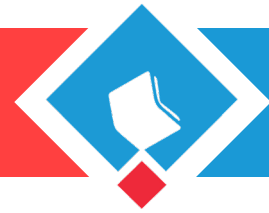




CORNERSTONE
ACADEMIC

Understanding Standardized Testing

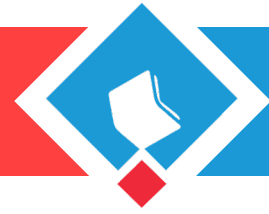
Duluth High School • Wednesday, October 4, 2023



WHAT IS A STANDARDIZED TEST?

- ▶ A test that is administered and scored in a consistent, or standard, manner.

- ▶ Examples
 - ▶ SAT & ACT
 - ▶ PSAT/NMSQT
 - ▶ AP & IB
 - ▶ CRCT
 - ▶ ITBS
 - ▶ MCAT
 - ▶ GMAT
 - ▶ GRE
 - ▶ LSAT



STANDARDIZED TESTING IN HIGH SCHOOL

PSAT

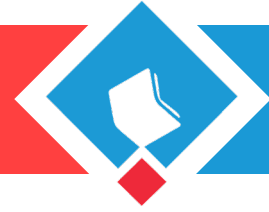
- PSAT 8/9 is administered to 8th and 9th grade students
- PSAT/NMSQT is administered to 10th and 11th grade students
- Scholarship qualifying exam
- National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test

SAT

- The College Board
- ~1.5 million test-takers in the class of 2022
- College entrance exam

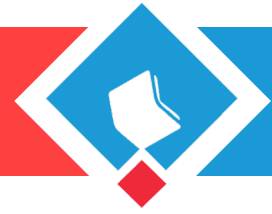
ACT

- ACT, Inc.
- ~1.3 million test-takers in the class of 2022
- College entrance exam



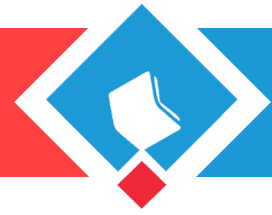
PSAT v. SAT v. ACT

- Which one(s) should I take?
- PSAT
 - The PSAT/NMSQT is used to award scholarships to students
 - It typically doesn't play a role in the college admissions process unless you are awarded a scholarship
- SAT & ACT
 - These are college entrance exams
 - Your SAT/ACT scores are submitted along with your college applications
 - Colleges/Universities can use these scores to determine your eligibility for admission, financial aid, athletic programs, scholarships, etc.



COMPONENTS OF A COLLEGE APPLICATION



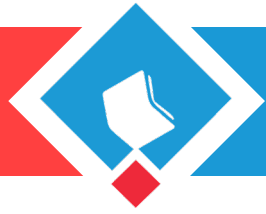


NACAC ADMISSION TRENDS SURVEY 2017

TABLE 7. PERCENTAGE OF COLLEGES ATTRIBUTING DIFFERENT LEVELS OF IMPORTANCE TO FACTORS IN ADMISSION DECISIONS: FIRST-TIME FRESHMEN, FALL 2017

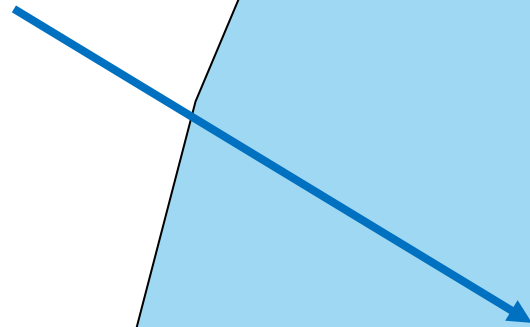
Factor	N	Considerable Importance	Moderate Importance	Limited Importance	No Importance
Grades in All Courses	220	74.5	15.0	5.5	5.0
Grades in College Prep Courses	220	73.2	16.8	5.9	4.1
Strength of Curriculum	219	62.1	21.9	8.7	7.3
Admission Test Scores (SAT, ACT)	221	45.7	37.1	12.2	5.0
Essay or Writing Sample	220	23.2	33.2	24.1	19.5
Student's Demonstrated Interest	218	16.1	23.9	28.0	32.1
Counselor Recommendation	218	15.1	40.4	26.6	17.9
Teacher Recommendation	219	14.2	40.2	26.5	19.2
Class Rank	220	9.1	29.1	34.1	27.7
Extracurricular Activities	219	6.4	42.9	32.0	18.7
Portfolio	219	6.4	11.9	26.9	54.8
Subject Test Scores (AP, IB)	219	5.5	18.3	35.2	41.1
Interview	219	5.5	16.4	28.3	49.8
Work	217	4.1	28.6	36.9	30.4
State Graduation Exam Scores	218	2.3	8.7	18.8	70.2
SAT II Scores	216	1.9	5.6	14.8	77.8

SOURCE: NACAC Admission Trends Survey, 2018–19.



WHAT'S A GOOD SCORE?

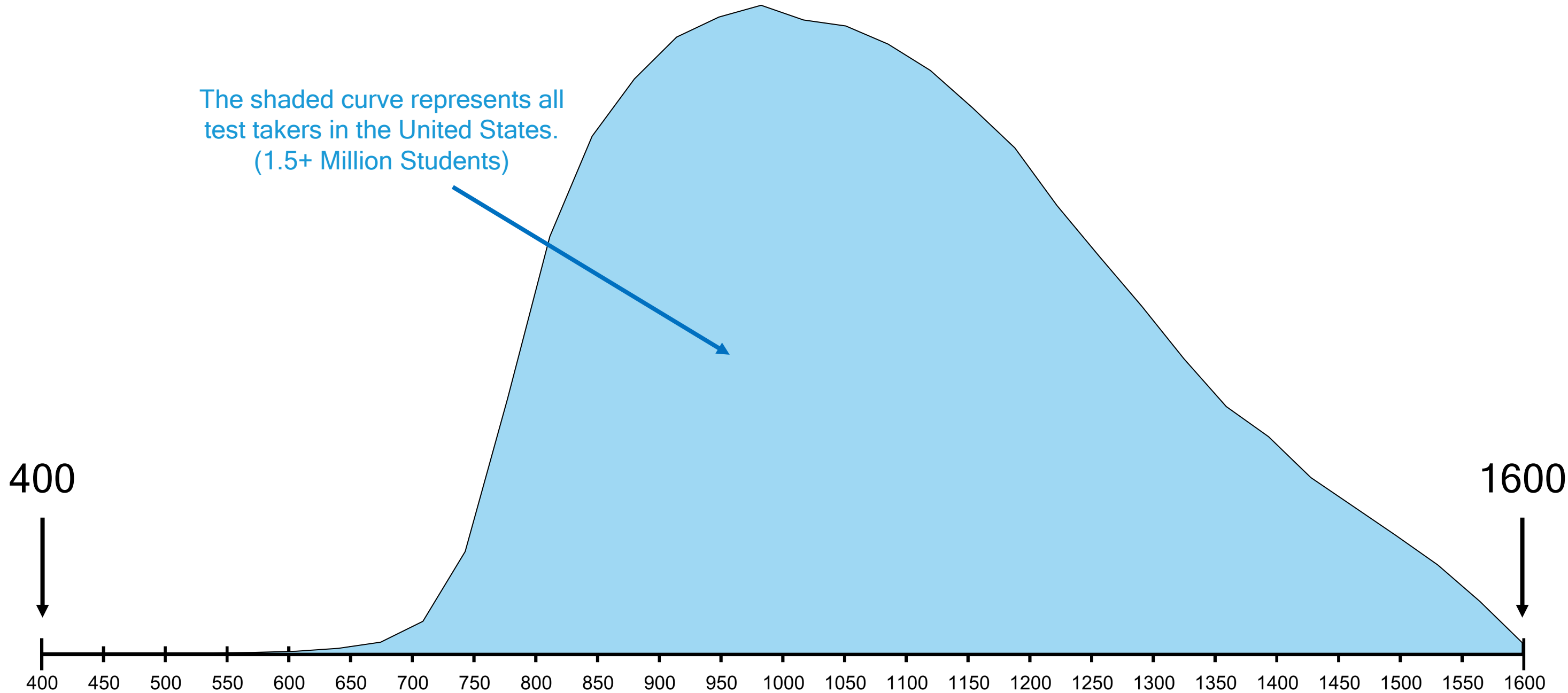
The shaded curve represents all test takers in the United States.
(1.5+ Million Students)

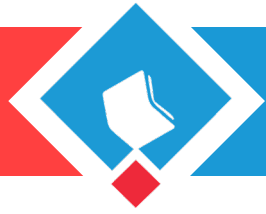


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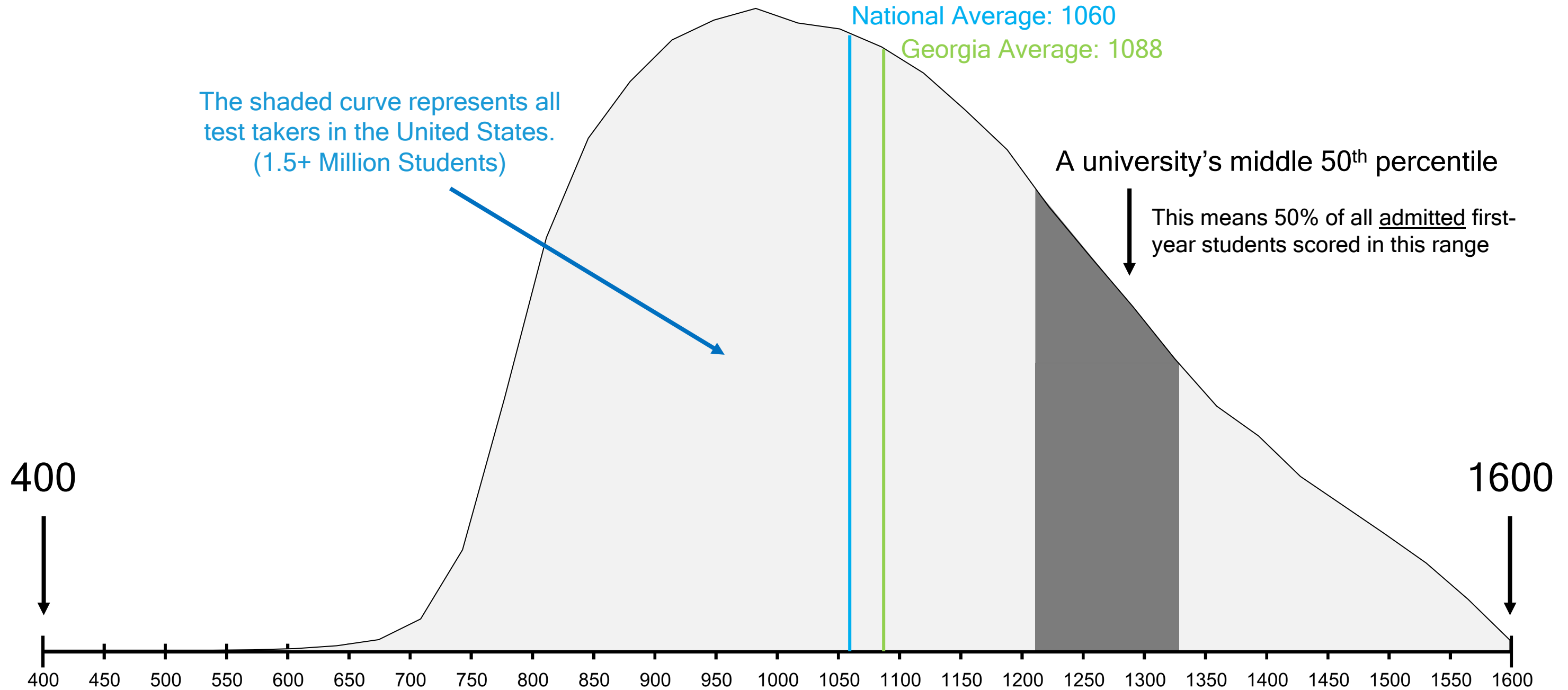
1600

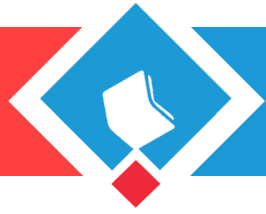
400 450 500 550 600 650 700 750 800 850 900 950 1000 1050 1100 1150 1200 1250 1300 1350 1400 1450 1500 1550 1600



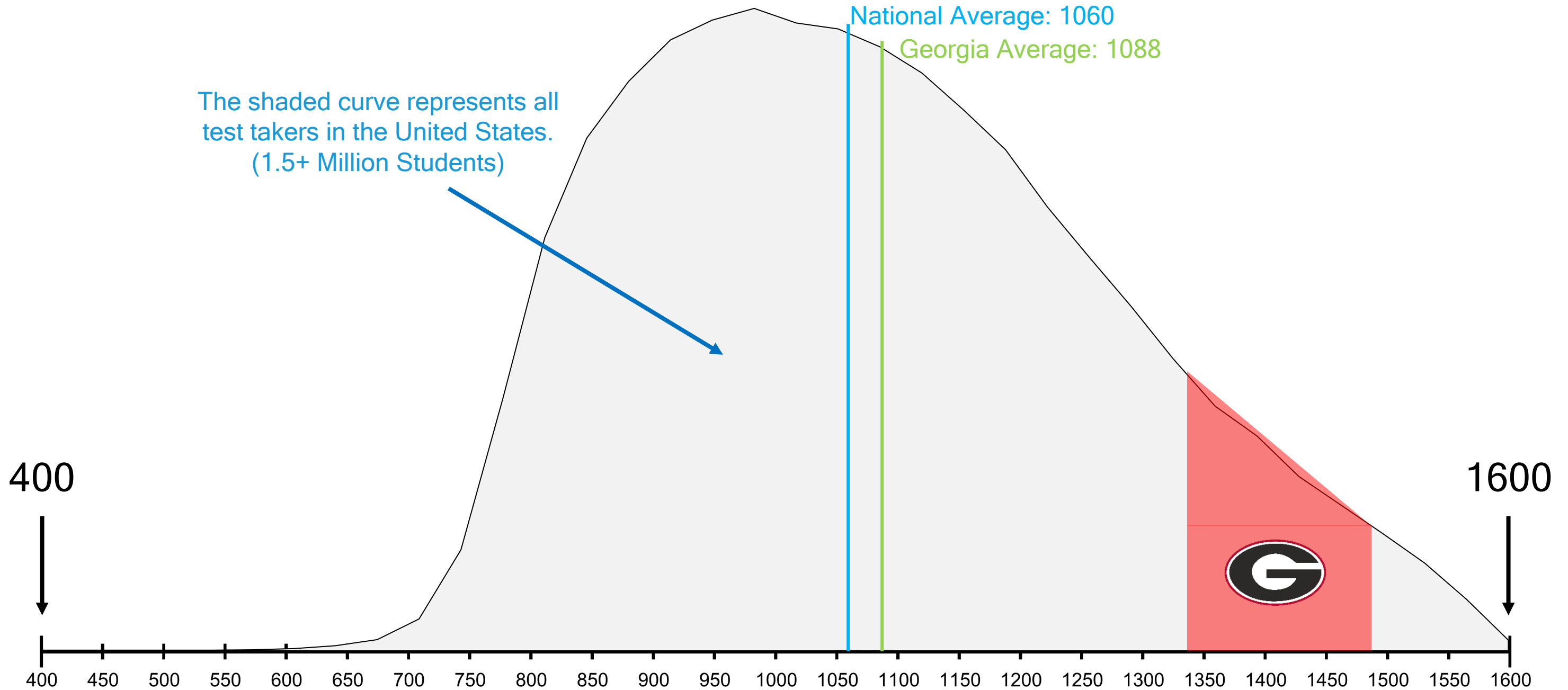


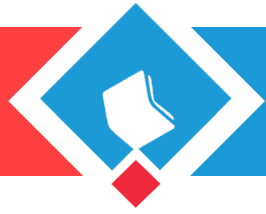
WHAT'S A GOOD SCORE?



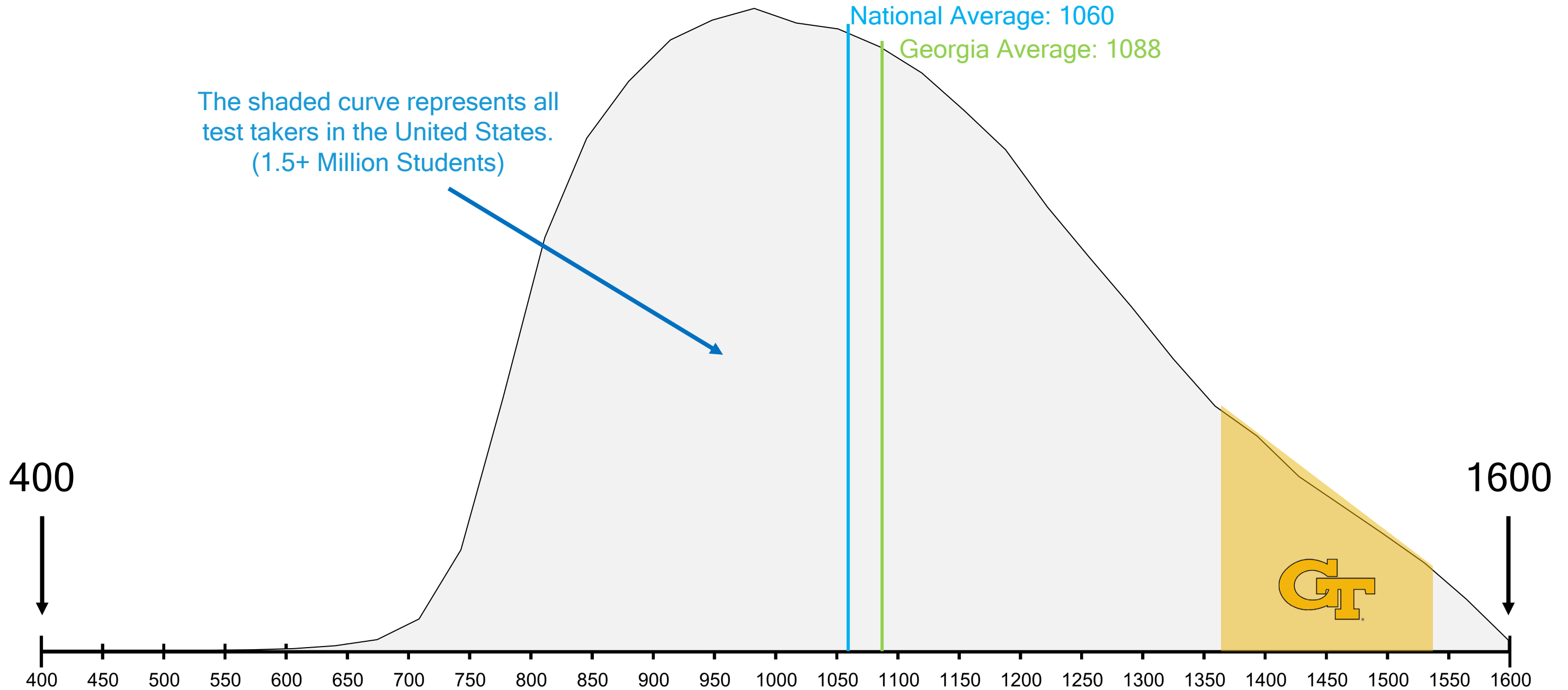


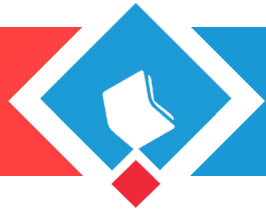
WHAT'S A GOOD SCORE?



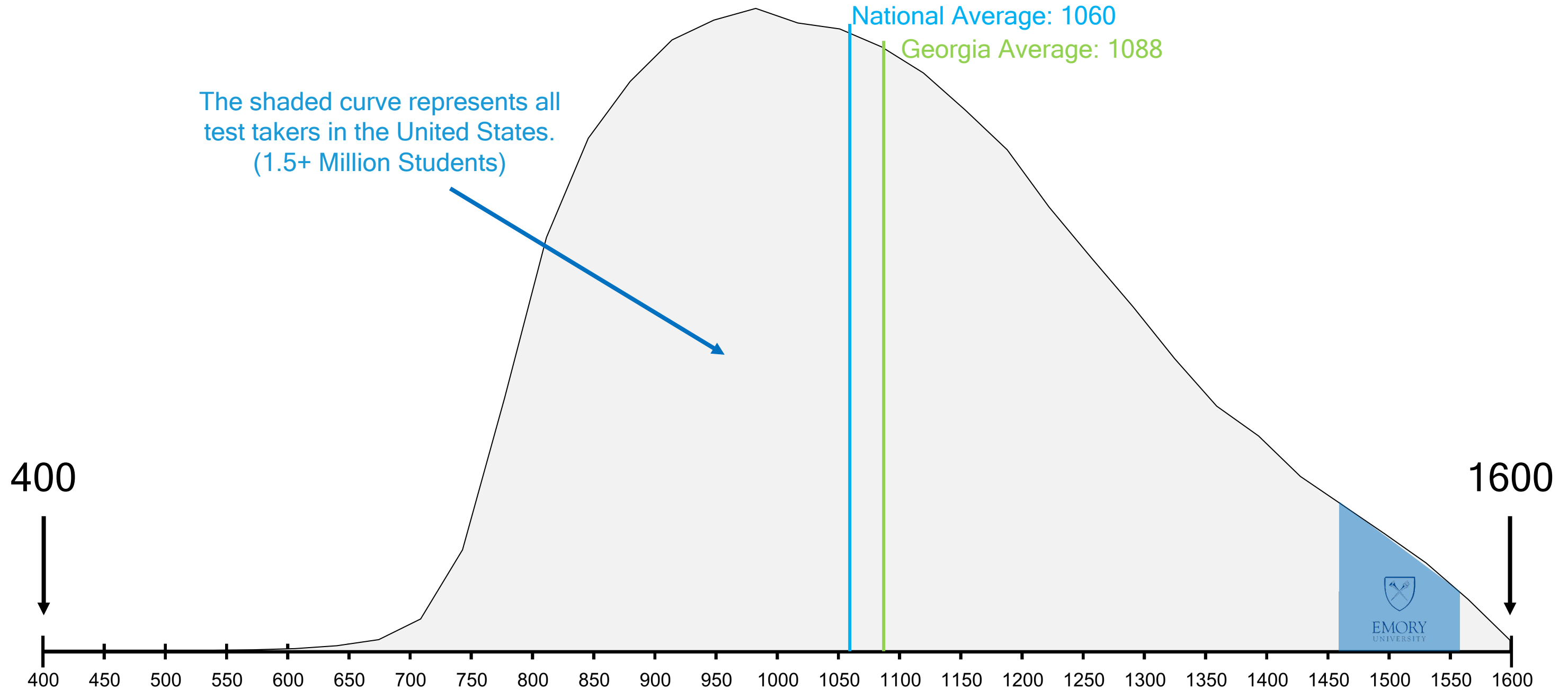


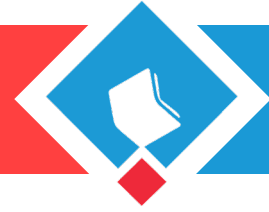
WHAT'S A GOOD SCORE?





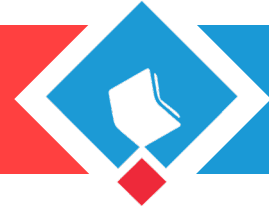
WHAT'S A GOOD SCORE?





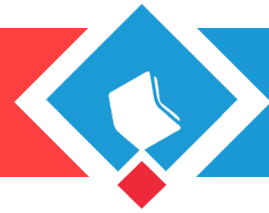
SAT vs. ACT

- What's the difference between the ACT and the SAT?
 - Time per question, difficulty of questions, skillset emphasis
- Is one exam easier than the other?
- Which exam do the universities prefer?
- What's up with the guessing penalty?
- Which exam should students take?



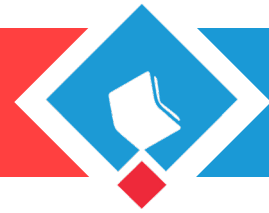
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- What is a good SAT/ACT score?
- Can I study by myself and increase my scores?
- When should I prepare formally for the exams?
- What is the testing policy at universities?
 - **Test-Required (UGA, Georgia Tech)**
 - **Test Optional (Emory)**
 - **Test Flexible (GSU, KSU, etc.)**
 - **Test Blind (None in Georgia)**



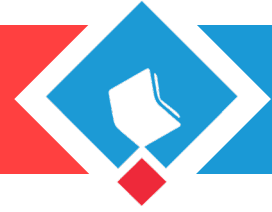
CONSEQUENCES OF TESTING POLICIES

- Observations over the past year:
 - Reporting was "far higher ... among applicants living in more affluent communities, as defined by local median household income in applicants' local ZIP codes."
 - Underrepresented minority students and first-generation students were less likely to report than were other students.
 - While test scores declined for all groups, "more selective member institutions, both public and private, more often received test scores with applications than did less selective colleges."



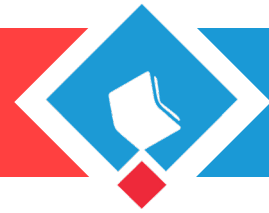
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- My score is _____, and I am a _____ in high school...
 - Is my SAT/ACT score a good score?
 - Seniors If you are 70+/2+ points from your target score
 - Juniors If you are 140+/4+ points from your target score
 - Sophomores If you are 250+/6+ points from your target score



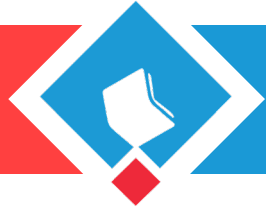
SAT v. ACT

- Exam Structure and Length



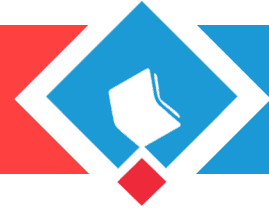
THE NEW DIGITAL SAT AND PSAT

- Implemented as follows:
 - International SAT: Spring 2023
 - PSAT Related Assessments: Fall 2023
 - USA SAT: Spring 2024 (SAT)
- What's staying the same:
 - Knowledge and skills
 - Same scoring scale
 - Same accommodations
- What's changing:
 - Digital (laptop, iPad, or Chromebook)
 - Shorter (2 hours and 15 minutes)
 - Adaptive sections
- What sophomores should do:
 - Take a practice test for the current version as soon as possible
 - Try to get a good score on the current version because you will likely have to take the new version when applying to colleges



WHAT CAN STUDENTS DO TO PREPARE?

- Understand the types of questions and answers they will see on the SAT/ACT exams
- Better understand the structure of the English Language
 - Syntax
 - Grammar
 - Conventions
 - Vernacular vs. Standard Written English
- Learn to master your instincts
 - English
 - Putting your ego aside
 - Avoid panicking
- Reinforce the critical Math concepts learned in grades 6 through 10 thoroughly which the SAT/ACT recalls
- Take an official SAT and ACT exam under timed conditions to better understand which questions students will face
- Encourage daily active reading at or above grade level
 - Reading vs “Reading”



WHAT CAN STUDENTS DO TO PREPARE?

- Take rigorous/challenging courses
 - AP or IB classes
 - Dual Enrollment
 - Don't forget everything after finals!
- Participate in quality formal instruction
 - Classroom instruction
 - Individual instruction
- Ask for help!
 - Counselors
 - Teachers
 - Call us



OUR INFORMATION

- Contact Information
 - www.CornerstoneAcademic.com
 - achieve@cornerstoneacademic.com
 - (404) 919-7227
 - Town Center Park in Suwanee, GA
- Services
 - SAT/ACT Prep
 - 1-on-1 Tutoring
 - Free Practice SAT/ACT
 - College Application Advisement

