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Minimum Requirements for First-time Undergraduate Admissions 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, including a fourth unit of mathematics. These requirements are summarized below.

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:
- common core I, II, III
- 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.

I. 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 12th grade 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 12th grade	
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.	1 credit Health/Phys. Ed.	1 credit Health/Phys. Ed.	1 credit Health/Phys. Ed.	
Career/Technical	4 units of credits Select courses appropriate for career pathway to include a second level (advanced) course	4 units of credits 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 decsion)	Not required (local decision)	Not required (local decision)	

Electives or other requirements	2 Elective Credits and other credits designated by the LEA Proficiency on exit exam	2 Elective Credits and other credits designated by the LEA Proficiency on exit exam	6 Elective Credits and other credits designated by the LEA Proficiency on exit exam	
Total	Depends on local requirements	Depends on local requirements	Depends on local requirements	

II. Minimum Admissions Requirements (MAR)

All applicants for first-time admission must meet minimum high school GPA and SAT/ACT scores. The minimum SAT (mathematics and critical reading) required for admissions is 800 or a composite ACT score of 17. The minimum high school GPA for first-time undergraduates is 2.5 (weighted).

III. Chancellor's Exceptions

The maximum number of chancellor's exceptions is limited to one percent (1%) of the total number of applicants accepted as first-time undergraduates each year. A chancellor's exception may be applied to the SAT/ACT minimum requirement and/or the HSGPA minimum requirement.

IV. Other Admissions Requirements

All applicants for admission to any campus, except those exempted by current campus and/or UNC policies and regulations, must submit a standardized test score. For additional information on admissions see 700.1.1.1 [R], 700.1.1.2 [R], and 700.7.1 [R].

V. Notification of Stakeholders and Educational Policymakers

The president is directed to develop plans and further recommendations to inform key stakeholders and education policymakers of the changes in requirements. The president may establish regulations to implement this policy.