

Joseph Soares

Professor of Sociology at Wake Forest University

Winston-Salem, NC, US

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Biography

Joseph Soares is a driving force behind the national movement to rethink college admissions and adopt test-optional admissions policies. His research has shown that high school rank is actually the best predictor of college success, while performance on the standardized tests such as the SAT and ACT are closely linked to race, family income and parental educational level.

His most recent book, *SAT Wars*, demonstrates the far-reaching and mostly negative impact of the tests on American life and calls for nothing less than a national policy change. His 2007 book, *The Power of Privilege*, was instrumental to Wake Forest's decision to become the first top-30 national university to go test-optional in admissions, broadening the definition of academic merit and encouraging applications from high-achieving students from a wide expanse of backgrounds and viewpoints.

He organized a national conference called "Rethinking Admissions" at Wake Forest, which featured presidents, admissions deans and researchers from universities such as Berkeley, Duke, Georgia, Harvard, Howard, Ohio State, Princeton, Spelman, Texas, Virginia, Wake Forest, and Yale. He has presented at regional and national conferences of the Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools, the College Board, the Southern Association for College Admission Counseling, and the National Association for College Admission Counseling.

Prior to joining the Wake Forest faculty, Soares taught as a lecturer at Harvard and was an assistant and associate professor of sociology at Yale. In 2008, he was a member of the national education policy group for Barack Obama's presidential campaign. He has recently been quoted in the *Washington Post*, *Huffington Post*, and the *New York Times*.

Areas of Expertise

Sociology, Standardized Tests, National Educational Policies, Social Discrimination, Privilege in Society, Societal Trends

Education

Harvard University

Ph.D. Sociology

Harvard University

M.A. Sociology

Rutgers University
B.A. Sociology

Accomplishments

Outstanding Book Award
2000

Awarded by the American Sociological Association, Culture Section.

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