

Constructing a Computerized Psychometric Adaptive Test for University Applicants with Disabilities

Avital Moshinsky and Cathrael Kazin

National Institute for Testing and Evaluation, Jerusalem, Israel

Abstract

In recent years, there has been a large increase in the number of university applicants requesting special accommodations for university entrance exams. The Israeli National Institute for Testing and Evaluation (NITE) administers a Psychometric Entrance Test to assist universities in Israel in selecting undergraduates (comparable to the SAT in the USA). Since universities in Israel do not permit "flagging" of candidates receiving special testing accommodations, such scores are treated as identical to scores attained under regular testing conditions. The increase in the number of students receiving testing accommodations and the prohibition on "flagging" have brought to the focus certain psychometric issues pertaining to the fairness of testing students with disabilities and the comparability of special and standard testing conditions. To address these issues, NITE has developed a computerized adaptive psychometric test for administration to examinees with disabilities. The paper discusses the process of developing the computerized test and ensuring its comparability to the P&P test. The paper also presents data on the operational computerized test.