



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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UW Not Requiring ACT/SAT is a Disservice to Students and Public

MADISON, WI — UW System recently announced that they will be continuing to suspend the applicant requirement to submit ACT or SAT scores for two more years. ACT and SAT scores are used to determine aptitude for college studies and whether or not a prospective student will be the best fit for a particular institution.

State Representative Dave Murphy (R-Greenville), chair of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities, issued the following statement in response:

“ACT and SAT scores are one of the few remaining objective criteria that colleges have access to in determining whether a student will succeed on their campus. These tests provide a critical benchmark for both applicants and colleges in deciding the best fit for higher education. Discovering that a college is the wrong fit for you only after you’ve spent tens of thousands of dollars is something that no one should be subjected to.

“College admissions are shrouded in secrecy, with applicants and even legislators left in the dark about what it takes to be admitted to our state’s tax-payer funded schools. As chair of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities this year I requested detailed information from UW–Madison about how they train admissions staff. What I received were documents with more than 80 percent of the pages heavily or entirely redacted. If the government that funds our public universities can’t even determine what it takes to be admitted, how are students and their families supposed to?

“The ongoing policy of eliminating standardized testing for UW applicants is a poor fit for our public colleges. This decision is bad for students, it’s bad for colleges, and it’s bad for taxpayers.”

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