

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
205 EAST 42<sup>ND</sup> STREET  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017**

**CALENDAR**

**JULY 30, 2020**

**NO. 1. THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK – APPROVAL OF A SPECIAL COVID-19 TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF STANDARDIZED TESTING REQUIREMENTS FOR UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSION:**

WHEREAS, On March 13, 2020, in response to the threat presented by the spread of the coronavirus, COVID-19, and in an effort to reduce the density of faculty, staff and students on City University of New York (the “University”) campuses, the University announced that, effective on March 19, 2020 all University academic courses would be moved on-line or alternatively to a distance learning modality; and

WHEREAS, On March 20, 2020, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced Executive Order 202.6, or the “New York State PAUSE” Executive Order, a 10-point policy directive, which directed all non-essential businesses statewide to close in-office personnel functions and temporarily ban all non-essential gatherings of individuals of any size for any reason; and

WHEREAS, Notwithstanding the overwhelming success the State of New York and the City of New York have experienced with the recent reduction in the spread of infections and number of deaths resulting from COVID-19, all as a direct result of the efforts made by and the guidelines set out by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo’s administration, the COVID-19 virus continues to pose a threat to the continuity of business and education; and

WHEREAS, The University’s highest priority is to protect the health and safety of current and prospective students, faculty and staff while creating the conditions for our students to make progress in their academic programs, for our faculty to advance their creative and scholarly activities, and our staff to meet our myriad programmatic goals; and

WHEREAS, Standardized testing agencies are advocating for flexibility around test score requirements given the cancellation of national testing days and uncertainty around future testing administration due to the COVID-19 public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, The National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) recently urged institutions to reassess the use of the SAT and ACT admissions exams in light the disruptive effects the COVID-19 public health emergency is having on graduating high school students and academic schedules; and

WHEREAS, A number of universities and colleges across the country have temporarily changed their standardized testing policies for admissions by making the standardized SAT and ACT admissions tests optional or suspending their use for the Fall 2020 academic period due to the inability of many high schools seniors to prepare for such admissions exams as a result of the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, In light of the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency and to enable prospective students to effectively plan, it is imperative that the University communicate its position regarding the use of standardized admissions tests for the Spring 2021, Fall 2021, and Spring 2022 admission cycles; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That effective immediately, the University will implement a temporary suspension of standardized admissions testing requirements (e.g., SAT/ACT) for undergraduate admissions and will communicate to prospective students that it shall not consider standardized admissions tests in evaluating their applications; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this action will apply for the Spring 2021, Fall 2021, and Spring 2022 admission cycles only and the Chancellor shall take such actions as are reasonable and necessary to give effect to the foregoing while maintaining the University's commitment to inclusive excellence.

EXPLANATION: A core feature of the University's mission is to provide opportunities to lift all citizens of New York City, both economically and intellectually. By implementing this temporary suspension of the standardized testing requirements for admissions, the University responds to the uncertain and rapidly changing educational situation brought on by the current public health crisis.