Test Optional Update:
UConn Board of Trustees

Nathan Fuerst, MBA
Vice President
Enrollment Management

Morgaen Donaldson, Ed.D.
Associate Dean for Research
Neag School of Education

Eric Loken, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Educational Psychology
Neag School of Education

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Pilot Extension Considerations

Timing for Students
• Fall 2023 Cohort (last year of pilot) began testing in Spring 2022, 18 months ahead of enrollment
• Notify Fall 2024 Cohort of Test Optional plans no later than September 2022

Making a Data Informed Decision
• Extending pilot to additional cohorts would provide additional data for analysis ahead of a long-term decision
• A long-term decision this summer would be informed only by outcomes metrics for first cohort only

Disentangling Pandemic Effect
• Extension would provide more time for the effects of the pandemic to fade and the effects of the pilot to become clearer
• Extension would facilitate better data collection, as survey/study fatigue begins to ease
Early Observations

Application & Enrollment Growth (Fall 2019 vs Fall 2021)
- 26% Growth in First Year applicants who identify as Underrepresented*
- 21% Growth in First Year enrollees who identify as Underrepresented*
- 5% Growth in First Generation First Year enrollees
- 14% Growth in Pell Eligible First Year enrollees

Score Submission Behavior
- Two years of available data: 2021, 2022 entering cohorts
- 65% choose NOT to have test scores considered; Consistent across cohorts
- Underrepresented populations, and Female students, are more likely to choose NOT to have test scores considered
- Proportions very similar at each stage: applicants, admits, enrolled

*Underrepresented = Those who self identify their race or ethnicity as Black, Hispanic/Latino, Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, American Indian or Alaska Native
Early Observations

Academic Performance
• Simple comparison of “Test Optional” cohort with “Test Considered” cohort shows differences in GPA and probation status
• However, taking into account qualifications and background greatly reduces the differences
• Only 1 year of academic performance data available under new policy

Focus Groups
A sample of academic advisors, student center directors, learning community directors, faculty:
• report increased student needs in 2021-22
• attribute these needs to the pandemic
• report varied knowledge regarding the Test Optional Pilot
Test Optional Pilot Extension

Original Pilot Cohorts:
• Fall 2021 through Fall 2023

Three Additional Pilot Cohorts:
• Spring 2024 through Fall 2026

Final Determination of Test Optional Policy:
• No later than Summer 2025
Questions & Discussion