

5. Minimum Admissions Requirements Policy ..... Karrie Dixon

**Situation:** A series of technical corrections is needed for Policy 700.1.1 which has not been amended since January 11, 2008. It contains outdated language that can be confusing to students, parents, high school counselors and other internal and external constituents. Additionally, the current policy mandates the submission of SAT/ACT writing scores which is not a Board of Governors (BoG) requirement for admissions.

**Background:** The policy on Minimum Requirements for First-Time Undergraduate Admissions contains outdated language for admissions to UNC campuses for students entering in fall 2004-2013. The outdated information has been a source of confusion for many and needs to be omitted to reflect current requirements.

The policy requires applicants to submit SAT or ACT writing scores for admissions, despite the fact that writing scores are not included in either the SAT/ACT minimum score required by BoG for admissions or the majority of UNC campuses' admissions decisions.

The SAT is undergoing a redesign where beginning spring 2016 the writing section will be optional at an additional cost. UNC Chief Academic Officers and Enrollment Managers are in agreement that the writing scores should no longer be required of all students but be optional based on campus admissions policies.

**Assessment:** With the Board's approval, these changes would remove language requiring submission of ACT and SAT writing scores and update the policy to reflect current admissions criteria.

**Action:** This item is for a vote.

### **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.

| <b>NC Course of Study Graduation Requirements</b> |   |   |  |   |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| <b>Content Area</b>                               | <b>CAREER<br/>Course of Study<br/>Requirements</b>                      | <b>COLLEGE TECH<br/>PREP<br/>Course of Study<br/>Requirements</b>   | <b>COLLEGE PREP<br/>Course of Study<br/>(UNC 4-yr.<br/>College)<br/>Requirements</b>   | <b>OCCUPATIONAL<br/>Course of Study</b>   |
| English<br>I, II, III, IV                         | 4 credits<br>I, II, III, IV   | 4 credits<br>I, II, III, IV   | 4 credits<br>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<br>Including<br>Algebra I                                     | 3 credits<br>Alg. I, Geometry,<br>Alg. II<br>or<br>Alg. I, Technical<br>Math I & II<br>or<br>Integrated<br>Mathematics I, II<br>& III | 3 credits<br>Alg. I, Alg. II,<br>Geometry (or<br>higher level math<br>course for which<br>Alg. II is<br>prerequisite)<br>(Recommended one<br>course unit in 12 <sup>th</sup><br>grade Integrated<br>Mathematics I, II<br>& III |   |
| Science   | 3 credits a<br>physical science<br>course Biology<br>earth/env. science | 3 credits<br>a physical science<br>course<br>related to career<br>pathway (CP)<br>Biology earth/env.<br>science                       | 3 credits<br>a physical science<br>course<br>a life or biological<br>course (Biology)<br>earth/env. science  |   |

|   |  |  |   |  |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| Social Studies  | 3 credits<br>Govt./Econ.<br>(ELPS)<br>US History<br>World Studies  | 3 credits<br>Govt./Econ.<br>(ELPS)<br>US History<br>World Studies  | 3 credits<br>Govt./Econ.<br>(ELPS)<br>US History<br>World Studies<br>(UNC admission<br>policy requires 2<br>courses to meet<br>minimum<br>admission<br>requirements US<br>History and (1<br>elective) |  |
| Second<br>Language  | Not Required   | Not Required   | Not Required<br>Recommended at<br>least two (2)<br>course units in one<br>second language<br>with one course<br>unit taken in 12 <sup>th</sup><br>grade   |  |
| Computer Skills   | A specific course<br>is not required<br>but students<br>must<br>demonstrate<br>proficiency<br>through state<br>testing (starting<br>with the<br>graduating class<br>of 2001) | A specific course<br>is not required<br>but students<br>must<br>demonstrate<br>proficiency<br>through state<br>testing (starting<br>with the<br>graduating class<br>of 2001) | A specific course is<br>not required but<br>students must<br>demonstrate<br>proficiency<br>through state<br>testing (starting<br>with the<br>graduating class of<br>2001)                             |  |
| Health &<br>Physical Ed.                                    | 1 credit<br>Health/Phys.<br>Ed.  | 1 credit<br>Health/Phys. Ed.   | 1 credit<br>Health/Phys. Ed.  |  |
| Career/Technical  | 4 units of<br>credits<br>Select courses<br>appropriate for<br>career pathway<br>to include a<br>second level<br>(advanced)<br>course   | 4 units of credits<br>Select courses<br>appropriate for<br>career pathway to<br>include a second<br>level (advanced)<br>course   | Not required  |  |
| Arts Ed. (Visual<br>Arts, Dance,<br>Music, Theatre<br>Arts) | Not required<br>(local decision)   | Not required<br>(local decision)   | Not required (local<br>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.

## Minimum Requirements for **First-time** Undergraduate **Admission**~~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.<sup>1</sup> ~~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*, including a fourth unit of mathematics. These requirements are summarized below.~~

### Effective until Fall 2004

~~Four course units<sup>2</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.~~

~~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);~~

<sup>1</sup>The standard course of study required for graduation from the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics shall meet or exceed these minimum course requirements. See G.S. 116-235.

~~<sup>2</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.~~

- ~~• 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:

- 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.

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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**

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| Mathematics                                | 3 credits<br>Including<br>Algebra I                                     | 3 credits<br>Alg. I, Geometry,<br>Alg. II<br>or<br>Alg. I, Technical<br>Math I & II<br>or<br>Integrated<br>Mathematics I, II<br>& III | 3 credits<br>Alg. I, Alg. II,<br>Geometry (or<br>higher level math<br>course for which<br>Alg. II is<br>prerequisite)<br>(Recommended one<br>course unit in 12 <sup>th</sup><br>grade Integrated<br>Mathematics I, II<br>& III |   |
| Science                                    | 3 credits a<br>physical science<br>course Biology<br>earth/env. science | 3 credits<br>a physical science<br>course<br>related to career<br>pathway (CP)<br>Biology earth/env.<br>science                       | 3 credits<br>a physical science<br>course<br>a life or biological<br>course (Biology)<br>earth/env. science  |   |



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| Second<br>Language  | Not Required   | Not Required   | Not Required<br>Recommended at<br>least two (2)<br>course units in one<br>second language<br>with one course<br>unit taken in 12 <sup>th</sup><br>grade   |  |
| Computer Skills   | A specific course<br>is not required<br>but students<br>must<br>demonstrate<br>proficiency<br>through state<br>testing (starting<br>with the<br>graduating class<br>of 2001) | A specific course<br>is not required<br>but students<br>must<br>demonstrate<br>proficiency<br>through state<br>testing (starting<br>with the<br>graduating class<br>of 2001) | A specific course is<br>not required but<br>students must<br>demonstrate<br>proficiency<br>through state<br>testing (starting<br>with the<br>graduating class of<br>2001)                             |  |
| Health &<br>Physical Ed.                                    | 1 credit<br>Health/Phys.<br>Ed.  | 1 credit<br>Health/Phys. Ed.   | 1 credit<br>Health/Phys. Ed.  |  |
| Career/Technical  | 4 units of<br>credits<br>Select courses<br>appropriate for<br>career pathway<br>to include a<br>second level<br>(advanced)<br>course   | 4 units of credits<br>Select courses<br>appropriate for<br>career pathway to<br>include a second<br>level (advanced)<br>course   | Not required  |  |
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| 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. Minimum Admissions Requirements (for HS GPA and SAT scores)

All applicants for first-time admission ~~as freshmen~~ must meet minimum high school GPA and SAT/ACT scores. The minimum ~~combined SAT score (on (mathematics and critical reading) required for admission)~~ is ~~700~~800 or a composite ACT of 15. ~~The SAT (ACT) minimum score is effective for students entering in Fall 2009. The minimum SAT score will be increased to 750 or ACT composite of 16 for students entering in Fall 2011. The minimum SAT score will increase to 800 or ACT composite score of 17 for students entering in Fall 2013 and beyond.~~

~~The minimum high school GPA for first-time freshmen beginning in Fall 2009~~undergraduates is 2.0. ~~The minimum high school GPA requirement will increase to 2.3 for students entering in Fall 2011 and will increase again to 2.5 for students entering in Fall 2013 and beyond.(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 new freshmen~~first-time undergraduates each year. A chancellor's exception may be applied to the SAT/ACT minimum requirement and/or the ~~GPA~~HSGPA minimum requirement.

## HHIV. 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. ~~The SAT I is preferred, but students may also submit the ACT. For additional information on admissions see 700.1.1.1 [R], 700.1.1.2 [R], and 700.7.1 [R].~~

~~Students applying for admission for fall 2006 or after, for whom standardized test scores are required, must submit either~~

## 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 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. changes in requirements. The president may establish regulations to implement this policy.