

UC Test-Blind Admissions: The Student Preparedness Crisis

Supporting Materials

KEY DATA

20+
times

Increase in incoming UCSD freshmen requiring math remediation since 2020, when the UC first suspended standardized test requirements. In Fall 2025, 11.8% of the incoming class placed into remedial math — up from 0.5% in Fall 2020. (UCSD Senate–Administration Workgroup Report, Nov. 2025; UCSD Dept. of Mathematics, Math Placement Data 2019–2025)

25%+

Of students placed into remedial math at UCSD arrived with a perfect 4.0 high school math GPA — demonstrating that grades alone do not predict readiness. (UCSD Senate–Administration Workgroup Report, Nov. 2025)

1,400+

UC faculty have signed an open letter calling for reinstatement, including 7 of 9 UC Mathematics Department Chairs.

WHAT THE FACULTY ARE ASKING

- Require SAT or ACT math scores for all STEM applicants, beginning with the 2027–28 admissions cycle.
- The UC Academic Senate’s BOARS is developing a policy roadmap; their next meeting is July 10, 2026.
- MIT reinstated standardized test requirements in 2022 after its own research confirmed that math scores substantially improve assessment of academic preparedness.

THE EQUITY ARGUMENT REFRAMED

- The test-blind policy was intended to improve equity. The outcome data shows it has failed on those terms.
- Admitting students into STEM programs without verified math readiness does not advance equity, it increases the risk of course failure, academic difficulty, and degree incompleteness.
- Matching students to programs they are prepared to succeed in is the appropriate equity outcome.

WHY SDUHSD SHOULD LEAD

- No California school district has yet passed a resolution on this issue. SDUHSD would be first.
- The resolution is timed to reach the UC Regents before the July 10 BOARS meeting.
- SDUHSD's families send students to UC campuses in significant numbers. This is a direct student success issue for our district.