# The University of North Carolina **Board of Governors**



Long-Range Plan 2004-2009



**UNC Standards for Admission** 







THE UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLINA



























## VII. University of North Carolina Standards for Admission

The Board of Governors first established Minimum Course Requirements (MCRs) for undergraduate admission to any of the sixteen campuses in 1988. The initial requirements were first implemented in 1990. Campuses could add additional requirements beyond the MCRs, but every campus would insure all students would have a base level of knowledge. The original requirements are detailed in the first block below.

During the 1990's, the Board of Governors studied the impact of course preparation on the success of students in college as well as the effects on retention and graduation. The results indicated the more years of mathematics and foreign language preparation in high school, the greater the success rates in college. The Board then decided in 2000 to raise the Minimum Course Requirements to require two years of a second language and a fourth unit of mathematics beyond the Algebra II level. At the time this decision was made, North Carolina became only the third state to raise the minimum mathematics requirements to four units.

The second language requirement becomes effective for students who will enter the university in Fall 2004 and the mathematics requirement will be effective for students entering in 2006. These additions are described below in the second and third blocks, respectively.

# Minimum Course Requirements for Undergraduate Admission to UNC Institutions

Individual constituent institutions may require other courses in addition to the minimum requirements. For some transfer students and students who graduated from high school prior to 1990, special considerations have been made.

### Effective until Fall 2004

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

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

- 1. algebra I and II, and geometry,
- 2. 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:

- 1. at least one unit in a **life or biological science** (for example, biology),
- 2. at least one unit in **physical science** (for example, physical science, chemistry, physics), and
- 3. 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;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.

### 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:

- 1. algebra I and II, and geometry,
- 2. algebra I and II, and one unit beyond algebra II, or
- 3. 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:

- 1. at least one unit in a **life or biological science** (for example, biology),
  - 2. at least one unit in **physical science** (for example, physical science, chemistry, physics), and
- 3. 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:

- 1. algebra I and II, geometry, and one unit beyond algebra II,
- 2. algebra I and II, and two units beyond algebra II, or
- 3. 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:

- 1. 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
- 3. 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.

#### Standardized Tests for Admission

All applicants for admission to any of the constituent campuses, 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.

Beginning in March 2005, the College Board will introduce the New SAT I with a new writing component. Students applying for admission for fall 2006 and beyond, for whom standardized test scores are required, must submit either the New SAT I with 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.