

BOARD OF REGENTS BRIEFING PAPER

Handbook Revision, State College Admission Requirements

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

At the February 28 – March 1, 2019, regular meeting of the Board of Regents, NSC President Bart Patterson [presented](#) the challenges facing the college as a growing institution. At that time, he indicated the college would consider the state college admission standards as one of many tools that may be utilized to manage the college's growth. At the June 6-7, 2019, regular meeting of the Board, President Patterson outlined conceptually the college's [proposal](#) for revising its admission standards, including increasing the high school grade point average (GPA) requirement from 2.0 to 2.5 and providing an additional pathway to admission with certain scores on the ACT and SAT college admission exams. Further, he outlined how the college proposed to revise its core admission process to review additional criteria such as a prospective student's special talents and/or abilities and other evidence for success, including leadership and workforce experience, military service experience, etc. Finally, he outlined the college's desire to manage enrollment of limited entry programs through the admission process. Following, President Patterson's presentation, the Board directed staff to work with the college in drafting a *Handbook* amendment revising the college's admission criteria as outlined before the Board.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Revise *Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 27* concerning the admission requirements for the state college to provide for an increase in the high school grade point average from 2.0 to 2.5, allowing the consideration of certain SAT and ACT scores as an alternative pathway to admission, authorizing the college in addition to the current alternative admission criteria to require the complete of college preparedness and/or student success programs as a condition for admission for those student who do not meet the high school GPA or ACT/SAT standards, and clarifying the existing provisions on admission criteria for limited entry programs. The revisions are proposed with an effective date of Fall 2020. See the attached Policy Proposal.

IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

This proposal for revising the admission standards for the state college is brought forward at the direction of the Board of Regents at its June 6-7, 2019, regular meeting.

CHECK THE NSHE STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL THAT IS SUPPORTED BY THIS REQUEST:

- ☒ Access (Increase participation in post-secondary education)
- ☒ Success (Increase student success)
- ☒ Close the Achievement Gap (Close the achievement gap among underserved student populations)
- ☐ Workforce (Collaboratively address the challenges of the workforce and industry education needs of Nevada)
- ☐ Research (Co-develop solutions to the critical issues facing 21st century Nevada and raise the overall research profile)
- ☐ Not Applicable to NSHE Strategic Plan Goals

INDICATE HOW THE PROPOSAL SUPPORTS THE SPECIFIC STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL

Revising the admission standards as proposed will provide the college with the authority necessary to manage its growth through admission standards. Further, the change in admission standards includes provisions for alternative admissions that may require students to complete college preparedness and/or student success programs that will support overall student success and closing the achievement gap.

BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- The [June 6-7, 2019, presentation](#) before the Board outlining the college's proposal for revising its protocols related to admitting students are permissible under the proposed policy revisions;
- The proposed revisions in college admissions will allow the institution to utilize admission standards as one tool in managing the college's growth;
- The proposed revisions support student success by allowing the institution to require certain students to complete college preparedness and/or student success programs as a condition for admission;
- The current provisions of subsection 3 of Section 27, allows the college to admit students who do not meet the high school GPA or test score standards and sets a cap up to 15 percent of the previous year's admissions. This provision

will allow the college to establish a “floor” of any percentage up to 15 percent that may be admitted under these alternative criteria.

- As a system of higher education with multiple access points, the revised admission policy will allow the state college to better address significant transfer out rates that are occurring from NSC to CSN.

POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

None have been brought forward.

ALTERNATIVE(S) TO WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED/RECOMMENDED:

The Board may consider maintaining the current admission standards for the state college or propose criteria that are not considered herein.

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHANCELLOR’S OFFICE:

The Chancellor’s Office [Department of Academic and Student Affairs] prepared the attached Policy Proposal and support the revisions as included herein. No changes to transfer admission policies are proposed.

COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

- ☐ Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # _____ Chapter # _____ Section # _____
- ☒ Amends Current Board Policy: *Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 27*
- ☐ Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # _____ Section # _____
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☒ Fiscal Impact: Yes _____ No ☒ ☐
Explain: _____

POLICY PROPOSAL
Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 27
State College – Admission Requirements
Effective Fall 2020

Additions appear in *boldface italics*; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

Section 27. State College – Admission Requirements

1. The following high school course admission requirements [~~will apply~~] ***must be completed*** for freshman admission to the state college:

<u>High School Course (s)</u>	<u>Units</u>
English: Emphasis on composition, rhetoric, and American, English and world literatures	4
Mathematics: Three units including at least two units of algebra 1 and higher level mathematics, chosen from second year algebra, geometry, trigonometry, pre-calculus, probability and statistics, and other advanced mathematics	3
Natural Science: (lab or simulation) Including biology, chemistry or physics, with at least one year in a laboratory science	2
Social Science/Studies: Including world history and geography, U.S. history, economics, government, or law	3
TOTAL:	12

2. [~~Admission to freshman standing requires graduation from an accredited or approved high school with a minimum overall grade point average of 2.0 or above on a 4.0 scale.~~]

Students seeking admission to the state college must have:

- a.) ***At least a 2.5 (unweighted) high school grade point average; or***
 - b.) ***An SAT combined score from the SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and SAT Math sections of at least 1020 (1600 scale); or***
 - c.) ***An ACT composite score of at least 20.***
3. A student who does not meet the state college admission requirements established in subsections 1 [~~through 3~~] ***and 2*** may, under procedures established by the state college, be admitted through other criteria. The requirements for admission under this provision are:
- a.) combination of test scores and grade point average that indicate potential for success;
 - b.) Special talents and/or abilities such as, but not limited to, the visual or performing arts or athletic abilities;
 - c.) Other evidence of potential for success;
 - d.) Improvement in the high school record;
 - e.) Overcoming adversity or special hardship; or
 - f.) Other special circumstances.

The number of students admitted under these criteria may not exceed 15 percent ***of the number of students admitted in in the previous year*** [~~of the previous year's admissions~~]. ***The college may require completion of an institutional program designed to improve college preparedness (e.g. summer bridge program) and/or student success (e.g. tutoring) as a condition of admission under this subsection.***

4. ***Admission may be limited for programs*** [Programs] designated as limited entry [require] ***or due to limited capacity based on the*** fulfillment of selective admissions criteria as contained in the college catalog and/or other appropriate college documents. Continuation in selective admissions programs is likewise contingent upon fulfillment of conditions specified by the institution and contained in official institutional documents.


Nevada State College

First-time, Full-time High School GPA by Ethnicity

The following tables show High School GPA of first-time, full-time students by ethnicity.


High School GPA: Students

Number of students with High School GPA of 2.5 and up or below 2.5.

Students	Term / HS GPA Range											
	Fall 2013		Fall 2014		Fall 2015		Fall 2016		Fall 2017		Fall 2018	
1  262	2.5 and up	Under 2.5	2.5 and up	Under 2.5	2.5 and up	Under 2.5	2.5 and up	Under 2.5	2.5 and up	Under 2.5	2.5 and up	Under 2.5
Ethnicity	2.5 and up	Under 2.5	2.5 and up	Under 2.5	2.5 and up	Under 2.5	2.5 and up	Under 2.5	2.5 and up	Under 2.5	2.5 and up	Under 2.5
Asian	8	5	12	1	21	2	15	7	23	5	35	2
Black or African American	3	6	9	13	10	4	7	8	23	12	20	5
Hispanics of any race	37	29	65	20	71	35	129	37	262	40	214	32
White	37	22	45	13	50	19	47	13	47	8	38	4

High School GPA: Proportion

Percent of students with High School GPA of 2.5 and up or below 2.5.

% of Total	Term / HS GPA Range											
	Fall 2013		Fall 2014		Fall 2015		Fall 2016		Fall 2017		Fall 2018	
5%  95%	2.5 and up	Under 2.5	2.5 and up	Under 2.5	2.5 and up	Under 2.5	2.5 and up	Under 2.5	2.5 and up	Under 2.5	2.5 and up	Under 2.5
Ethnicity	2.5 and up	Under 2.5	2.5 and up	Under 2.5	2.5 and up	Under 2.5	2.5 and up	Under 2.5	2.5 and up	Under 2.5	2.5 and up	Under 2.5
Asian	62%	38%	92%	8%	91%	9%	68%	32%	82%	18%	95%	5%
Black or African American	33%	67%	41%	59%	71%	29%	47%	53%	66%	34%	80%	20%
Hispanics of any race	56%	44%	76%	24%	67%	33%	78%	22%	87%	13%	87%	13%
White	63%	37%	78%	22%	72%	28%	78%	22%	85%	15%	90%	10%

Across all major ethnicities, fewer first-time, full-time students with high school GPA under 2.5 are enrolling at Nevada State College.

