



## Sweetwater Union High School District

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Dear Parents, Families, and Students of the Class of 2021,

For the past 20 years, San Diego State University (SDSU) and Sweetwater Union High School District (SUHSD) maintained a long time commitment to this historic partnership that allows access and opportunities for our students to be admitted to SDSU through the Compact for Success program.

Following the recent communication that went out to SUHSD families regarding the Class of 2021, measures to meet the benchmarks that will allow the university to assess projected admission and enrollment, and in response to concerns from the community, SDSU and SUHSD participated in multiple conversations to provide additional options for students to meet Compact readiness.

SDSU acknowledges that given the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) was not administered in spring 2020; the option to use the Early Assessment Program (EAP) via the CAASPP was not be available to determine Compact readiness for the Class of 2021. This eliminated the option to enroll in and complete a year-long, senior level course in English or math to satisfy Compact for Success readiness.

As a result of our discussions, SDSU will now allow, in addition to the previous benchmarks, students to prove eligibility for our Compact Scholars by earning a **minimum grade of B** in the following approved year-long during the students' senior year English courses and/or mathematics/quantitative courses (without CAASPP scores).

### **English Senior Year Options (may include the following)**

- AP English Language and Composition
- AP English Literature and Composition
- English IB HL1
- English IB HL2
- CSU Expository Reading and Writing

### **Math Senior Year Options**

- AP Statistics
- AP Calculus
- Discrete Math
- Pre-Calculus
- Calculus Concepts
- Math Analysis
- Mathematical Studies IB
- \*OR
- Any math courses in Area "C" with designation as "Advanced Level Mathematics" course

Applicants will be required to submit mid-semester grades in January, having earned a grade of B or higher in one of the above courses and receive a final grade of B or higher in the spring. While we recognize that historically a grade of C would be accepted in these courses, because the CAASPP was not administered in spring 2020, we believe that a higher grade point average (GPA) threshold is required to

establish that students are prepared for the rigor of SDSU’s curriculum. **Please be reminded that students must meet Compact Readiness through one of the available options for both English and math.**

For the Class of 2022, please note that SDSU will revisit the full criteria for guaranteed admission in spring 2021, when we have more information about whether traditional assessments will be available for fall 2022 applicants. Additionally, for the Compact, SDSU will extend eligible SAT/ACT test dates to include those in December 2020 for the class of 2021.

*We have also included below some frequently asked questions for your review:*

### **SUHSD Compact Class of 2021 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

#### **WHY STUDENTS AND FAMILIES DID NOT RECEIVE THIS INFORMATION SOONER?**

- When SDSU became aware of the COVID-19 impact on the admissions criteria for the class of 2021, it based its decision-making and communication with the District regarding the Compact for Success on the following principles:
  - Maintaining SDSU’s long time commitment to our historic partnership in promoting preparation, access, and success for Sweetwater students admitted to SDSU through the Compact for Success (CFS) program.
  - Providing clarity for the CFS class of 2021 and their families, who are currently in the college planning and application process to prevent any possible disruptions.
  - Maintaining readiness benchmarks that will allow SDSU to appropriately project admission and enrollment for the class of 2021, with the goal of providing the historical levels of access and support so that students may reach their personal and academic career goals.
- To this end, SDSU engaged in meaningful and extensive conversations with the Sweetwater District. The objective was to be sure it was arriving at a solution for the Compact and its unique set of circumstances that maintained the greatest number of options for the class of 2021 with the least amount of disruptions to what students and families were familiar . When decisions were reached, the district was notified.

#### **WHY DOES CFS REQUIRE SAT/ACT SCORES WHEN SDSU DOES NOT REQUIRE THEM FOR 2021 GRADUATES?**

- It is first important to clarify the plan in place. The SAT/ACT remain **available options** to satisfy Compact Readiness because SDSU did not want to further limit the ways that students could demonstrate readiness, especially given COVID-19-related disruptions. Unfortunately, this detail was not clearly articulated to students and families, and has created some confusion.
- For additional clarification, the Compact for Success is a **unique** agreement between SUHSD and SDSU that relies on a balance of specific criteria designed to provide both access **and** success for SUHSD students. Due to COVID-19, CFS was faced with the loss of key benchmarks\* that would have determined the readiness that is key to student success at SDSU.
  - \*Given that the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) was not administered in Spring 2020, the option to use the Early Assessment Program (EAP) via the CAASPP will not be available to determine Compact Readiness for the class of 2021. This eliminates the option to enroll in and complete a year-long, senior level course in English or math to satisfy Compact Readiness.
- Changes to general admissions criteria due to COVID-19 should not have been interpreted as changes to the Compact Readiness criteria, which are distinct and separate from CSU readiness benchmarks. For the Compact, demonstrating readiness is a vital part of the agreement. The

inability to accurately assess, challenges the viability of the Compact under the circumstances presented by COVID-19.

- Regarding the SAT/ACT, removing the tests as options during the pandemic, and with no viable and quickly accessible alternatives, may have further diminished our ability to honor the terms and spirit of the CFS agreement. However, given the CSU guidance, SDSU did eliminate the requirement for all students to take the SAT/ACT for admission consideration.
- The decision not to remove the SAT/ACT as options to satisfy readiness was also based on SDSU's understanding that the tests would be offered at sites within the District. If the District decides not to offer its own sites for testing, students and their families should work with their schools and counselors to explore other test sites as well as the other criteria available to satisfy Compact Readiness.

Note: Due to recent changes, students have the option to enroll in and complete a year-long, senior level course in English or math to satisfy Compact Readiness.

#### **HOW IS SDSU MAKING ACCESS MORE DIFFICULT FOR COMPACT STUDENTS?**

- SDSU has been and continues to be committed to our partnership with the Sweetwater Union High School District and both access and success for SUHSD students remains our highest priority.
- While COVID-19 has presented serious challenges to the viability of the Compact for the class of 2021, SDSU has worked diligently to honor this agreement and our stated commitment to our students, families, and community.
- We recognize that options and resources are limited for SUHSD students and families as they navigate the continually evolving changes and challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic and have worked to keep as many options available as possible.

#### **IS SDSU WILLING TO EXPAND THE OPTIONS TO DEMONSTRATE COMPACT READINESS FOR THE CLASS OF 2021?**

- Yes. SDSU will extend eligible SAT/ACT test dates to include those in December 2020.
- SDSU is also willing to allow students the additional option to demonstrate readiness by earning a minimum grade of B in approved yearlong senior-year English courses and/or mathematics/quantitative courses (without CAASPP scores). Contact your counselor for more details.

Thank you for your attention to this important information.



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