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Regulations on Minimum Requirements for Undergraduate Admission

This regulation confirms the minimum undergraduate course requirements to be in effect at all constituent institutions.

I. Minimum Course Requirements (MCR) for Undergraduate Admissions

For degree-seeking applicants for first-time undergraduate[1] admission, the following courses will be required. An institution may add specific requirements.

A. MCR shall include:

Six course units[2] in **language**, including
- four units in **English** emphasizing grammar, composition, and literature, and
- two consecutive units of a **language other than English**.

Four course units of **mathematics**, in any of the following combinations:
- common core I, II, and III, and one unit beyond common core III;
- algebra I and II, geometry, and one unit 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 University of North Carolina School of the Arts.) In some cases, students may combine math courses from the different combinations listed above to meet the requirement. 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.

[1]A first-time undergraduate shall be defined as a degree-seeking student with no prior post-secondary experience (after high school) attending any institution for the first time at an undergraduate level. This includes students enrolled in academic or occupational programs. It also includes students enrolled in the fall term who attended college for the first time in the prior summer.

[2]"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.

B. For any individual who receives admission by this exception and has not met the requirement for the fourth unit of mathematics, then the student will have 12 months from the first day of the first semester of the first year to fulfill the requirement.

The course taken to fulfill this mathematics requirement may count as elective or general education credit.

II. Minimum Admissions Requirements (MAR).

All degree-seeking applicants for first-time admission as undergraduates must have:

A. A minimum 2.5 weighted high school grade point average (GPA);[3] and

B. A minimum SAT of 800 or ACT of 17.

1. The SAT score scale on which this minimum standard is based is the sum of the critical reading and mathematics subtests, a sum that has a possible range of 400-1600. The ACT score scale on which this minimum standard is based is the average (rounded to the nearest whole number) of the four subtests, and the possible range is 1-36.

2. The standards may be met by a "superscore," defined as a combination of subtests from more than one administration of the same test. However, the SAT scores may not be calculated by conversion of ACT scores, or vice versa.

III. Campus Criteria

Any campus may set admissions requirements that exceed minimums established by the Board of Governors upon the approval of their campus board of trustees.

IV. Applicants Who May Require Special Consideration or Exceptions to Policies

Each campus shall establish policies describing the admission of students requiring special consideration with regard to MCR or students for whom exceptions are made to MAR. Such students would not otherwise be admissible at the institution. Further evaluation of their records is necessary. Any student admitted who would not otherwise be admissible must show demonstrable promise for academic success at the institution. Policies must include faculty participation in the decision-making process and must be approved by the campus board of trustees.

A. Students Applying for Admission as First-Time Undergraduates

Institutions may waive some minimum course requirements for applicants who have superior academic records in high school, as measured by grades, rank in class, test scores, or the rigor of courses taken, or who demonstrate special talents. These applicants must have completed the eleventh grade and met virtually all of the minimum course requirements as well as requirements for high school graduation. Any student being admitted under the fourth math exception must comply with section I.B, above.

[3]The weighted GPA, as calculated from an unweighted base scale of four points, where added weighting is applied to accelerated, honors, and dual enrollment coursework.

1. The following groups of first-time, undergraduate applicants are exempt from one or both of the MAR criteria (grade point average and test scores), although institutions may set alternative undergraduate admissions requirements for these populations. Students in these categories are not counted as Chancellor's Exceptions.

a. Applicants who are at least 21 years old at the start of their first undergraduate term are exempt from both MAR and MCR;

b. Applicants who have earned at least 24 transferrable credits from a regionally accredited postsecondary institution[4] are exempt from both MAR and MCR;

c. Graduates of home schools are exempt from the minimum GPA requirement but must meet the minimum test score and MCR;

d. Graduates of non-traditional high schools that do not have grades or operate on a scale other than that on which this admissions policy is based are exempt from the minimum GPA requirement but must meet the minimum test score and MCR; and

e. Graduates of foreign high schools for which high school GPA and/or required admissions test scores are not provided, or are provided on a scale that is not comparable to the GPA scale on which this admissions policy is based, may be exempt from the MAR.

2. In instances where an admissions officer requires supplemental information about academic performance in order to enforce the Board of Governors standards, the ACT with writing or SAT II achievement tests shall be considered acceptable. This regulation limits the supplemental information an admissions officer may request to one of the two tests. Admissions officers should refrain from setting any minimum scores on these tests unless and until they have been validated for predicting graduation and retention and found to be nondiscriminatory with regard to these applicants.[5]

B. Chancellor's Exceptions

1. A Chancellor's Exception may be applied to any first-time undergraduate who:

a. Does not meet the SAT/ACT minimum requirement;[6] and/or

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[4]Transferrable undergraduate credit counted as part of these 24 hours shall also include credit earned at foreign institutions deemed to have the equivalence of regional accreditation. Equivalence of regional accreditation generally refers to recognition by the foreign country's Ministry of Education and/or recognition by a credible organization offering credential evaluation services. Undergraduate credits awarded for AP, IB, or other credit by exam may not be included as part of these 24 hours.

[5]Validation can be either through national, UNC system, or campus data.

[6]Mapping from a below-threshold score on one test to an above-threshold score on another test by means of concordance tables or other methodologies is not permitted.

b. Does not meet the minimum high school GPA requirement.

2. The maximum number of Chancellor's Exceptions is limited to one percent (1%) of the total number of first-time undergraduate applicants accepted in the academic year of admittance.[7] The calculation of this one percent shall exclude the populations described in paragraph IV.A.2.[8]

a. Graduates of home schools shall only be excluded from GPA requirements, not test score requirements.

b. Graduates of high schools that do not have grades shall only be excluded from GPA requirements, not test score requirements.

c. Graduates of high schools with grades on a scale other than that described in I.A., of this regulation shall be excluded from GPA requirements for the purposes of calculating this percentage. However, campuses shall be responsible for applying consistent methodologies for determining applicant admissibility and shall report the alternative grading scales and grade averages to General Administration. General Administration shall monitor the distribution of those alternative grades.

3. Students admitted through Summer Bridge or other summer enhancement programs must still meet MAR or otherwise be counted as Chancellor's Exceptions.

V. Reporting Requirements

A report of the admission of students requiring special consideration and Chancellor's Exceptions must be made annually to the board of trustees at each respective campus. Notation of any special consideration or exceptions shall be required annually as a part of student data reported to General Administration. Responsibility for oversight rests with the chancellor.

[7]Calculation of the exceptions for an academic year will include students granted admission and requiring exception in the summer terms preceding the fall term of that academic year.

[8]Specifically, populations for whom neither GPA nor test scores are required will be excluded from both numerator and denominator in calculating the percentage of Chancellor's Exceptions, and populations for whom one of those components (GPA or test score) is not required will be included in the calculation and assumed to have met the requirement for the non-required component.