



The
Princeton
Review®

TEST-OPTIONAL ADMISSIONS

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WHAT IS TEST-OPTIONAL ADMISSIONS?

From NACAC's "Test-Optional Means Test-Optional" open letter signed by over 500 Admission Offices:

"The following colleges with test-optional policies in place affirm that they *will not penalize* students for the *absence of a standardized test score.*"

(Emphasis added)

**THE
DEFINITION
OF "TEST-
OPTIONAL"**

WHAT SCHOOLS SAY

Bowdoin

Test-optional since 1969

“Since 1969, we've been selecting the right applicants for Bowdoin, using only the materials that we require of you: your transcripts, your writing, and how your teachers talk about you.

This policy allows applicants to decide for themselves whether or not their SAT or ACT results accurately reflect their academic ability and potential. For candidates electing to submit them, test scores will be reviewed along with other indicators of academic ability.”

WHAT SCHOOLS SAY



Test-optional since 2019

“USF does not require students to submit standardized test scores when applying for undergraduate admission.

We're taking this step because we strongly believe it is the right thing to do. Caring for and appreciating the whole person ('*cura personalis*') is an essential part of our mission as a Jesuit institution. We know that you're more than your test scores. Being test optional means we can better align our admission process with our institutional values.”

WHAT SCHOOLS SAY



Test-optional since January 2020

“The original goal of test-optional admission was simply to provide students who did not feel that their standardized test scores accurately reflected their academic potential the opportunity to choose to not have those test scores considered as part of the admission review.”

A photograph of a stone archway leading to a green lawn and trees. The archway is made of large, reddish-brown stones. The lawn is green, and there are trees with yellow and green leaves in the background. A white path leads from the archway to the lawn. The sky is blue with some clouds. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

PROBLEMS WITH
THE SAT/ACT

SCHOOLS GO
TEST-OPTIONAL
FOR MANY
REASONS

EQUITABLE
ADMISSIONS

INCREASED
DIVERSITY

TEMPORARY TEST- OPTIONAL

DUE TO COVID-19, MANY
SCHOOLS ARE TEST-
OPTIONAL JUST FOR THE
CLASS OF 2021

ANY “TEMPORARY” TEST-
OPTIONAL SCHOOL IS
REACTING TO
CIRCUMSTANCES, NOT
MAKING A JUDGEMENT ON
TESTING

The background image is a blurred photograph of an indoor setting, likely a library or a study hall. On the right side, there are tall wooden bookshelves filled with books. On the left side, there are wooden chairs and tables. In the background, several people are visible, some sitting at tables and others standing, engaged in what appears to be a study or discussion session. The overall atmosphere is quiet and academic.

COLLEGES AND TEST-OPTIONAL ADMISSIONS

Schools with Test-Optional Policies

- ...see an increase in applications
- ...enroll more underrepresented minorities
- ...became more selective in admissions

**TEST-OPTIONAL
POLICIES HELP
SCHOOLS
ACHIEVE
GOALS**

**TEST-OPTIONAL
POLICIES ALIGN
WITH STATED
IDEAL
ADMISSION
PROCESSES**

- ❖ **Holistic Review**
- ❖ **Seeing the student in context**
- ❖ **A real “name of college” kid**
- ❖ **Building the campus community**
- ❖ **Four years of high school—not four hours on a Saturday**

BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

Over **75%** of students applying to Test-Optional schools still **submitted** test scores

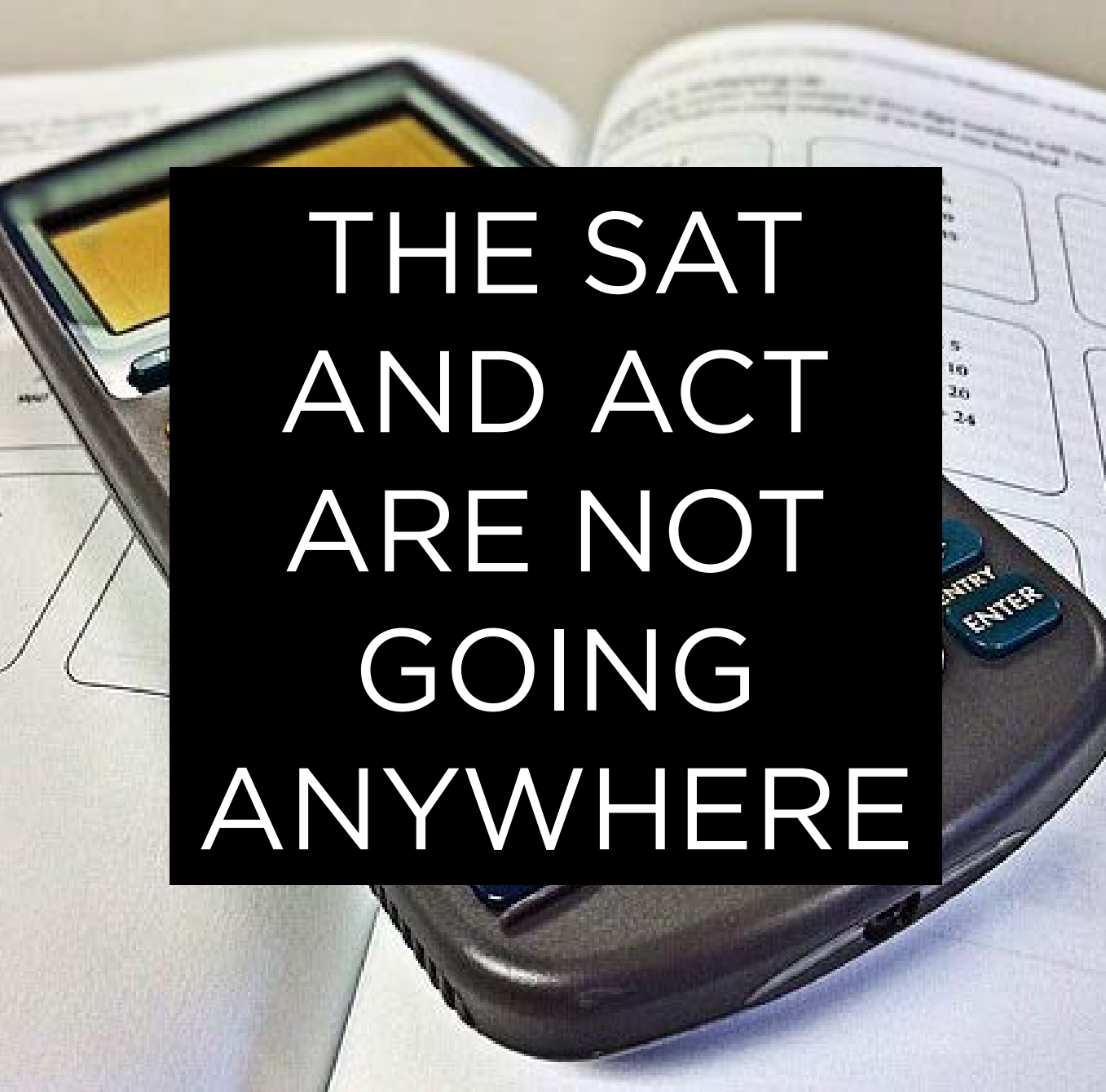
And **submitters** had **higher** average **Test Scores** and **High School GPA**

BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

SCHOOL	T-O SINCE	ADM RATE	SAT SUB	ACT SUB
Bowdoin College	1969	9%	59%	45%
Providence College	2006	47%	51%	17%
Worcester Polytechnic Institute	2007	49%	71%	24%
Wake Forest University	2008	30%	44%	45%
Connecticut College	2009	37%	31%	16%
DePaul University	2010	68%	64%	N/A
Temple University	2014	59%	76%	17%
Skidmore College	2016	30%	53%	22%
University of San Francisco	2019	66%	78%	34%

A photograph of a classroom. In the foreground, there are several rows of wooden desks with attached chairs. In the background, there is a chalkboard with chemical structures and equations written on it. To the right of the chalkboard is a large map of Asia. The text "STUDENTS AND TEST-OPTIONAL ADMISSIONS" is overlaid in yellow on a black background across the middle of the image.

STUDENTS AND TEST-OPTIONAL ADMISSIONS

A close-up photograph of a grey calculator with a yellow display screen and a blue 'ENTER' button. The calculator is resting on a white test form with various fields and numbers. A black rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing white text.

THE SAT
AND ACT
ARE NOT
GOING
ANYWHERE

**WE KNOW ONE
THING ABOUT
STANDARDIZED
TESTING**

**STUDENTS
STILL WANT
TO TAKE THE
TESTS**



Nearly 1.5 million students registered for the August, September, and October SAT Administrations

About 1/3 of students had SAT tests cancelled in same time frame

ACT had similar large-scale registration issues (but hasn't reported numbers)

STUDENTS SHOULD STILL BE PREPARING FOR THE SAT/ACT

If a school **considers** test scores, a good test score will help a student

If a school says it “**prefers**” to see test scores, students are **BETTER** taking either test

If a school is test-optional, students **don't** have to send a mediocre score

If any school is **NOT** Test-Optional, students **MUST** take either test...
And do well

A COMPARISON OF TWO STUDENTS

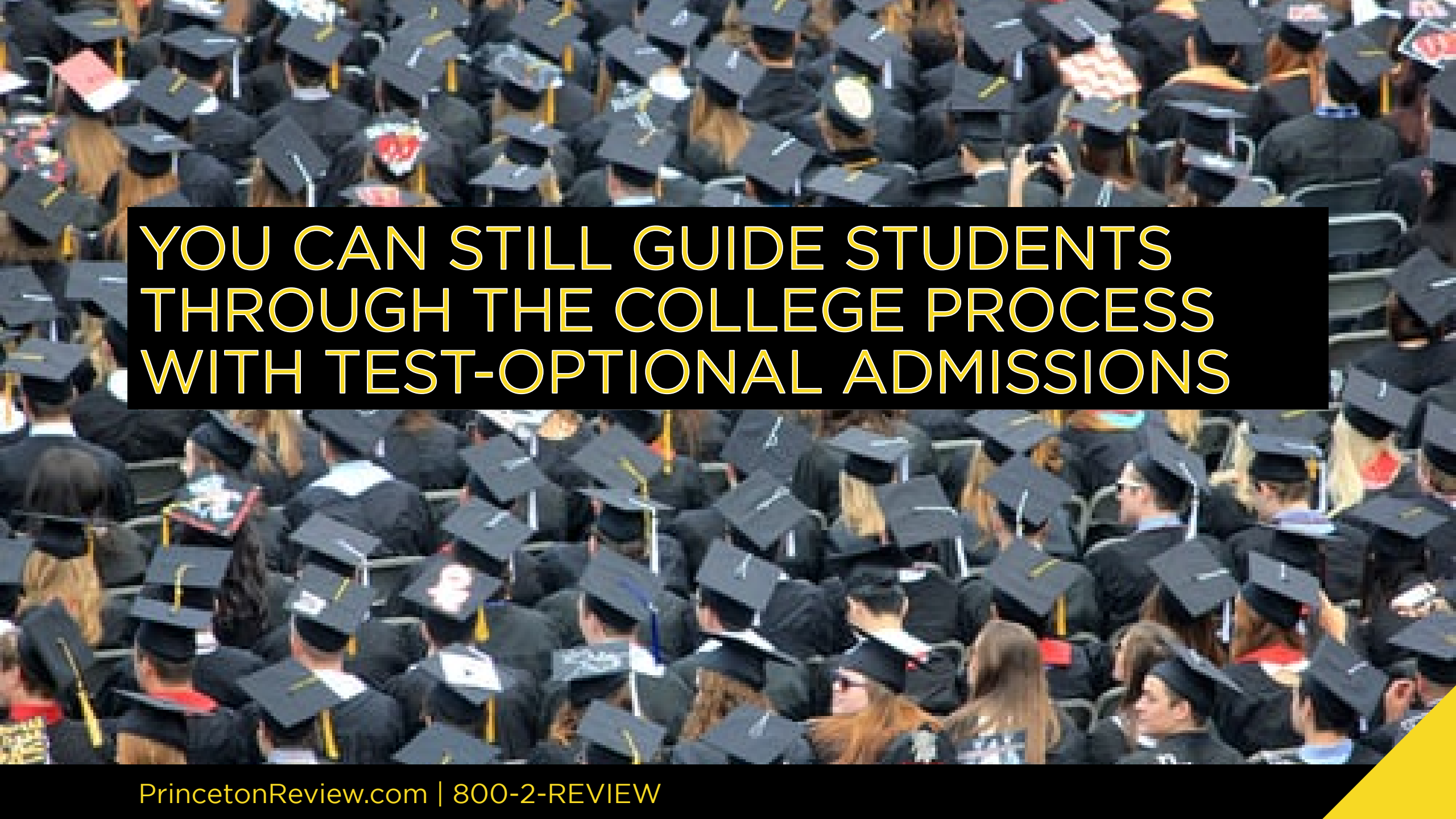
STUDENT A	STUDENT B
3.75 GPA	3.81 GPA
6 AP Courses	5 AP Courses
4 Years Soccer	4 Years Theater
Student Body VP	NHS President
Top Essays	Very Good Essays
Very Good Recs	Top Recs

A COMPARISON OF TWO STUDENTS

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Very Good Recs	Top Recs
No Test Scores	1240 SAT

The University of California Testing Plan

Entering Class	Plan	Details	Score Use
2021-2022	“Test-Optional”	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Option to submit SAT/ACT Scores, will not be penalized for not submitting• SAT/ACT Essay is eliminated	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• UC Eligibility• Academic Placement• Scholarships
2023-2024	“Test-Blind”	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• California students may submit SAT/ACT scores, but cannot be used in Admissions• UC will work on approach for nonresidents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• UC Eligibility• Academic Placement• Scholarships
2025	New Test	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• California students will use new test• New test available for nonresidents• IF NO NEW TEST—UC will eliminate standardized testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• UC Eligibility• Academic Placement• Scholarships

A high-angle, wide shot of a large crowd of graduates at a commencement ceremony. They are all wearing black academic caps and gowns. The graduates are seated in rows, and the perspective is from above, looking down on the sea of caps. The text is overlaid on a black rectangular background in the center of the image.

YOU CAN STILL GUIDE STUDENTS
THROUGH THE COLLEGE PROCESS
WITH TEST-OPTIONAL ADMISSIONS

Contact Info



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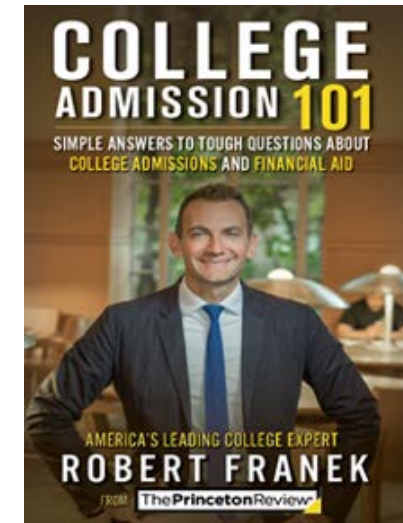
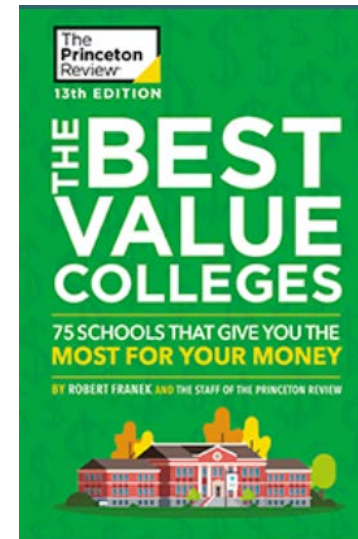
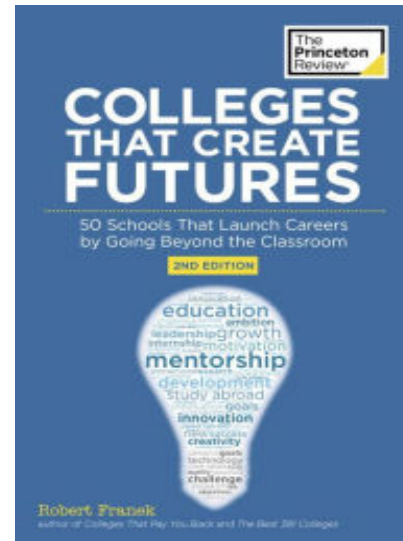
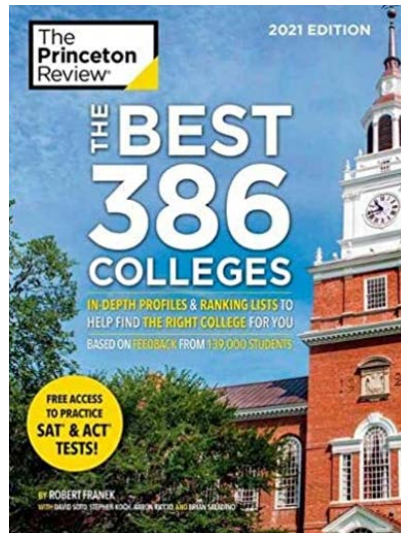
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