

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION STUDENT AFFAIRS, MARKETING, AND ENROLLMENT

November 14, 2019

ACTION: **First and Final Round Approval of Revisions to Board Policy 3000; Admission Requirements; Undergraduate; General**

The revisions to Board Policy 3000 allow each College to establish its own minimum score on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) exam or the International English Testing System (IELTS) exam required for admission of applicants whose first language is not English.

The System Office recommends approval of the Revisions to Board Policy 3000; Admission Requirements; Undergraduate; General.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Revisions to Board Policy 3000 (PDF)

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POLICY: 3000 Admission Requirements; Undergraduate; General

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BOARD POLICY

1. The Board shall make such rules and regulations for the admission of students to the Colleges as may seem to be best for the interest of the Colleges and not inconsistent with the purpose for which they have been established.
2. The Colleges shall admit as students those persons who have graduated from an accredited high school in Nebraska, or who present evidence of the achievement of an equivalent academic level to that of high school graduation, or evidence of eligibility for admission on the basis of special merit.
 - a. Achievement equivalent to a high school diploma may be demonstrated in the form of a High School Equivalency Certificate based on the General Educational Development examination, or an acceptable ACT or SAT score as determined by the individual College.
 - b. Each College shall assure that the process of admission on the basis of special merit will make provisions for a variety of circumstances, including allowance for special consideration to be given to non-traditional students who present evidence of being able to succeed, as well as returning adult students, students educated at home schools, and students who can provide evidence of special talents such as creative artists or those with unique educational experience or career achievements.
 - c. No one shall be denied admission to or continuance in any College on the basis of any individual characteristics other than qualifications for admission, academic performance and conduct in accord with State College policies, rules and laws applicable to student conduct.
3. The Colleges may admit as students those persons who are not residents of the State of Nebraska, provided that such non-residents meet the minimum standards applied to the Nebraska resident students, and that the Colleges have the necessary facilities and staff to accommodate such non-resident students.
4. The Colleges may admit as students those persons previously in attendance at a community college, college or university subject to the provisions in Board Policy 4430.
 - a. The transferring student must meet all the minimum requirements of either a resident or non-resident student, as the case may be.

PROCEDURE

1. Each College may establish a cut-off date for the submission of complete credentials for admission, and any applicant who does not submit a complete application by that date may be required to delay entrance until a subsequent semester.
2. Pursuant to Board Policies 3100 and 3200, any College may deny or condition admission, readmission, or continuing enrollment of any individual who, in the judgment of the College, presents an unreasonable risk to the safety and welfare of the College and persons thereon.

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3. Except as provided in Procedures a and b below, all entering students must show a valid immunization record for measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR). Prior to their first day of attendance in classes, applicants from foreign countries also are required to present a record of a TB skin test (Mantoux) or FDA-approved IGRA blood test (Quantiferon Gold or T-spot TB) completed within six (6) months prior to their first enrollment in addition to the above required record of immunization. If either of the tests is positive, a chest X-ray is required. The cost of the X-ray is borne by the student. If a student lives in a country which does not offer the TB tests, the student must undergo testing upon arrival at the College.

It is recommended that first year students living in College housing receive a meningococcal vaccination, but it is not required.

- a. A person qualifies for a medical exemption from the requirement to show proof of immunization when the person files a bona fide statement signed by a physician licensed to practice medicine within the United States verifying that the physical condition of the person seeking admission makes the required immunization unsafe and indicating the specific nature and probable duration of the condition. The exemption shall not extend beyond the period of the condition, which contraindicates immunization. A person qualifying for this exemption must sign a waiver form provided by the College stating that, if an outbreak of measles or rubella occurs at the College or surrounding community, the person may be subject to exclusion from the campus and College related activities during the outbreak period.
 - b. A person qualifies for a religious exemption when the person files a notarized affidavit on an approved form that immunization is contrary to the religious tenets and practices of the signer. A person qualifying for this exemption must sign a waiver form provided by the college stating that, if an outbreak of measles or rubella occurs at the College or surrounding community, the person may be subject to exclusion from the campus and College related activities during the outbreak period.
 - c. A person qualifies for an exemption from the requirement to show proof of immunization when enrolled only in off-campus courses or courses offered off-campus by distance learning technology. This exemption will be revoked if, at any time, the student enrolls in on-campus courses. At that time, the student will be required to show proof of immunization during the first semester the student is enrolled on-campus.
 - d. According to guidelines established by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, a person born before 1957 need not submit proof of immunization for measles, mumps or rubella.
4. All first-time entering, first-year undergraduate students are encouraged to take the ACT or SAT and submit the results to the College to be used for academic planning and counseling purposes.
5. Except as provided below, the State Colleges shall require applicants whose first language is not English, to present evidence of proficiency in the use of the English language. Evidence of proficiency may be established by ~~meeting the minimum scores established by each State College for either the (1) a minimum Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) exam or score of 550 for the paper based test with no section score lower than 56 points; or, (2) a minimum score of 79 for the internet based test; or, (3) a minimum score of 213 for the computer based test with no section score lower than 22 points.~~

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~~Evidence of proficiency may be established with a minimum score of 6.5 on~~ the International English Testing System (IELTS) ~~exam in place of the TOEFL test~~. Evidence of proficiency may also be determined by the appropriate college administrator on a case by case basis or through partnership agreements with non-English institutions.

- a. International applicants who have completed a minimum of six (6) credit hours of English composition with a “C” or better from an accredited American higher education institution; or, who provide evidence of successful completion of a recognized intensive English program are exempt from the requirement to provide evidence of English language proficiency.
- b. Academically qualified international applicants may be considered for conditional acceptance as degree-seeking students if they are enrolled in a recognized intensive English language program. Upon satisfactory completion of the program, and assuming all other admission requirements are met, they may be considered eligible for full admission as degree-seeking students to the College.

Legal Reference: RRS 85-310

State Colleges; students; admission

Policy Adopted: 1/28/77
Policy Revised: 6/5/93
Policy Revised: 4/9/02
Policy Revised: 3/28/08
Policy Revised: 4/17/09
Policy Revised: 3/25/11
Policy Revised: 9/9/11
Policy Revised: 2/22/12
Policy Revised: 6/15/12
Policy Revised: 11/7/14
Policy Revised: 3/26/15

Policy Revised: