

BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER
Handbook Revision, Community College Admissions

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

In September 2011, the Board approved a revision to the Board's existing policy on community colleges admissions to provide that for admission purposes a student must be a high school graduate or an international student. This proposal was brought forward by the community college presidents effective Fall 2012. The proposal adopted in September will result in the regular admission of only students who are college-ready as evidenced by high school graduation or alternative criteria established by the institution.

At this time, the community college presidents request that the provision concerning admission be clarified by indicating that *degree or certificate seeking students only* must provide evidence of high school graduation.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Amend Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 18 to clarify that only applicants who are degree or certificate seeking must be a graduate of a high school or its equivalent or be a qualified international student. (See attached Policy Proposal.)

IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

This proposal is brought forward at the request of the community college presidents.

BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

The proposed revision clarifies the applicability of the admissions criteria for community colleges to degree seeking students only.

POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

None.

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

None have been brought forward at this time.

COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # _____ Chapter # _____ Section # _____
 Amends Current Board Policy: *Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 18*
 Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # _____ Section # _____
 Other: _____
 Fiscal Impact: Yes _____ No
Explain: _____

POLICY PROPOSAL
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 16, SECTION 18
Community College Admission

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

Section 18. Community College Admission – General Policy (Effective Fall 2012)

1. In the admission of students, community colleges shall not discriminate on the basis of a person's age, disability, ethnicity, gender, national origin, race, religion, or sexual orientation.
2. All applicants *seeking a degree or certificate* must qualify for admission by satisfying at least one of the following:
 - a. a graduate of a high school or its equivalent; or
 - b. a qualified international student.
3. A student who does not meet the community college requirements for admission established in subsection 2 may apply to be admitted under alternate criteria or test scores that demonstrate college readiness. Each college shall establish procedures and requirements for such alternate admission.
4. When admitting a student, the institution may consider the student's standing at a previously attended institution, including, but not limited to, records of disciplinary action.
5. All applicants for admission shall complete such tests, furnish such information, and meet such deadlines as required by the regulations published in the admissions sections of the catalog governing the semester of initial enrollment. The initial semester of enrollment shall be considered the date of matriculation except where otherwise defined by the institution.
6. Admission to an NSHE community college implies general admission to the college only and does not constitute admission to a specific curriculum or courses that may require additional admission criteria, as published in the college catalog governing the semester of initial enrollment.
7. 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.