

III-4.00 POLICY ON UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS

(Approved by the Board of Regents, January 11, 1990; Revised October 4, 1996; Revised October 5, 2001)

Admission to the institutions of the University System of Maryland shall be determined without unlawful discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, or disabling condition. The undergraduate student population of USM institutions should draw from all areas of the state and reflect the diversity of the state's population.

Consistent with their individual missions, institutions will seek to enroll the students having greatest potential to benefit from their programs. Each institution shall take appropriate actions in its admissions procedures to achieve these goals, consistent with State and Federal laws.

I. ADMISSION OF FRESHMEN

Each institution shall publish its own decision criteria, which may be more rigorous than the systemwide minima stated below.

A. Minimum Qualifications for Regular Admission

(1) High school diploma or its equivalent (See exception in paragraph B.)

(2) Grade point average

A high school grade point average equivalent to a C or better is required for admission of full-time and part-time entering freshmen who have graduated from high school within three years of intended enrollment.

(3) Test Score

A score on a nationally standardized examination such as the SAT or ACT is required of all applicants who have graduated from high school within three years of intended enrollment.

(4) Minimum core content proficiency requirements

To indicate their readiness for college-level work, high school seniors or graduates must demonstrate achievement of the appropriate level of competencies [1] and core content associated with the array of courses that follows:

| Subject | Year Courses |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| English | 4 |
| Social Science/History | 3 |
| Biological and Physical Sciences | 3 |
| | 2 |

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Mathematics | 3 |
| | Algebra I or Applied Math I & II |
| | Formal Logic or Geometry |
| | Algebra II |
| | Language other than English [3], or, |
| Advanced Technology [4] | 2 |

(5) Other criteria

Each institution shall publish other criteria for admission that may include (a) rigor of the high school curriculum as demonstrated by advanced level coursework, (b) academic electives, (c) performance on high school assessments, (d) trends in performance, (e) citizenship and leadership, (f) special talents, and (g) personal circumstances.

B. Early Admission

Early admission may be granted to a high school student who has demonstrated superior scholarship, as evidenced by his or her academic record or performance on standardized entrance examinations. The expectation is that the student will make arrangements to earn a high school diploma or equivalent. Each institution that offers early admission shall publish its procedures.

C. Admission of Students from Non-accredited/ Non-approved High Schools.

Freshman applicants for admission who are graduates of non-accredited/non-approved high schools will be reviewed individually, with consideration given to factors such as scores on nationally standardized tests, high school course content, performance in high school academic courses, the performance of previous students with similar academic preparation, and other appropriate criteria as developed by each institution.

D. Admission of Students with non-US Records

Students with international records, those who have completed part or all of their secondary and/or post-secondary education outside the United States, may be admitted using the guidelines of the following educational associations:

- 1) Association of International Educators (NAFSA)

- 2) American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO)
- 3) National Association of College Admissions Counselors (NACAC)

Each USM institution will establish procedures to insure consistency in admissions practices for its applicants with academic records from non-US institutions.

E. Admission of Home-Schooled Students

All home-schooled students must demonstrate compliance with state and local education regulations. Demonstration of the competencies outlined in the USM Requirements for Admission may be combined with scores on a nationally standardized examination such as ACT or SAT to satisfy the minimum qualifications for admission. For Maryland students, the home instruction program must comply with 13A.10.01 of the General Regulations of the State Board of Education.

F. Admission of Students with Proficiency-Based Standards, Standardized Examinations, or Equivalency Diplomas.

Students who have graduated from regionally accredited secondary institutions with proficiency-based standards will be considered individually. Each secondary institution with proficiency-based standards will be asked to provide documentation about the student's achievement in secondary school.

Admission may be granted to students who have been awarded a high school equivalency diploma by passing a standardized evaluation, such as the General Educational Development (GED) test or the External Diploma Program (EDP). Each USM institution will establish procedures to insure consistency in admissions practices for its applicants presenting external evaluations.

G. Admission of Students Who Have Been Out of School More Than Three Years

Students who have earned a high school diploma (or equivalent) with a minimum GPA equivalent to a C or better, but who are more than three years beyond high school enrollment, may be admitted without meeting the usual criteria for admission if the institution determines that the individuals applying have the potential for successful college work. This determination may be made by evaluation of successful work experiences, by portfolio assessment, and/or by placement testing.

H. Special Program Requirements

With the approval of the President, an institution may establish additional requirements for admission to specified academic programs.

I. Admission to Two Institutions

USM institutions that have established joint degree or cooperative programs with other institutions will outline procedures to permit students to be admitted simultaneously to two institutions to earn the targeted degree(s).

J. Exceptions

Each institution may admit, to a maximum of 15 percent of its entering freshman class, students who do not meet the minimum qualifications outlined in sections I.A.-G. of this policy, but who show potential for success in postsecondary education. Each institution shall develop written guidelines, in accordance with this policy, concerning individual admission.

For those instances in which applicants have not completed all of the required courses for admission, each institution shall establish a method of assessment by which a student can demonstrate competence equivalent to having passed a required high school course to qualify for admission.

II. ADMISSION OF TRANSFER STUDENTS [5]

Each institution shall publish its own decision criteria that may be more rigorous than the systemwide minima stated below.

A. Minimum Requirements

- (1) All transfer students must have a cumulative GPA of at least a 2.0 on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, for all attempted college-level work.
- (2) Students who have completed 23 or fewer credits are required to meet minimum qualifications as set forth in Part I of this policy.
- (3) Students transferring from institutions that are not regionally accredited shall demonstrate proficiencies comparable with Sections II.A.1 and 2.

B. Maryland Public Institutions of Higher Education

- (1) Students who have completed an associate's degree, or 56 or more credits of college/ university parallel courses with a minimum GPA of 2.0 from public institutions of higher education in Maryland, shall be admitted to a USM institution. In cases where the number of applicants exceeds the number who can be accommodated, or where programs require higher performance standards, admissions decisions shall be based on criteria that provide fair and equal treatment for native and transfer students in accordance with COMAR Title 13B.06.01.02-1.
- (2) Students wishing to transfer from public institutions of higher education in Maryland with fewer than 56 credits of college/university parallel coursework who would have met freshman requirements of the USM institution to which they are applying in the

year they entered postsecondary education shall be admitted with a GPA of 2.0. In cases where the number of applicants exceeds the number who can be accommodated, or where programs require higher performance standards, admissions decisions shall be based on criteria that provide fair and equal treatment for native and transfer students in accordance with COMAR Title 13B.06.01.02-1.

C. Admission to Two Institutions

To facilitate the enrollment of transfer students and to enhance relationships with community colleges, USM institutions are strongly encouraged to establish agreements with community colleges to provide for dual admission of students who first matriculate at the community college. The agreements shall stipulate requirements for eligibility, conditions for maintaining good academic standing, curricular requirements, and credit/grade transfer acceptance.

D. Providing Transfer Information

Each institution shall participate in the systemwide computerized information system to assist prospective transfer students. In cooperation with Maryland community colleges, programs shall be developed that represent the lower division course work required for completion of a baccalaureate degree at that institution. Information about such recommended transfer programs, updated on a regular basis, shall be available to potential transfer students to serve as a basis for advisement and student planning. Students will be encouraged to seek advisement on a regular basis.

E. Exceptions

At the discretion of the receiving institution, transfer students with special circumstances may be admitted on the basis of criteria other than prior academic performance. Up to 15 percent of the institution's entering transfer cohort may comprise such exceptions.

III. ADMISSION OF SECOND BACCALAUREATE STUDENTS

Each institution shall publish in its catalog procedures for admission of students seeking a second baccalaureate degree.

IV. ADMISSION OF NON-DEGREE STUDENTS

A. Minimum Requirements

Procedures for admitting non-degree students shall be established by each institution. Criteria for changing from non-degree to degree status must be equivalent to, or exceed the minimum requirements set forth in this policy, sections II.A.1 and 2, for students transferring between Maryland public institutions.

B. Concurrent Enrollment

Concurrent enrollment may be granted to a high school student who has demonstrated superior scholarship, as evidenced by his or her academic record or performance on standardized entrance examinations. Each institution may allow such students to enroll in its undergraduate classes concurrently with their enrollment in high school.

V. ADMISSION OF OUT-OF-STATE STUDENTS TO UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

Each institution may establish standards for out-of-state students that are higher than the undergraduate admission standards for in-state students. If a choice must be made between applicants of roughly comparable ability and promise, preference should be given to the Maryland resident.

Excluding UMUC students and all students enrolled exclusively in distance education programs, the number of out-of-state undergraduate students in any institution, shall not exceed 30 percent of its total undergraduate student body.

VI. IMPLEMENTATION

A. Effective date

Notice shall be provided local school systems and community colleges at least two years prior to the implementation of additional or modified course requirements in order that students may prepare to meet them.

B. Review Schedule

Recognizing that Maryland is changing its high school graduation requirements to a proficiency-based system, this policy should be reviewed and revised as necessary to accommodate that transition.

C. Publication of Standards

The USM shall publish the content, competencies, achievement levels, and skills required for success in college. Each institution shall publish its admission standards in its catalog and shall submit them to University System of Maryland Office for information.

D. Maintenance of Records

Each institution shall maintain in each enrolled student's record evidence that minimum criteria for admission have been met. Lacking such evidence, the record shall contain a note that the student is an exception, and whether the exception was based on minimum GPA or demonstration of competency in the required courses.

E. Application Fee

Each constituent institution in the University System of Maryland may assess a non-refundable admission application fee for each applicant, unless the fee is waived in accordance with institutional policy.

Replacement for: BOR I-1.00, 1.10, 1.11, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 1.60, 1.80, 13.00 and BOT II-D.3, X-A.1, X-A.2, X-A.3, X-A.4, X-A.5, X-A.7, X-A.8, X-A.9, X-A.11, and X-B

Endnotes:

[1] A grade equivalent to a C or better in required courses would normally demonstrate the minimum level of preparation for college-level work.

[2] The courses completed must be in at least two different subject areas. Two of the three must include a laboratory experience. For students interested in science-oriented careers (such as medicine, engineering, the sciences, veterinary medicine, physical therapy, etc.), four years of science are recommended in three different science areas, with three laboratory experiences.

[3] The two units must be in the same language. American Sign Language is among the languages accepted.

[4] Students should consult the admissions office of the particular institution they are seeking to attend to determine if advanced technology is accepted in fulfillment of this requirement.

[5] A transfer student has earned a total of twelve or more transferable credits during a regular term or terms following high school graduation. Credits earned in courses taken during the first summer following high school graduation, concurrently with high school, by Advanced Placement, or by examination are not to be counted in the twelve.