

June 6, 2023

# Academic Affairs & Student Success Advisory Council



MASSACHUSETTS  
Department of  
Higher Education

# **SAT Optional Pilot and Undergraduate Admissions Standards**

# Objectives

- Brief review
- Test requirement policy

# Brief Review

# Admissions Standards Components

- **Course requirements**
- **GPA requirement**
- **Test requirement**
- Special admissions policy
- Transfer and nontraditional applicants
- Exceptions policies

# First-Year Applicant Requirements

## Courses

N=17

English: 4

Math: 4

Science: 3 (3 lab)

Social Science: 2

Language: 2

Electives: 2

## GPA

Weighted

Minimum without  
test scores: 3.00

Minimum with  
test scores: 2.00

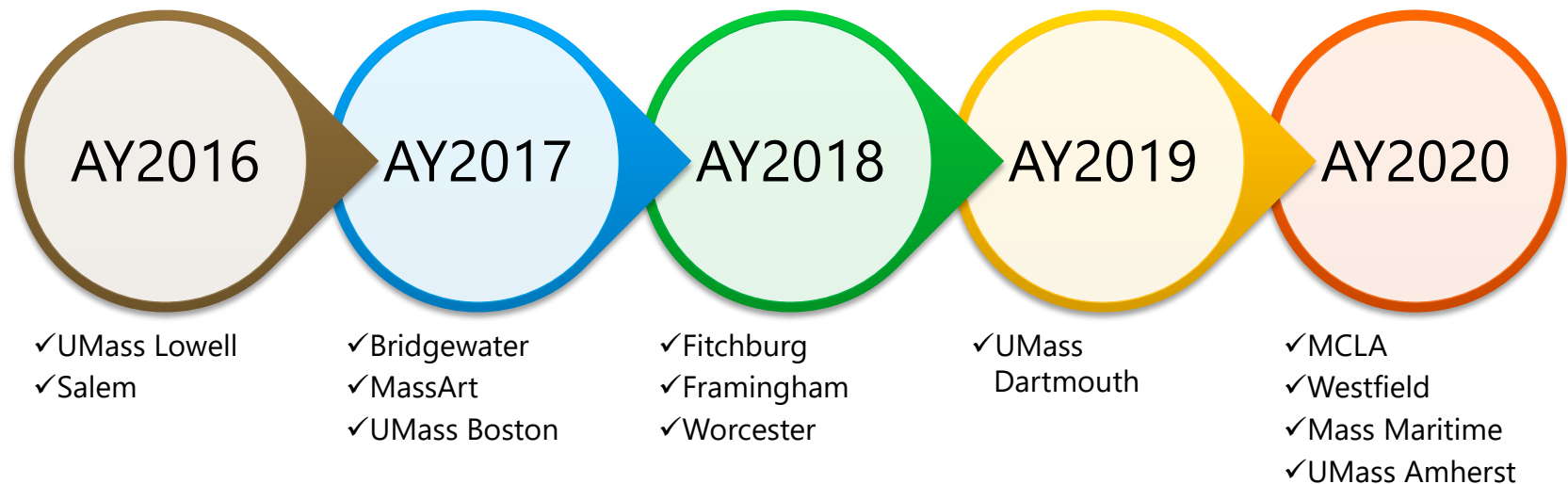
## Test

SAT or ACT

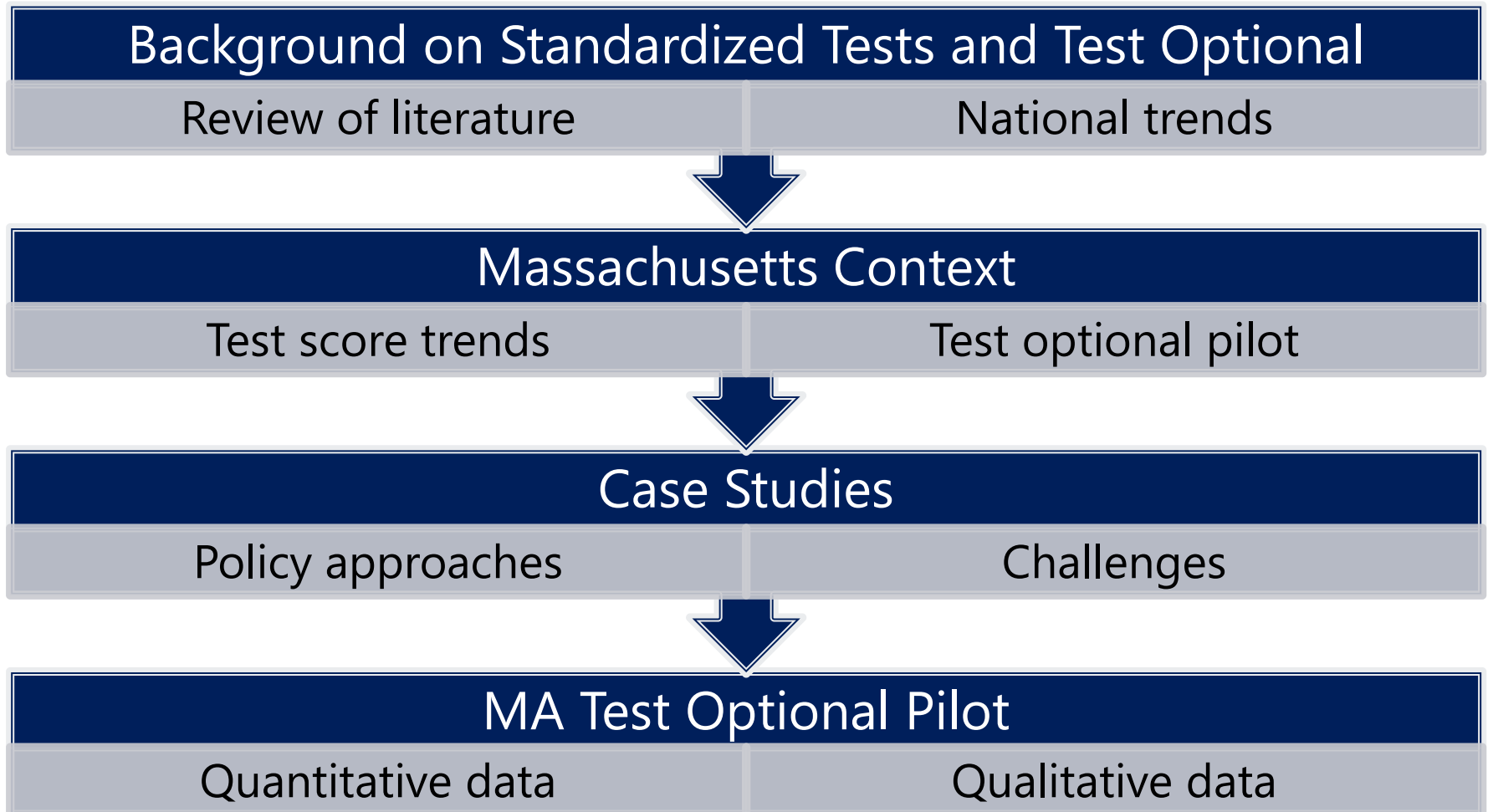
Sliding scale

*Test optional*

# Timeline of Test Optional Adoption



# AY 21-22 Presentations





# Test Requirement Policy

# Campus Engagement & Feedback

- AY21-22 engagement with campus personnel
- May 5, 2023: Sent to campuses for review
- May 19, 2023: Close of review period

## Test Requirement Policy

# Current Policy

### SAT/ACT Score Requirements for Applicants

Note: For Fall 2016, 2017, and 2018, a number of Massachusetts State Universities and UMass campuses are participating in a test optional pilot. At present, Bridgewater State University, Fitchburg State University, Framingham State University, Mass Art, Salem State University, UMass Boston, UMass Dartmouth, UMass Lowell, and Worcester State University allow SAT test optional.

Please note that some programs at these institutions may require SAT submission. For further information, please contact the admissions office at these institutions.

If an institution is not participating in the test optional pilot, all first-year applicants (including international) who meet the minimum average weighted GPA of 3.0 and are within three years of their high school graduation must submit their SAT or ACT scores.

International first-year students may be exempt if it is not possible to take these tests due to extreme hardship. For first-year applicants (including international) who do not meet the minimum weighted 3.0 GPA requirement, they must earn the following SAT or ACT scores in order to be eligible for admission.

**NOTE: AN APPLICANT WITH A HIGH SCHOOL MINIMUM WEIGHTED GPA BELOW 2.0 MAY NOT BE ADMITTED TO A STATE UNIVERSITY OR UMASS UNDERGRADUATE CAMPUS.**

# Board Motion – Amended Policy

The Board of Higher Education (BHE) hereby amends its admissions standards to adopt the following test optional admissions standard for the purpose of approving admissions policies at all four-year, undergraduate public institutions in the Commonwealth. As described in the attached document, The BHE's test optional admissions standard includes, specifically, the following elements:

- Effective for the 2023 application cycle (for Fall 2024 entry and beyond), the submission of standardized test scores will not be required for first year applicants to be considered eligible for admission to Massachusetts State Universities or University of Massachusetts institutions;
- Individual institutions may opt-in to requiring standardized test scores on a program-by-program basis, following DHE approval; and
- In accordance with the admissions practices of each individual institution, students may themselves choose to submit test scores for consideration.

# Questions

# Appendices

# Current Test Policy Sliding Scale

## SAT Score Sliding Scale Tables for University of Massachusetts

**Table 2: SAT Test Administration After March 2016**

Required SAT or ACT scores for first-year applicants to UMass

Campuses Weighted Average GPA	Combined SAT Score (Evidenced Based Reading & Writing and Mathematics)	ACT Score
2.51 - 2.99	1030	20
2.41 - 2.50	1070	21
2.31 - 2.40	1110	22
2.21 - 2.30	1140	23
2.11 - 2.20	1180	24
2.00 - 2.10	1220	25

## SAT Total Score Sliding Scale Table for State Universities

**Table 3: SAT Administration After March 2016**

Required SAT or ACT Scores for first-year applicants to State Universities

Campuses Weighted Average GPA	Combined SAT Score (Evidenced Based Reading & Writing and Mathematics)	ACT Score
2.51 - 2.99	990	19
2.41 - 2.50	1030	20
2.31 - 2.40	1070	21
2.21 - 2.30	1110	22
2.11 - 2.20	1140	23
2.00 - 2.10	1180	24

# Sliding Scale Chart

- If an applicant's GPA is below 3.0, they must meet the sliding scale requirement

