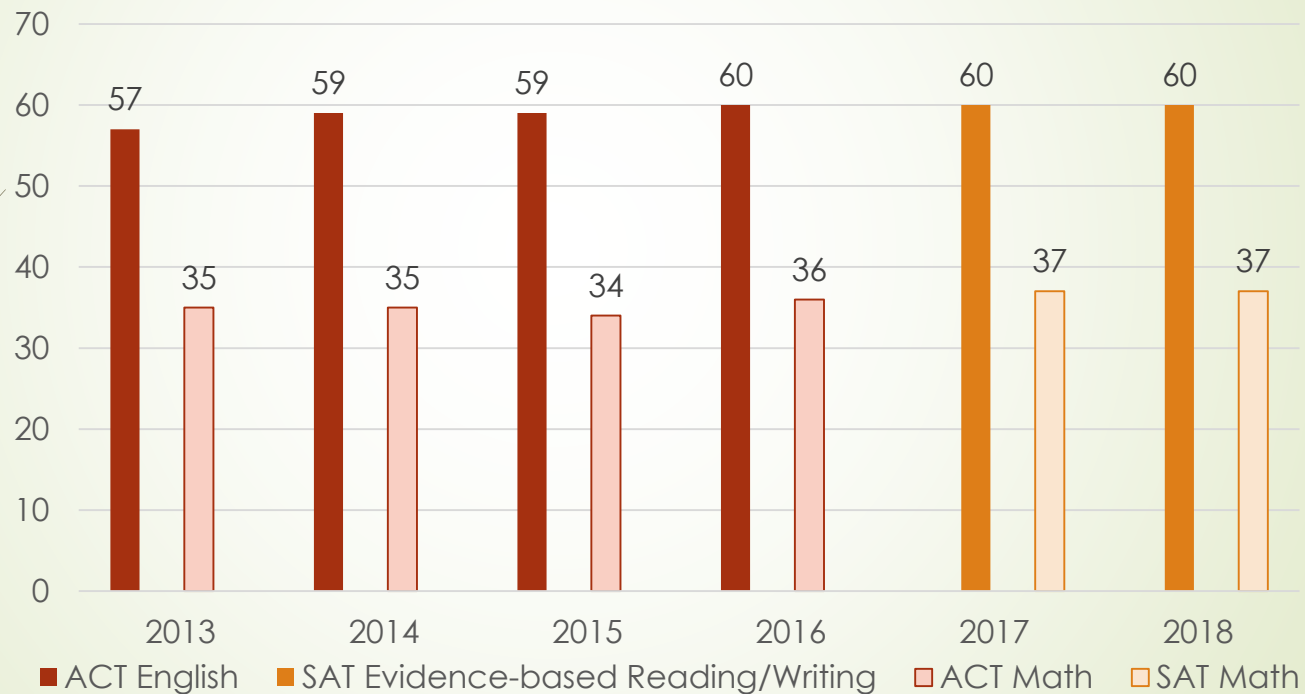
ACT Test Results 2013-2017

Class of	Students Tested	Average Scores					Percent Who Met Benchmarks				
		English	Math	Reading	Sci	Comp	English	Math	Reading	Sci	Met All Four
2017*	29,944	24.1	23.7	24.5	23.8	24.1	84	64	68	58	47
2016	115,454	19.9	19.9	20.7	20.5	20.3	60	36	40	35	23
2015	118,555	19.4	19.9	20.3	20.4	20.1	59	34	40	34	22
2014	119,990	19.3	19.9	20.2	20.4	20.1	59	35	36	33	22
2013	120,451	19.1	19.9	20.0	20.2	19.9	57	35	37	33	21

*Subset of students tested statewide.

Statewide Test Results

Percentage of Students Meeting Benchmarks*



*Benchmarks represent 75% chance of a student obtaining at least a "C" grade in a first-semester, credit-bearing college course.

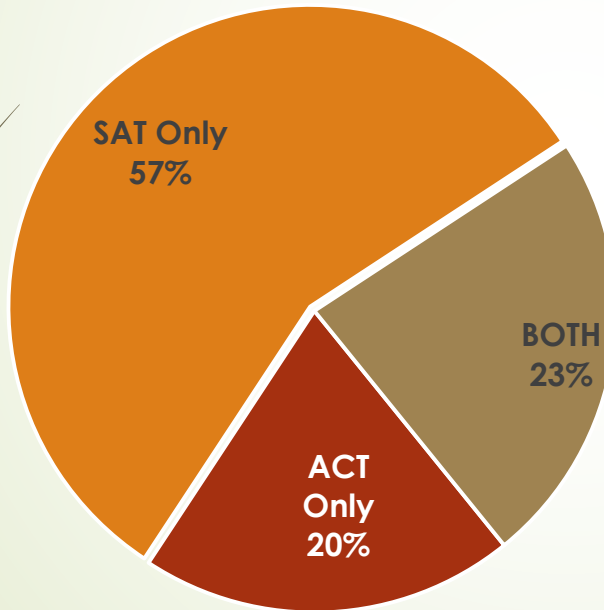


Oakland University Impact

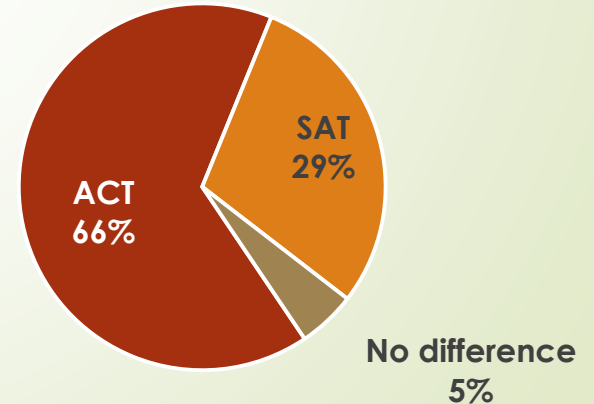


Oakland University's Fall 2017 First year Cohort

Percentage of Students
with test scores on ...

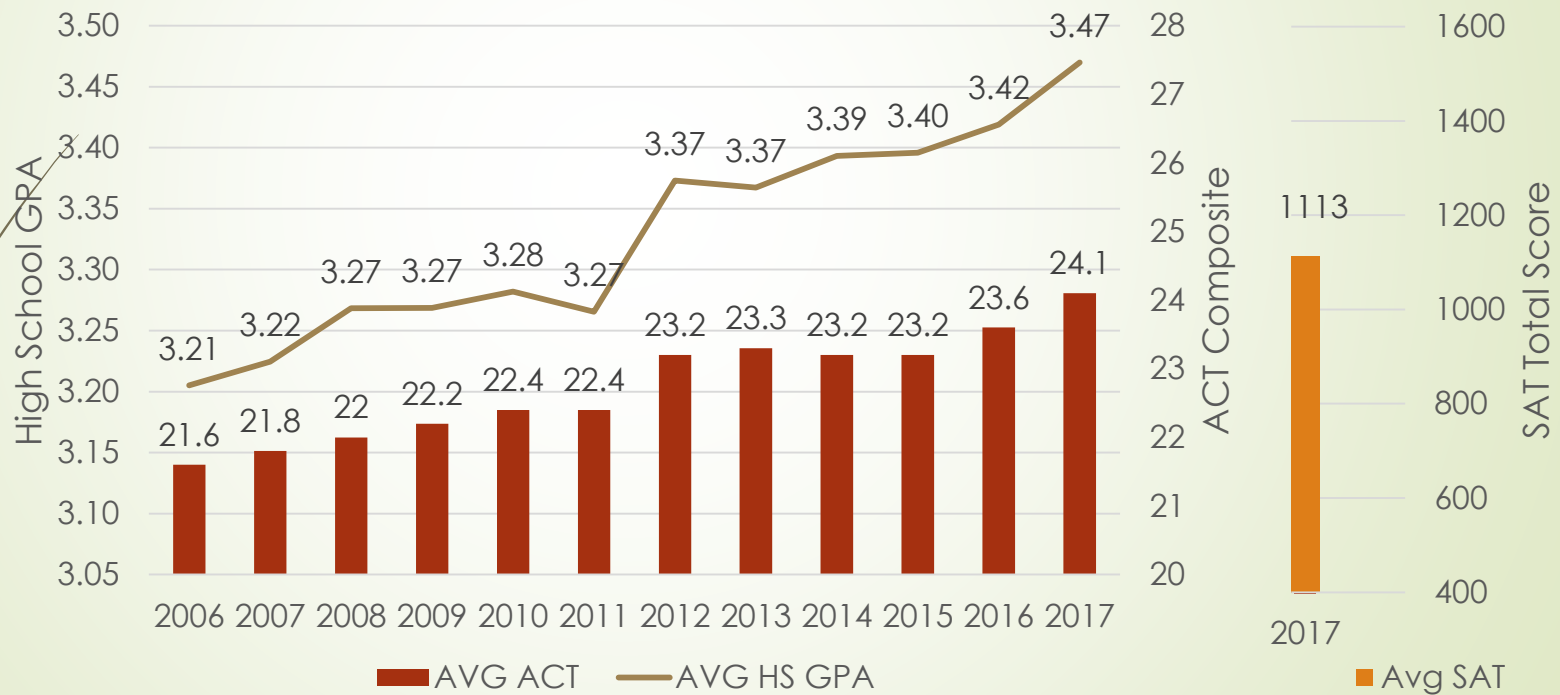


For Students with both
scores, percentage
with higher score on...



Oakland University's First year student profile

AVERAGE HIGH SCHOOL GPA, ACT, SAT



Scholarship Criteria

Fall 2017 First year Cohort

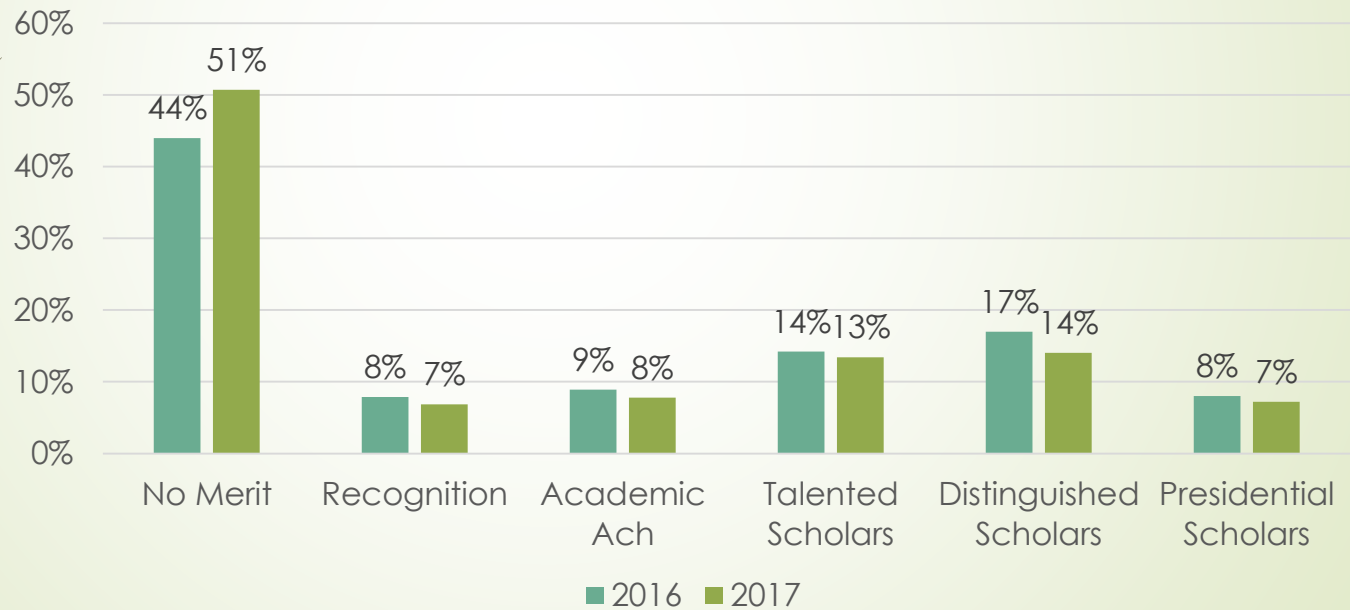
CRITERIA FOR ACADEMIC MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS									
GPA on a 4.0 scale	1130 to 1150 SAT 23 ACT	1160 to 1190 SAT 24 ACT	1200 to 1230 SAT 25 ACT	1240 to 1270 SAT 26 ACT	1280 to 1300 SAT 27 ACT	1310 to 1340 SAT 28 ACT	1350 to 1380 SAT 29 ACT	1390 to 1410 SAT 30 ACT	1420+ SAT 31+ ACT
3.9+			Talented Scholar Annual Award \$3,000		Distinguished Scholar Annual Award \$5,000			Presidential Scholar (full tuition)	
3.8 to 3.89									
3.7 to 3.79					Talented Scholar Annual Award \$3,000				
3.6 to 3.69					Academic Achievement Annual Award \$2,000				
3.5 to 3.59									
3.4 to 3.49					University Recognition Annual Award \$1,500				

SAT ranges reflect combined Math and Evidence-Based Reading & Writing scores from the Redesigned SAT (2016 and beyond).

Scholarship Criteria

Fall 2016 v 2017 Cohort

Percentage of Students Meeting Scholarship Criteria*

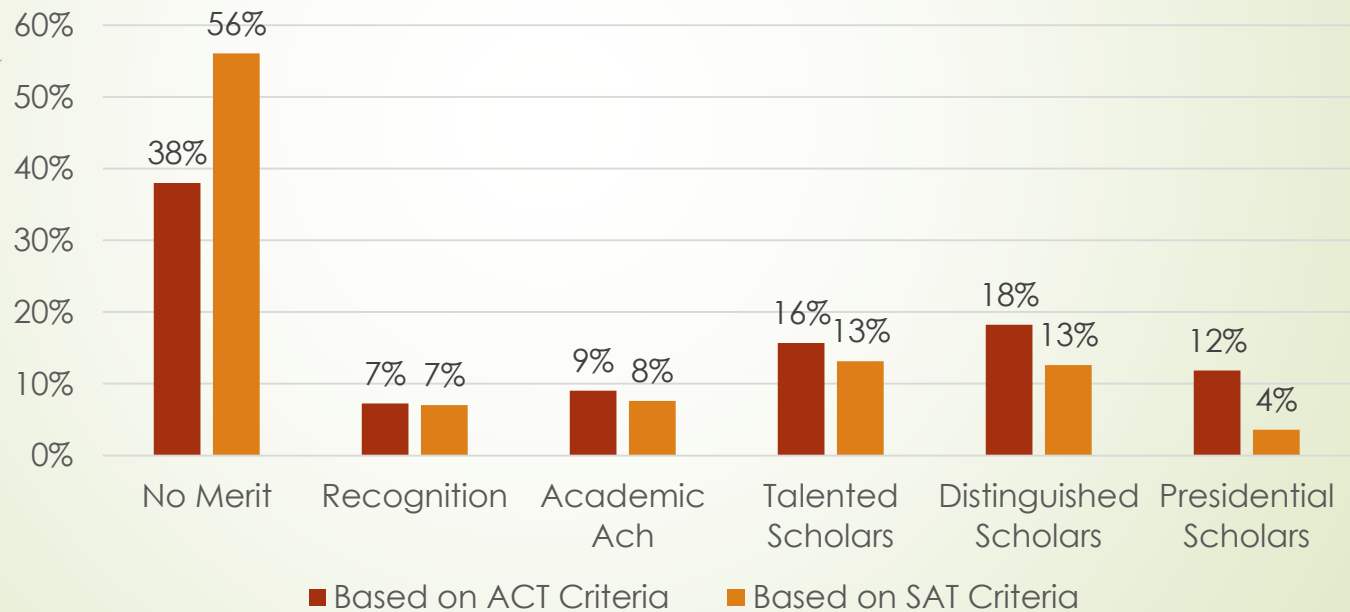


*based on test score criteria only, GPA is also considered for actual awards

Scholarship Criteria

Fall 2017 First year Cohort

Percentage of Students Meeting Scholarship Criteria*



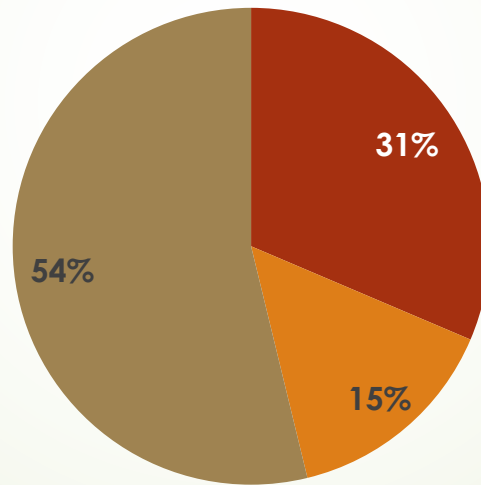
*based on test score criteria only, GPA is also considered for actual awards

Scholarship Criteria

Fall 2017 First year Cohort

For students with both ACT and SAT scores...

Scholarship Band



- Higher band based on ACT score
- Higher band based on SAT score
- Same band for ACT and SAT

Writing Placement Criteria

SAT score ranges are based on ACT equivalents from SAT to ACT Concordance Table provided by College Board.

	WRT 1020 (Basic Writing)	WRT 1050 (Composition I)	WRT 1060 (Composition II)
ACT	1-15 ACT English subscore	16-27 ACT English subscore	28-36 ACT English subscore
OLD SAT	200-400 SAT Writing score	410-610 SAT Writing score	620-800 SAT Writing score
NEW SAT	200-450 SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing score	460-660 SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing score	670-800 SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing score

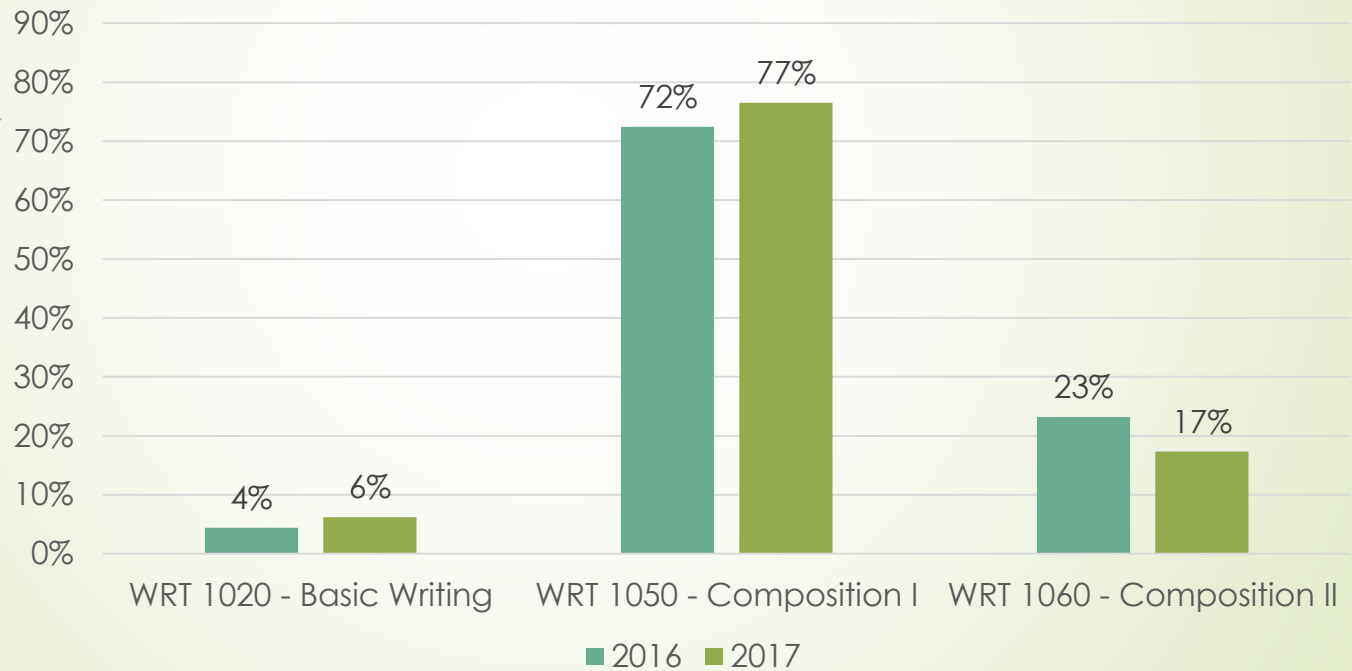
Math Placement Criteria

SAT score ranges are based on ACT equivalents from SAT to ACT Concordance Table provided by College Board.

	MTH 0661 (Elementary Algebra)	MTH 0062 (Intermediate Algebra)	MTH 1441 (Pre-calculus)	MTH 1554 (Calculus I)
ACT	ACT: 0-17	ACT: 18-21	ACT: 22-27	ACT: 28+
OLD SAT	SAT: 0-430	SAT: 440-510	SAT: 520-630	SAT: 640-800
NEW SAT	SAT: 0-470	SAT: 480-540	SAT: 550-650	SAT: 660-800

Writing Placement Fall 2016 v 2017 Cohort

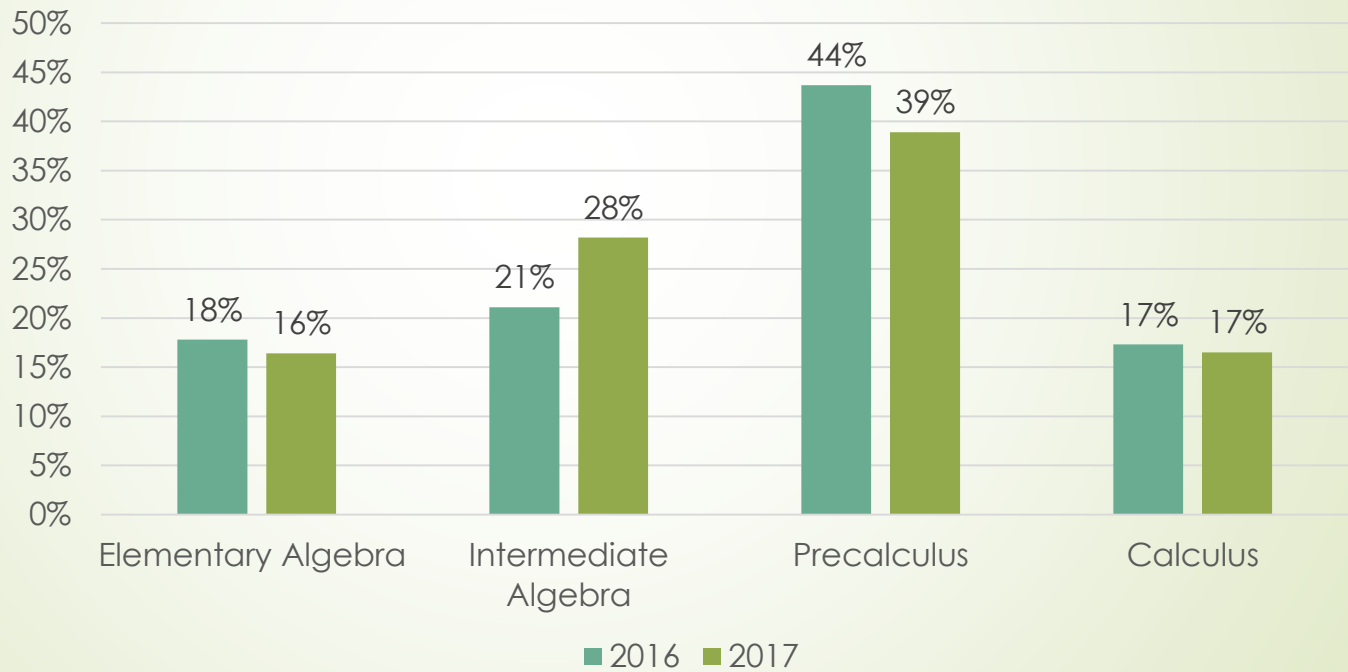
Student Placement in Writing Courses



Math Placement

Fall 2016 v 2017 Cohort

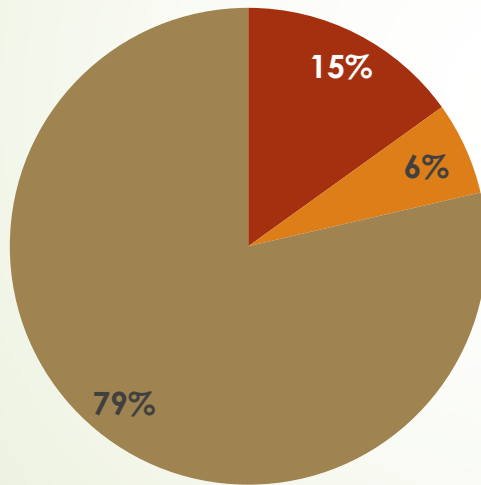
Student Placement in Math Courses



Writing and Math Placement Fall 2017 First year Cohort

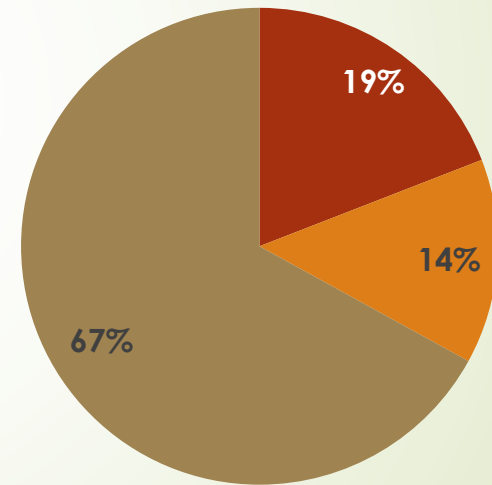
For students with both ACT and SAT scores...

Writing Placement



- Based on ACT score
- Based on SAT score
- Same based on ACT and SAT

Math Placement



- Based on ACT score
- Based on SAT score
- Same based on ACT and SAT



Are the ACT and SAT
comparable?



National Evidence Class of 2017

- ▶ Compared the national distribution of ACT Composite scores and SAT Total scores for all students
 - ▶ SAT Total scores from Class of 2017 who took the new SAT (first offered in March 2016)
 - ▶ ACT Score Distributions from Class of 2017.
- ▶ ACT/SAT Score range concordance provided by College Board (SAT)

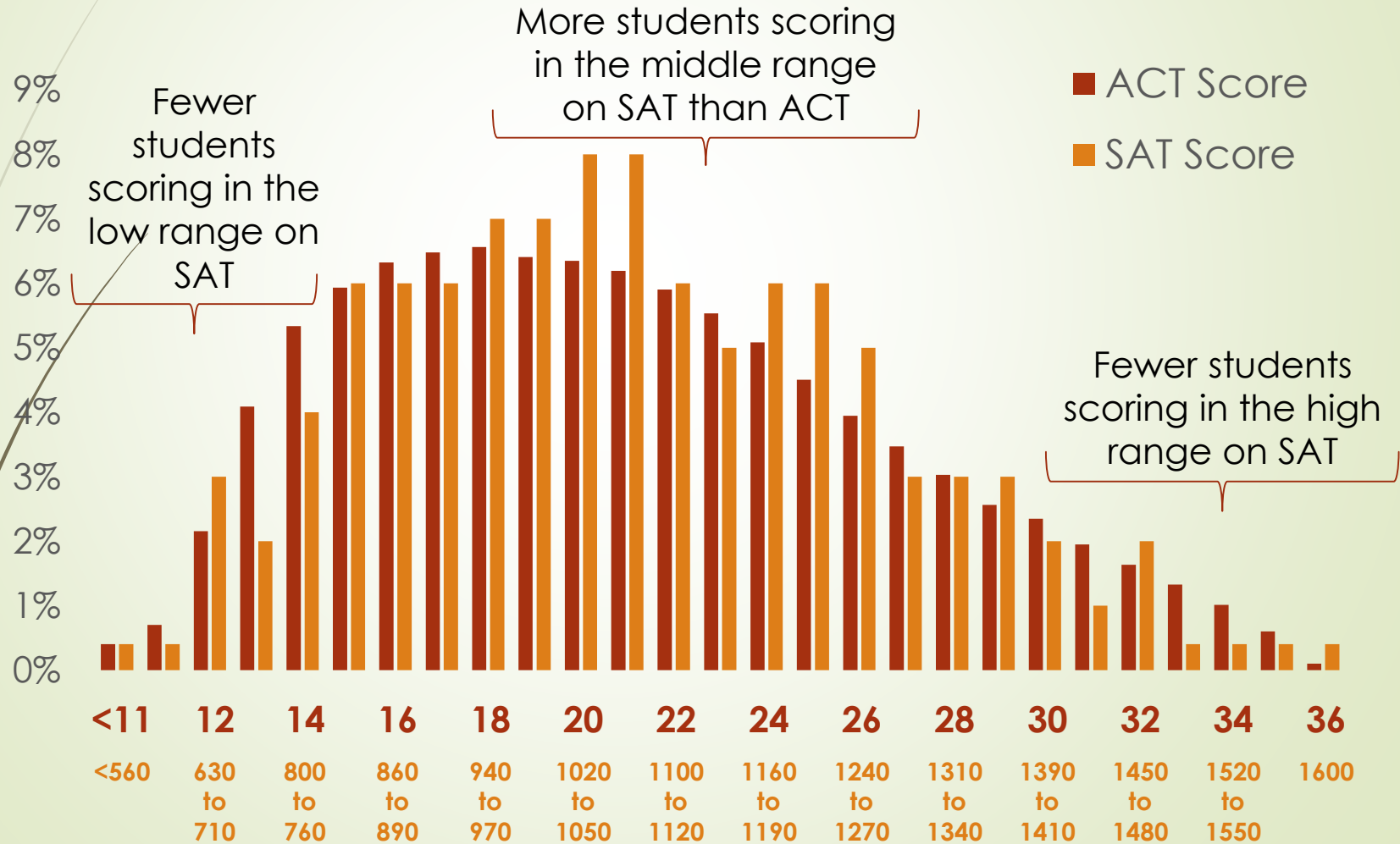
ACT Profile Report – National Graduating Class 2017

http://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/cccr2017/P_99_99999_N_S_N00_ACT-GCPR_National.pdf

SAT Understanding Scores 2017

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/pdf/understanding-sat-scores.pdf>

National Evidence Class of 2017



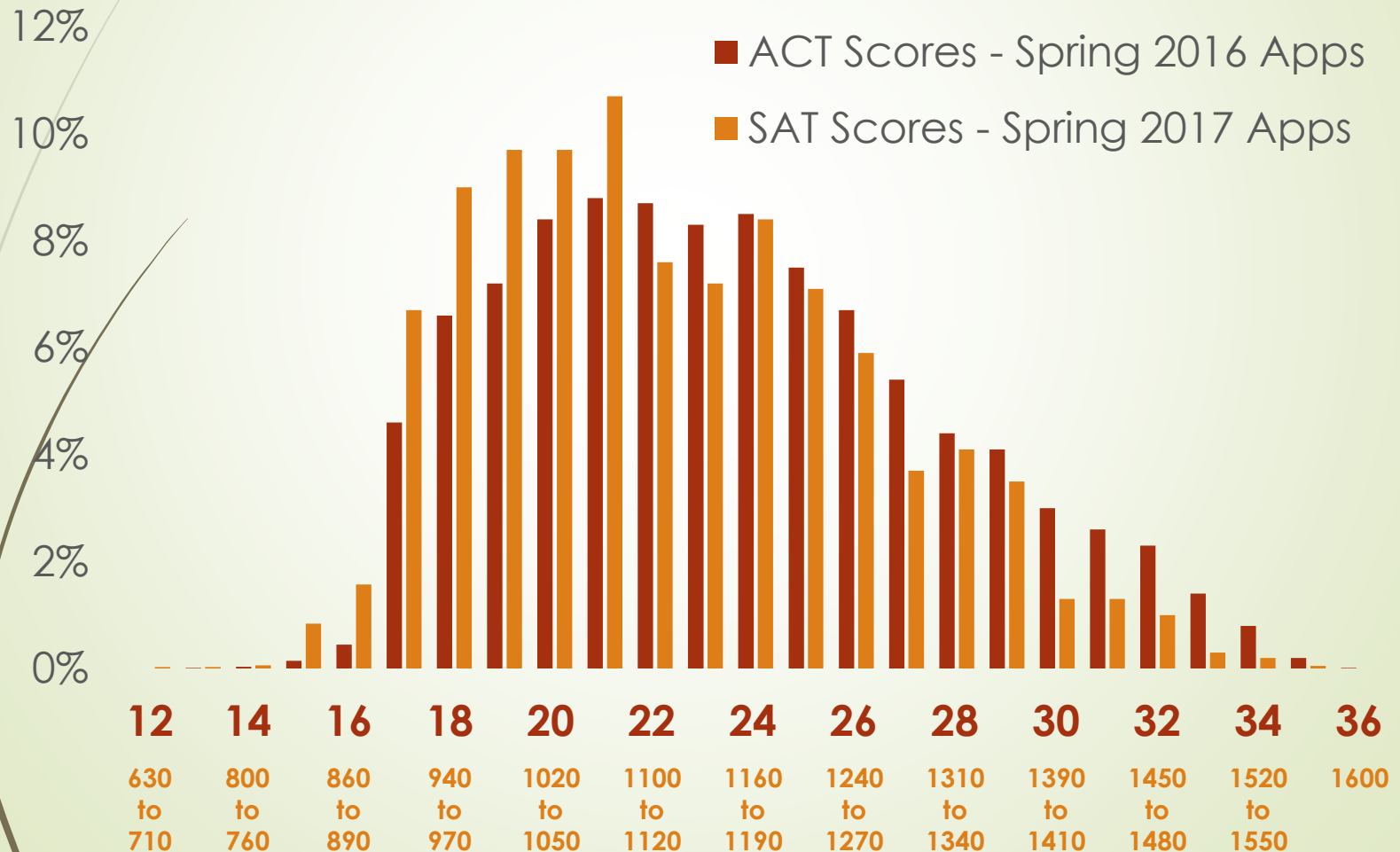
<11	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	28	30	32	34	36
<560	630 to 710	800 to 760	860 to 890	940 to 970	1020 to 1050	1100 to 1120	1160 to 1190	1240 to 1270	1310 to 1340	1390 to 1410	1450 to 1480	1520 to 1550	1600



Oakland University Evidence

- ▶ Compared test score data from recent applicants
 - ▶ ACT scores from Spring 2016 applicants
 - ▶ ACT and SAT scores from Spring 2017 applicants
- ▶ Provided a larger pool of students to explore
 - ▶ Within-student score equivalence on ACT/SAT
 - ▶ Sequence of tests
 - ▶ Timing of tests (spring to fall v. spring only)

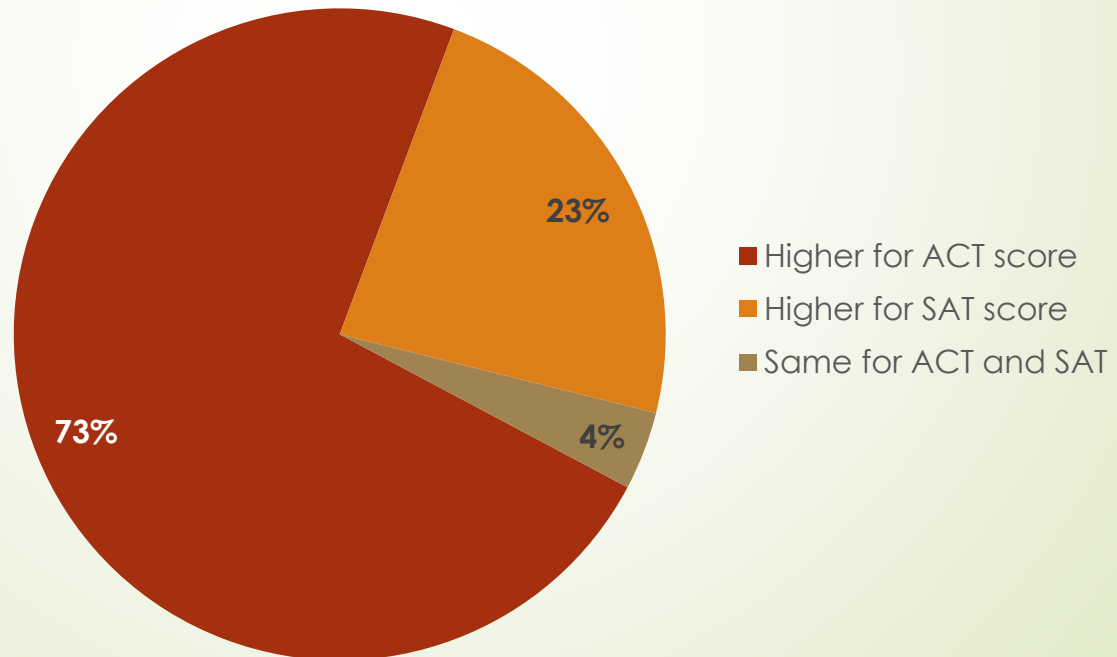
Oakland University Evidence Applicants Spring 2016, 2017



OU Applicants Spring 2017 Highest Result (Spring or Fall '16)

For students with both ACT and SAT scores...
(n=1,812)

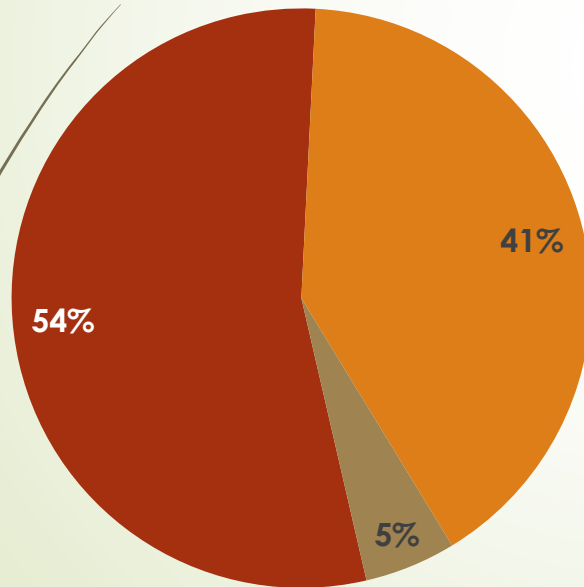
Percentile Rank



OU Applicants Spring 2017 Highest Result (Spring or Fall '16)

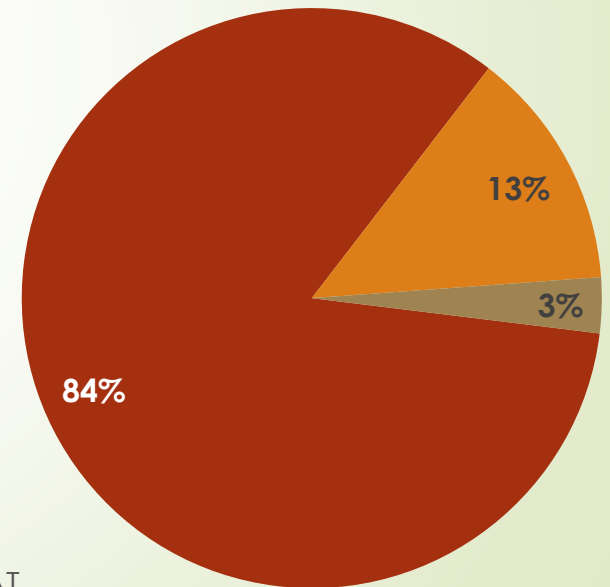
For students with both ACT and SAT scores...
(n=1,812)

Percentile Rank



Took **SAT** Last (n=666)

Percentile Rank



Took **ACT** Last (n=1,151)

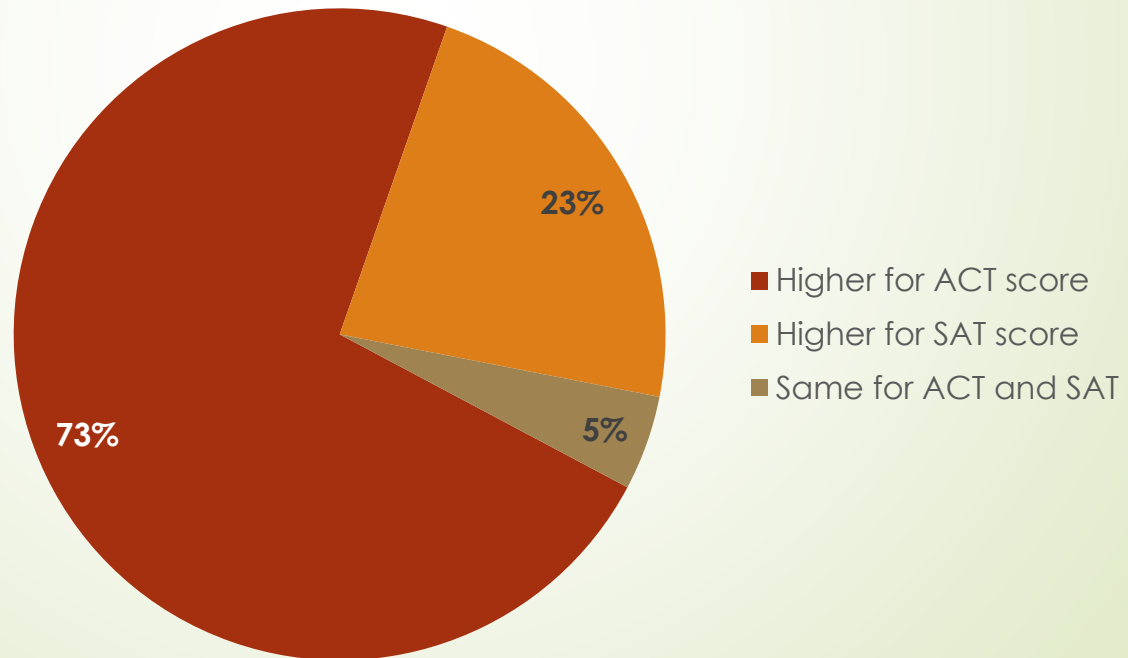
- Higher for ACT score
- Higher for SAT score
- Same for ACT and SAT

OU Applicants Spring 2017

Highest Result (Spring '16 Only)

For students with both ACT and SAT scores...
(n=1,096)

Percentile Rank





Conclusions



- ▶ Questionable concordance between ACT and SAT
- ▶ Lots of confusion during this transitional year, both with equivocating ACT and SAT and with recalibrating the SAT
- ▶ Students who take only SAT may be disadvantaged with respect to admissions, scholarships, placement



Next Steps



- More to come from College Board and ACT regarding concordance tables
- Tracking how the changes in SAT influence the national conversation about college admissions tests
- Continued tracking of trends in [high scores on the ACT](#)
- Working on interim solutions that will offer more equity for students applying to and entering college



Discussion



- ▶ What strategies are you using at your university to account for differential scores in this transition year?
- ▶ What concessions need to be made for students who submit only SAT scores?
- ▶ Will the 2017 cohort with SAT scores only need to be re-evaluated for scholarships?
- ▶ Are there other impacts beyond those identified today?



Resources



- ▶ SAT Assessment Annual Report 2017
 - ▶ [Michigan](#)
 - ▶ [National](#)
- ▶ ACT Profile Report Graduating Class 2016
 - ▶ [Michigan](#)
 - ▶ [National](#)
- ▶ [Understanding SAT Results](#)



Questions?

Susanne Condron

dscondron@oakland.edu

Reuben Ternes

ternes@oakland.edu

