



Statement Revisiting Recommendations to Testing Organizations in 2016

The standardized admission testing environment—within the US and internationally—continues to face substantial change and controversy. Since issuing a statement to testing organizations in July 2016, NACAC appreciates that efforts have been made to enhance communication with the association and our members about issues and changes. NACAC also recognizes that steps have been taken to address problems in the industry, such as exploring Computer Adaptive Testing, offering a conference on test security, and strengthening prevention techniques. However, a number of issues remain unresolved, and some decisions have, in fact, created additional challenges and inequities for international students. The short-notice cancellation of a scheduled test administration and limiting test dates are two such examples. More work must be done to ensure the fairness within the testing environment and integrity of test results domestically and internationally.

College counselors, who serve as partners in the conduct of test administration, preparation, counseling, and interpretation, and the admission community, some of whom rely on test results to make critical admission decisions, would benefit from an update from testing organizations about additional efforts to address the association's 2016 recommendations, which included:

- Recognize that while the re-use of entire standardized test forms or test questions is a long-standing practice, the proliferation of modern communications technology today has rendered it vulnerable to easy exploitation.
- Provide abundant, immediate, and proactive communication with students and families, secondary school counselors and the higher education community when problems arise.
- Significantly update and enhance education and training about test administration and security for all personnel, including college counselors and test supervisors, at all testing sites, domestically and internationally.
- Collaborate with secondary and postsecondary education stakeholders to promote better understanding of the role of culture in determining what constitutes cheating, the individual and social consequences of cheating, and the pedagogical reasons why cheating is deemed unacceptable in the United States.
- Recognize that situations that arise outside of the United States have direct implications domestically, and act accordingly.
- Regularly evaluate testing practices to ensure alignment within an educational and technological landscape that is both fast-changing and global.

Standardized testing is an integral tool for many institutions in the undergraduate admission process. As such, NACAC plans to gather additional information to share with its members, testing agencies, and the broader education community to convey member concerns, shape policies, and ensure that resources used in the undergraduate admission process are reliable, fair, and equitable. In the meantime, NACAC welcomes the opportunity to collaborate on initiatives that advance our recommendations for the benefit of students and the professionals who advise them.

Contact NACAC Associate Director of International Initiatives Lindsay Addington (laddington@nacacnet.org) for more information.