Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges

Student Affairs

POLICY NAME: Graduate Admission

POLICY NUMBER: 3010

A. PURPOSE

To provide guidance regarding such rules and regulations for the admission of graduate students as may seem to be best for the interest of the Colleges and not inconsistent with the purpose for which they have been established.

B. DEFINITIONS

None

C. POLICY

1. Resident Admission

The Colleges shall admit, as students, those persons who have a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution. 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 College policies, rules and laws applicable to student conduct.

1.1. A student with a baccalaureate degree from an institution which is not accredited by one of the six (6) regional associations of colleges and schools recognized by the Colleges may be accepted conditionally, subject to an evaluation after the completion of requirements for formal admission to a graduate degree program. The regional associations of colleges recognized by the Colleges include: Middle States Association, New England Association, North Central Association, North West Association, Southern Association, and Western Association.

1.2. Students wishing to gain admission to graduate teacher education programs should have a baccalaureate degree with teaching credentials. Conditional admission may be granted subject to the student's completion of requirements for teacher certification.

2. Non-Resident Admission

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.

3. Immunizations and Health

3.1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, all entering students must show a valid immunization record for measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) prior to the end of the first semester of on-campus attendance. The Colleges may provide an extension for an additional semester for good cause.

3.2. Prior to checking into the residence halls or their first day of attendance in class, whichever is earlier, applicants from foreign countries 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.

- 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 or did not present a record of a qualifying test, the student must undergo testing within forty-eight (48) hours of checking into the residence halls or prior to their first day of attendance in class, whichever is earlier.

3.3. 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.

3.4. A person qualifies for a religious exemption when the person files a signed statement 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.

3.5. A person qualifies for an exemption from the requirement to show proof of immunization and the requirement to present a record of a TB skin or FDA-approved IGRA blood test (Quantiferon Gold or T-Spot TB) completed within six (6) months prior to first enrollment when enrolled 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, or at any time the student resides in on-campus housing. At that time, the student will be required to present a record of a TB skin or FDA-approved IGRA blood test (Quantiferon Gold or T-Spot TB) completed within the previous six (6) months and to show proof of immunization for measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) during the first semester the student is taking courses on-campus.

3.6. According to guidelines established by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, a person born before 1957 need not submit proof immunization for measles, mumps, or rubella.

4. Procedure

4.1. 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.

4.2. Pursuant to Board Policies 3001, 3100, and 3200, any College may deny or condition admission, readmission or continuing admission of any applicant who, in the judgment of the College, presents an unreasonable risk to the safety and welfare of the campus and persons thereon.

4.3. The Graduate Record Examination (GRE), or an equivalent examination appropriate to a professional field, is recommended. The cost of any exams shall be borne by the applicant.

4.4. Except as provided in sections 4.5 and 4.6 of this Policy, the State Colleges shall require international 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 College on universally accepted assessments for measuring proficiency, such as the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) exam, the International English Testing System (IELTS) exam, Duolingo, or other recognized assessment. or
- 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.

4.5. International applicants who have an earned undergraduate degree from an accredited American higher education institution; 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.

4.6. 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.

FORMS/APPENDICES:

None

SOURCE:

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. 85-310 State colleges; students; admission.

Policy Adopted: June 1993

Policy Revised: June 2010, March 2011, February 2012, November 2014, March 2015, April 2022, September 2022, March 2023, November 2023