



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MONTCLAIR STATE ADOPTS SAT/ACT-OPTIONAL  
UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSION POLICY**

*First Public University in New Jersey to Make Change for All Applicants*

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**Montclair, NJ. July 29, 2014** – Montclair State University announced today that it will become the first public university in New Jersey to adopt an SAT/ACT test-optional policy for all applicants seeking undergraduate admission. Effective this fall, the University will revise its freshman admissions protocol, placing primary emphasis on an applicant’s high school GPA combined with close attention to the specific courses taken. Submission of SAT and ACT scores will no longer be required, although the University will consider these scores should a student choose to submit them. The policy will take effect for the fall 2015 entering freshman class.

“As we choose each incoming class, our goal is to assure, to the greatest extent possible, that the students selected for admission are capable of succeeding in the University’s rigorous academic programs,” said Montclair State University President Susan A. Cole.

Montclair State has grown into a large university, admitting approximately 3,000 freshmen each year from a pool of well over 11,000 applicants. Over the past decade, the University has reviewed its admissions criteria to determine how the various factors considered in the admissions process track with student retention, academic success and graduation rates. According to Dr. Cole, the University has verified that the most powerful predictor of college success is a student’s performance in high school and, in particular, the high school GPA and the rigor of the courses taken. The University has found that a student’s high school GPA is three times as powerful as the SAT for demonstrating a student’s likely performance at Montclair State, noted Dr. Cole.

“In addition to being a better predictor of academic success, we are certain that the new admissions protocol will better support our mission of serving a talented and striving student population that reflects the full socio-economic and ethnic diversity of New Jersey,” said Dr. Cole. “Focusing on an individual student’s actual accomplishments in high school, no matter which community the student grew up in or which high school he or she attended, will yield a highly diverse freshman class characterized by determination, ambition and the demonstrated willingness to strive for success in Montclair State’s academically rigorous environment.”

Dr. Cole added that it is the University's view that standardized tests can have the undesirable effect of disadvantaging capable, striving students from middle and lower socio-economic backgrounds, many of whom do not have the benefit of costly preparation courses.

In becoming the first public New Jersey university to make this change, giving students the option of not submitting SAT and Act scores, Montclair State joins more than 800 of the nation's leading colleges and universities, a group that constitutes about 30 percent of the nation's schools that grant baccalaureate degrees and that includes Temple University, Wake Forest University, Wesleyan University, University of Arizona and George Mason University.

"We believe that our revised admissions criteria will ensure that the University continues to provide motivated young men and women, from throughout New Jersey and beyond, the outstanding education and opportunities they need to succeed and lead," said Dr. Cole.

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### **Montclair State University**

Building on a distinguished 106-year history, Montclair State University is proud to be a leading institution of higher education in New Jersey. The University's six colleges and schools serve approximately 20,000 undergraduate and graduate students in 300 majors, minors, concentrations and certificate programs. Situated on a beautiful, 250-acre suburban campus located just 14 miles from New York City, Montclair State delivers the instructional and research resources of a large public university in a supportive, sophisticated and diverse academic environment. [montclair.edu](http://montclair.edu)