



# POLICIES

The University of North Carolina  
*Board of Governors*

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700.1.1

Adopted 02/10/84

Amended 04/12/00

Amended 04/11/03

## MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSION

### I. MINIMUM COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the requirement that students should hold a high school diploma or its equivalent, the University of North Carolina Board of Governors has, since 1988, established minimum course requirements for undergraduate admission. The requirements in effect in 2001-02 were first implemented in the fall of 1990, and will continue until the fall semester of 2004, when a second language requirement will be added. Effective in the fall of 2006, a fourth unit of mathematics will be required for admission. These requirements are summarized below. They are based on actions taken by the Board on April 14, 2000, in response to the report *Background on the Increase in UNC Board of Governors' Minimum Course Requirements for Undergraduate Admission*, which is available on the world wide web at: [www.ga.unc.edu/UNCGA/assessment/MCR\\_BACKINFO.pdf](http://www.ga.unc.edu/UNCGA/assessment/MCR_BACKINFO.pdf).

#### Effective until Fall 2004

Four course units<sup>1</sup> in **English** emphasizing grammar, composition, and literature, and

Three course units of **mathematics**, in any of the following combinations:

- algebra I and II, and geometry,
- algebra I and II, and one unit beyond algebra II, or
- integrated math I, II, and III.

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<sup>1</sup> "Course units" as defined in these requirements may include those high school-level courses taken and passed by an applicant after graduating from high school, as well as those taken while enrolled as a high school student. For some transfer students and students who graduated from high school prior to 1990, special considerations have been made.

It is recommended that prospective students take a mathematics course unit in the twelfth grade.

Three course units in **science**, including

- at least one unit in a life or **biological science** (for example, biology),
- at least one unit in **physical science** (for example, physical science, chemistry, physics), and
- at least one **laboratory course**.

Two course units in **social studies**, including one unit in **U.S. history**, but an applicant who does not have the unit in U.S. history may be admitted on the condition that at least three semester hours in that subject will be passed by the end of the sophomore year.

**Effective in Fall 2004 and Fall 2005**

Six course units in **language**, including

- four units in **English** emphasizing grammar, composition, and literature, and
- two units of a **language other than English**.

Three course units of **mathematics**, in any of the following combinations:

- algebra I and II, and geometry,
- algebra I and II, and one unit beyond algebra II, or
- integrated math I, II, and III.

It is recommended that prospective students take a mathematics course unit in the twelfth grade.

Three course units in **science**, including

- at least one unit in a life or **biological science** (for example, biology),
- at least one unit in **physical science** (for example, physical science, chemistry, physics), and
- at least one **laboratory course**.

Two course units in **social studies**, including one unit in **U.S. history**, but an applicant who does not have the unit in U.S. history may be admitted on the condition that at least three semester hours in that subject will be passed by the end of the sophomore year.

**Effective in Fall 2006**

Six course units in **language**, including

- four units in **English** emphasizing grammar, composition, and literature, and
- two units of a **language other than English**.

Four course units of **mathematics**, in any of the following combinations:

- algebra I and II, geometry, and one unit beyond algebra II,
- algebra I and II, and two units beyond algebra II, or
- integrated math I, II, and III, and one unit beyond integrated math III.

*(The fourth unit of math affects applicants to all institutions except the North Carolina School of the Arts.)* It is recommended that prospective students take a mathematics course unit in the twelfth grade.

Three course units in **science**, including

- at least one unit in a life or **biological science** (for example, biology),
- at least one unit in **physical science** (for example, physical science, chemistry, physics), and
- at least one **laboratory course**.

Two course units in **social studies**, including one unit in **U.S. history**, but an applicant who does not have the unit in U.S. history may be admitted on the condition that at least three semester hours in that subject will be passed by the end of the sophomore year.

**Articulation with Graduation Requirements in the North Carolina Public High Schools**

Following the board's change in minimum course requirements, the North Carolina State Board of Education revised the requirements for high school graduation by offering four courses of study: (1) career; (2) college tech prep; (3) college prep; and (4) occupational. These requirements are summarized below. Option 3 tracks the UNC minimum course requirements closely.

# NC COURSE OF STUDY GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS\*

Content Area	CAREER Course of Study Requirements	COLLEGE TECH PREP Course of Study Requirements	COLLEGE PREP Course of Study (UNC 4-yr. College) Requirements	OCCUPATIONAL Course of Study
English I, II, III, IV	4 credits I, II, III, IV	4 credits I, II, III, IV	4 credits I, II, III, IV	This course of study shall be made available for certain students with disabilities who have an IEP, beginning with first time ninth graders in 2000-01. Curriculum content requirements will be presented to the State Board of Education by May 2000.
Mathematics	3 credits Including Algebra I	3 credits Alg. I, Geometry, Alg. II or Alg. I, Technical Math I & II or Integrated Mathematics I, II & III	3 credits Alg. I, Alg. II, Geometry (or higher level math course for which Alg. II is prerequisite) (Recommended one course unit in 12 <sup>th</sup> grade) or Integrated Mathematics I, II & III	
Science	3 credits a physical science course Biology earth/env. science	3 credits a physical science course related to career pathway (CP) Biology earth/env. science	3 credits a physical science course a life or biological course (Biology) earth/env. science	
Social Studies	3 credits Govt./Econ. (ELPS) US History World Studies	3 credits Govt./Econ. (ELPS) US History World Studies	3 credits Govt./Econ. (ELPS) US History World Studies (UNC admission policy requires 2 courses to meet minimum admission requirements - US History and 1 elective)	
Second Language	Not Required	Not Required	Not Required Recommended at least two (2) course units in one second language with one course unit taken in 12 <sup>th</sup> grade	

\* Effective for ninth graders entering for the first time in 2000-01.

Note: Courses that meet the following requirements may be taken prior to grade 9: Algebra I & II, Geometry, Advanced Math, Technical Math I & II, English I, Biology, ELPS, US History, World Studies. However, the student must still complete the required number of courses for that subject area in grades 9-12.

Computer Skills	A specific course is not required but students must demonstrate proficiency through state testing (starting with the graduating class of 2001)	A specific course is not required but students must demonstrate proficiency through state testing (starting with the graduating class of 2001)	A specific course is not required but students must demonstrate proficiency through state testing (starting with the graduating class of 2001)	
Health & Physical Ed.	<b>1 credit</b> Health/Phys. Ed.	<b>1 credit</b> Health/Phys. Ed.	<b>1 credit</b> Health/Phys. Ed.	
Career/Technical	<b>4 units of credits</b> Select courses appropriate for career pathway to include a second level (advanced) course	<b>4 units of credits</b> Select courses appropriate for career pathway to include a second level (advanced) course	Not required	
Arts Ed. (Visual Arts, Dance, Music, Theatre Arts)	Not required (local decision)	Not required (local decision)	Not required (local decision)	
Electives or other requirements	<b>2 Elective Credits and other credits designated by the LEA</b> Proficiency on exit exam	<b>2 Elective Credits and other credits designated by the LEA</b> Proficiency on exit exam	<b>6 Elective Credits and other credits designated by the LEA</b> Proficiency on exit exam	
Total	Depends on local requirements	Depends on local requirements	Depends on local requirements	

## Notification of Stakeholders and Educational Policymakers

The President is directed to develop plans and further recommendations to inform key stakeholders and educational policymakers of the changes in requirements.

## II. OTHER ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

All applicants for admission to any campus, except those exempted by current campus policies, must submit a standardized test score. The SAT I is preferred, but students may also submit the ACT.

Students applying for admission for fall 2006 or after, for whom standardized test scores are required, must submit either the new SAT I (which includes the writing component) or the ACT with the writing component. The ACT without the writing component will not be acceptable as a standardized test for admission after the spring semester of 2006.

The President may establish regulations to implement this policy.