



NEW JERSEY

Association of State Colleges and Universities

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**QuickTakes!**

## **NJCU Will Institute Test-Optional Admissions Policy Beginning with Fall 2020 Class**

January 2, 2019

New Jersey City University (NJCU) will be implementing test-optional admissions policy starting with its Fall 2020 class.

NJCU's test-optional policy will allow students to succeed within their intended programs of study and advances a principle component of the University's mission that is to provide a diverse population with an excellent education.

### **NJCU's Application Process**

During the University's review of applications, a holistic and independent approach is taken for each applicant with a focus on high school performance and achievements.

The University ensures that students have completed required college-preparatory work:

- ◆ English (4 units): composition, literature
- ◆ Mathematics (3 units): algebra I, geometry, algebra II
- ◆ Science (3 units): biology, chemistry, physics, earth sciences, anatomy/physiology
- ◆ At least two of the above **MUST** be lab sciences
- ◆ Social Science (3 units): American history, world history, political science
- ◆ Foreign Language (2 units): These should be of the same language.

In exceptional cases, the Office of Admissions may waive certain unit requirements when the quality of the applicant's overall record shows promise of success in college-level study.

While not required, students may submit supporting documentation that highlights individual talents, interests and achievements. Examples of relevant supportive documentation include and are not limited to the following:

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**[www.njascu.org](http://www.njascu.org)**

*The College of New Jersey  
Kean University  
Montclair State University*

*New Jersey City University  
Ramapo College of New Jersey  
Rowan University*

*Stockton University  
Thomas Edison State University  
William Paterson University*

- ◆ Additional coursework that shows academic rigor: Math beyond Algebra II, laboratory science beyond chemistry, a third and fourth year of a foreign language, Advanced Placement (AP) courses, honors courses
- ◆ Letters of recommendation from teachers, counselors, employers, etc.
- ◆ Brief personal interest statement
- ◆ Resume/Co-curricular document that includes evidence of:
  - Community service activities/projects
  - Leadership roles in organizations such as athletic and/or academic teams
  - Musical, theatric and/or artistic performance activities
  - Employment history
- ◆ NJCU will also consider standardized test scores (if a student submits these). Students are neither hindered nor advantaged by these alone.

### **Who is NOT Eligible for Test-Optional Admission?**

- ◆ Home-Schooled students
- ◆ Students who wish to be considered for NJCU's Honors Program
- ◆ Students applying for consideration into any of the University's 5-year bridge programs (BS/MS)

NJCU's holistic admissions process takes appropriate account of the applicant pool and the number of places available in the incoming class. Within this competitive context, the emphasis in the admissions decision is the potential for the student to succeed at the college level at this institution.

While SAT/ACT scores will no longer be required for test-optional admission, NJCU will continue to encourage students to share test scores, as SAT/ACT test results may take the place of required pre-enrollment placement tests, thus, allowing students to waive these tests.

### **Background**

Publicly available research demonstrates that standardized test results such as SAT and ACT scores provide only a snapshot of the student and are otherwise of limited utility in identifying the potential for a successful college experience.

A more accurate measure of individual student talent and potential is derived from examination of overall high school performance over time, which has always been at the heart of our admissions criteria. This remains the best measure for predicting college readiness and ultimate student success. NJCU's Office of Admissions will take a holistic approach to the admission process, focusing on actual accomplishments in high school.

The mission at New Jersey City University (NJCU) is to provide a diverse population with an excellent education. The University is committed to the improvement of the educational, intellectual, cultural, socioeconomic, and physical environment of the surrounding urban region and beyond. Established in 1927 as a training school for teachers, today NJCU is among the most comprehensive universities in the state. Located in Jersey City, NJ, and minutes from New York City, NJCU offers accredited programs in the College of Arts and Sciences, Education, Professional Studies, and School of Business. The University offers 44 undergraduate degree programs and 29 master's programs and 3 doctoral programs, including emerging and interdisciplinary fields.

NJCU students engage in rigorous applied-learning experiences that include opportunities to study abroad, and cooperative education internships. NJCU operates two additional campus sites – NJCU School of Business at Harborside Plaza 2 in Jersey City's financial district and NJCU at Brookdale in Wall Township in Monmouth County.