

BOARD OF REGENTS  
BRIEFING PAPER

**HANDBOOK REVISION: Special Admissions**

**BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:**

During the August 2007 meeting of the Board, regents took action to allow for the admission of additional students at the universities under the existing alternative admission criteria established by the Board. At that time, there was a discussion about the need for a more holistic approach to admissions and a move away from “alternate admissions.”

Pursuant to Board policy (*Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 7*), students who do not meet university or state college admission requirements may be admitted under the following criteria for alternative admission: 1) a combination of test scores and GPA that indicate potential for success; 2) special talents and/or abilities; 3) other evidence of potential success; 4) improvement in high school record; 5) overcoming adversity or special hardship; or 6) other special circumstances. With respect to this existing provision of Board policy, the university presidents recommended and the Board approved changing from 10 percent of the prior year’s freshman enrollment to 15 percent of the prior year’s admissions the number of students that may be admitted under alternative admission criteria.

**SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:**

Amend Board policy language (*Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 7*) to affirm the increase in the number of students admitted under alternative admission criteria from 10 percent of the prior year’s freshman enrollment to 15 percent of the prior year’s admissions and modify the alternate admissions language so that this option is included in the regular admissions process. (See attached Policy Proposal.)

**IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):**

This item is brought forward based on the Board’s discussion and action during the August 2007 Board meeting.

**BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:**

- The change in *Handbook* language related to the percentage of students affirms the Board’s action taken in August 2007.
- The inclusion of more criteria for the university admissions process allows for a better appraisal of each student’s strengths and weaknesses and gives flexibility in predicting the likelihood of success at the university.

**POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:**

- Students should only be admitted if they meet the established GPA in the required high school courses or the test scores. There are no other circumstances that should be considered.

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

During the August 2007 Board meeting this proposal was approved by the Board in concept form, no alternative recommendations have been brought forward.

**COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:**

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter # \_\_\_\_\_ Section # \_\_\_\_\_
- Amends Current Board Policy: *Title 4, Chapter 16, Sections 7-41*
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # \_\_\_\_\_ Section # \_\_\_\_\_
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Fiscal Impact: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

**POLICY PROPOSAL**  
**TITLE 4, CHAPTER 16, SECTION 3 -41**  
Alternative Admission Policies to the Universities and State College

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

Section 3.     ~~[Grade Point Average]~~ Requirements for Admission to the Universities

1. Students seeking admission to a university must complete the high school course requirements pursuant to Chapter 16, Section 2.

~~[2. Effective Fall 2006, students seeking admission to the universities must have at least a 2.75 (*weighted*) grade point average in the required high school courses for admission.]~~

2~~[3]~~. Effective Fall 2007, students seeking admission to the universities must have:  
a.) at least a 2.75 (*weighted*) grade point average in the required high school courses for admission;  
or  
b.) a combined score from the SAT Critical Reading and SAT Math sections of at least 1040; or  
c.) an ACT composite score of at least 22.

3~~[4]~~. Effective Fall 2008, students seeking admission to the universities must have:  
a.) at least a 3.0 (*weighted*) grade point average in the required high school courses for admission;  
or  
b.) a combined score from the SAT Critical Reading and SAT Math sections of at least 1040; or  
c.) an ACT composite score of at least 22.

4. *A student who does not meet the university admission requirements established in subsections 1 through 3 may, under procedures established by the university, be admitted through other criteria. The requirements for admission under this provision are:*  
*a.) 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 previous year's admissions.*

5. Students who graduate from a NSHE community college with a transferable associate degree will be admitted into the universities or state college regardless of their grade point average at the community college.

(B/R 10/06)

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*DELETE SECTION 7 IN ITS ENTIRETY.*

~~[Section 7. — Alternative Admission Policies to the Universities and State College~~

- ~~1. Students who do not meet university or state college admission requirements may petition under procedures established by the university or state college for special consideration to the alternative admission program. The number of students admitted under these criteria may not exceed 10 percent of the previous year's freshman enrollment.~~
- ~~2. The criteria for admission under the alternative admission program are:
  - a.) 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.]~~

*RENUMBER SECTION 8 THROUGH 29 AS SECTIONS 7 THROUGH 28.*

Section **29** [30]. State College – Admission Requirements

1. The following high school course admission requirements will apply 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
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>12</b>

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.

3. *A student who does not meet the state college admission requirements established in subsections 1 through 3 may, under procedures established by the state college, be admitted through other criteria. The requirements for admission under this provision are:*

- a.) 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 previous year's admissions.*

4[3]. Programs designated as limited entry require fulfillment of selective admissions criteria as contained in the college 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.

5[4]. High school seniors may be permitted to enroll, prior to actual graduation, under the following conditions:

- a.) High school students who are at least 15 years of age may enroll as non-degree students in a maximum of six undergraduate credits or equivalents per semester.
- b.) Provisional freshman admission is offered to qualified high school students who have completed the junior year with a minimum 2.0 grade point average reported on an official high school transcripts. Students must submit final official high school transcripts indicating award of diploma immediately upon graduation.

(B/R 1/07)

*RENUMBER SECTIONS 31 THROUGH 41 AS SECTIONS 30 THROUGH 40.*