



# 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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**UCONN**

# 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

