

BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER
Handbook Revisions, University Admissions

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

Current Board policy sets ACT and SAT scores for placement into a college-level English or mathematics course (*Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 1*). The policy provides that an institution may utilize other standardized tests or alternative placement tools, including departmental diagnostic tests, if supported by institutional research. This language was last revised with amendments approved at the December 2009 meeting. At that time the revisions did not address Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 4, which requires the ACT or SAT to be used for placement under the general provisions for university admission for all students, thus creating a conflict in the policy. Staff recommends revising Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 4 to remove the requirement of the ACT or SAT for admission for all students, thereby correcting the conflict.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Amend Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 4 removing the requirement for the ACT and SAT for placement purposes for all university admits. (See the attached Policy Proposal.)

IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

Staff recently discovered the inconsistency in Board policy as described above.

BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

Revising the policy as recommended will eliminate an inconsistency in Board policy so that the Handbook is consistent with the Board's actions in December 2009 whereby the ACT or SAT are required for placement into a college-level course, allowing for alternative placement tests when supported by institutional research.

POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

None have been brought forward.

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

Revise the remedial placement policy to align with the admissions policy, thereby eliminating the option of institutions to utilize alternative testing tools when supported by institutional research.

COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

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

POLICY PROPOSAL
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 16, SECTION 4
Standardized Tests for Placement

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

Section 4. University Admission – General Policy

1. In the admission of students, universities shall not discriminate on the basis of a person's age, disability, ethnicity, gender, national origin, race, religion, or sexual orientation.
2. All new students are required to furnish satisfactory evidence of good moral character as evidenced by a certificate of graduation or of honorable dismissal from the school last attended.
3. All applicants for admission shall complete such tests and furnish such information as required by the regulations published in the institutional catalog governing the semester of initial enrollment.
4. American College Test (ACT) *or Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)* scores are [~~required~~ *recommended*] for freshman admission to a university [~~for use in academic advisement, proper course placement~~] and *are required* for those applicants who do not qualify on the basis of a high school record. [~~An applicant who completes the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and otherwise qualifies for admission is exempt from the ACT requirement.~~]
5. International applicants must submit a recent medical history and examination signed by a medical doctor within the prior six months if requested by the institution.
6. Programs designated as limited entry require fulfillment of selective admissions criteria as contained in the institutional catalog and 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.