

7. Minimum Admission Requirement (MAR) Pilot Program for ECSU, FSU and NCCU Karrie Dixon

Situation: The president is requesting authorization, following consultation with the Committee on Educational Planning, Policies, and Programs, to authorize a pilot program allowing for a limited exception to Minimum Admissions Requirements (“MAR”) for three campuses: ECSU, FSU, and NCCU.

Background: National research suggests that high school GPA (HSGPA) is a much better predictor of student success than standardized test scores. The three year MAR pilot program will provide an opportunity to test what national research and UNC predictive analytics suggest about the positive correlation between HSGPA and student success. The pilot program will be inclusive of proven academic support services for targeted students who have HSGPAs above the current UNC Minimum Admissions Requirements as set forth in Policy 700.1.1, but who do not meet the current SAT/ACT thresholds required by that Policy.

Assessment: With the Board’s authorization, the President may approve the pilot program at the three UNC institutions beginning with the Fall 2015 term. The President shall monitor the progress of the three year pilot program and provide an annual evaluation and report at the January Board meeting. The Board of Governors may terminate the MAR pilot program pursuant to this authority at any time. The President will establish such other requirements as may be necessary to implement this MAR pilot program.

Action: This item is for a vote.

UNC MAR Pilot Program Proposal

It is recommended that the UNC Board of Governors delegate authority to the President of the University of North Carolina to establish a three year pilot program at (ECSU, FSU and NCCU) authorizing these institutions to admit students who have High School Grade Point Averages (HSGPAs) above the current UNC Minimum Admissions Requirements (MAR) but who do not meet the current SAT/ACT thresholds. This pilot program will be implemented based on a “sliding scale” that allows for differing levels of SAT/ACT, as students’ HSGPAs increase.

National research suggests that high school GPA (HSGPA) is a much better predictor of student success than standardized test scores. The three year MAR pilot program will provide an opportunity to test what national research and UNC predictive analytics suggest about the positive correlation between HSGPA and student success. The pilot program will be inclusive of proven academic support services for targeted students who have demonstrated sustained academic success during high school as measured by their HSGPA. The President shall monitor the progress of the pilot program and provide an annual evaluation and report at the January Board meeting.

Pilot Program Objectives:

- Students will meet Satisfactory Academic Progress, per the UNC Fostering Undergraduate Student Success Policy;
- Students will earn 30 credits per academic year;
- Students receiving financial aid will maintain eligibility by meeting all academic standards as required by Federal Title IV standards; and
- Cohort will achieve 80% first year retention.

Pilot Program Structure:

- Students must participate in required program requirements which may include tutorials, learning communities, individual advising, and will be provided support labs, mentoring, and counseling;
- Each student will sign a contract during an orientation outlining the academic, conduct, and professional expectations of the program;
- Students will complete Gateway courses prescribed for the pilot cohort including English, math, and other courses as required by the respective institution's general education requirements;
- Institutions will monitor all students through the campus' Early Warning System (EWS) at least twice per semester and provide mandatory academic support;
- Institutions will review grades and overall group performance through qualitative and quantitative measures each semester;
- Students will provide feedback in the form of evaluations that assess program activities;
- Students will have an academic plan review session with their advisor at the beginning and conclusion of each semester;
- Students needing additional support will meet with their department chairperson and dean;
- A summary report will be provided to the provost each semester; and
- All students must meet the criteria set forth in the pilot program and must make Satisfactory Academic Progress per the Fostering Undergraduate Student Success policy and regulations.

Metrics used to monitor student success in the MAR pilot program:

- Year-to-year and term-to-term retention
- Four- and six-year graduation rates
- Earned hours toward degree
- Credit hours earned each semester and academic year

- Term and cumulative grade point average
- DWIF grade rates

MAR Pilot Program Reporting:

- Each pilot campus must submit a proposal describing the program design to UNC GA.
- Each pilot campus must submit a comprehensive review of each cohort of the pilot in reaching its goals and submit this report and programmatic next steps to UNC GA.
- The President will report the findings of the campus reports to the Board of Governors in January of each year.

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