

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE NEBRASKA STATE COLLEGES**

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

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**ACTION:** **First and Final Round Approval of Revisions to Board Policy  
3000; Undergraduate Admission and Board Policy 3010;  
Graduate Admission**

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Proposed revisions to policies 3000 and 3010 clarify that requirements to demonstrate English proficiency applies to international applications and provides greater flexibility with respect to the accepted assessments for measuring proficiency.

The System Office recommends approval of the Revisions to Board Policy 3000; Undergraduate Admission and 3010; Graduate Admission.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Revisions to Board Policy 3000 (PDF)
- Revisions to Board Policy 3010 (PDF)

## Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges

### Student Affairs

POLICY  
NAME: Undergraduate Admission

POLICY  
NUMBER: 3000

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#### **A. PURPOSE**

To provide guidance regarding 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.

#### **B. DEFINITIONS**

None

#### **C. POLICY**

##### **1. Resident Admission**

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.

- 1.1. 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.
- 1.2. 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.
- 1.3. 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.

## 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. Transfer Admission

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. The transferring student must meet all the minimum requirements to either a resident or non-resident student, as the case may be.

## 4. Military/Veteran Admission

The Colleges shall admit any eligible military student or eligible veteran student who otherwise meets the admissions requirements to enroll as an undergraduate student in virtual and in-person courses and programs consistent with the Veteran Promise Act. The Colleges shall make information regarding the Veteran Promise Act available on their websites.

- 4.1. For purposes of this policy an eligible military student is a student who graduated from a Nebraska high school on or after January 1, 2022; signed enlistment papers to serve in a uniformed service; and at the time of their application is service in such uniformed service under a six (6) year commitment or has served at least two (2) years of active duty in such uniformed service and at the time of application is serving in such uniformed service or another uniformed service.
- 4.2. An eligible veteran student means a student who graduated from a Nebraska high school on or after January 1, 2022, and served in a uniformed service while assigned to a location in this state; signed enlistment papers to serve in a uniformed service; and received either an honorable discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions from a uniformed service.
- 4.3. Uniformed service means an active or reserve component of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine, or Space Force of the United States; the Commissioned Officer Corps or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the Public Health Service of the United States; or the Nebraska National Guard.

## 5. Immunizations [and Health](#)

Except as otherwise provided in this section, all entering degree-seeking 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.

Prior to their first 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.

- 5.1. It is recommended that first year students living in College housing receive a meningococcal vaccination, but it is not required.
- 5.2. 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, in 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.
- 5.3. 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.
- 5.4. 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.
- 5.5. 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.

## **6. Procedures**

- 6.1. 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.

- 6.2. 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.
- 6.3. 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.
- 6.4. Except as provided below, 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 ~~State~~ College [on universally accepted assessments for measuring proficiency, such as for either](#) the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) exam, ~~or~~ the International English Testing System (IELTS) exam, [Duolingo or other recognized assessment](#). 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.
  - 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.
  - 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.

## 7. Reporting

Colleges shall report to the System Office on or before December 1<sup>st</sup> annually, commencing December 1, 2022, the number of applicants under the Veteran Promise Act; the number of eligible military students enrolled under the Veteran Promise Act; the number of eligible veteran students enrolled under the Veteran Promise Act; the amount of any application fees waived for applicants under the Act; and any additional support, service, or assistance provided to participating eligible military students and eligible veteran students under the Act. Such information shall be provided electronically by the System Office to the Clerk of the Legislature on or before December 31<sup>st</sup> annually, commencing December 31, 2022.

## FORMS/APPENDICES:

None

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### SOURCE:

**Legal Reference:** [RNeb. Rev. Stat.](#) 85-310      State Colleges; students; admission

**Policy Adopted:** January 1977

**Policy Revised:** June 1993, April 2002, March 2008, April 2009, March 2011, September 2011,  
February 2012, June 2012, November 2014, March 2015, November 2019,  
September 2021, April 2022, [March 2023](#)

## Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges

### Student Affairs

POLICY  
NAME: Graduate Admission

POLICY  
NUMBER: 3010

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#### **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 their first day of attendance in class, 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, the student must undergo testing upon arrival at the College.
- 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.

~~4.4.~~ 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:](#)

- ~~• A minimum Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of 550 for the paper-based test with no section score lower than 56 points; or~~
- ~~• A Minimum score of 79 for the internet-based test; or~~
- ~~• A minimum score of 213 for the computer-based test with no section score lower than 22 points; or~~
- ~~• A minimum score of 6.5 on the International English Testing System (IELTS) in place of the TOEFL test, 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

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## 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](#)