

UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA
BOARD OF REGENTS POLICY MANUAL
Official Policies of the University System of Georgia

4.2 Undergraduate Admissions

(Last Modified on July 1, 2013)

Every student admitted as an undergraduate in any USG institution must meet the requirements for one of the categories listed below and must meet any additional requirements that may be prescribed by the institution. Applicants should be advised that meeting minimum requirements will not guarantee admission at any institution. Institutions may set additional and/or higher requirements than listed here.

Except as explicitly permitted in this Policy Manual, any exceptions to these admissions policies may be made only with written approval of the USG chief academic officer. Exceptions to these admissions policies will also be reviewed by the Board biennially to ascertain how such action impacts institutions within a given sector.

Students must submit transcripts of all secondary and college work and must follow the application procedures specified by the institution to which they are applying.

4.2.1 Admission Requirements for Programs Leading to the Baccalaureate Degree

(Last Modified on March 20, 2017)

These policies apply to first time freshmen as well as to those who have not earned the equivalent of thirty (30) semester hours of transferable college credit.

4.2.1.1 Freshman Requirements

↑ Top

Students applying for freshman admissions to a USG institution must meet the following

criteria.

Required High School Curriculum

Completion of the USG's Required High School Curriculum ("RHSC") requirements and graduation from a high school accredited by a regional accrediting association (such as the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) or the Georgia Accrediting Commission or from a public school regulated by a school system and state department of education.

Students applying to any institution must present credit for sixteen (16) specified units. Students who graduate from high school in 2012 or later must present credits for seventeen (17) specified units. The 16 (17 for students who graduate in 2012 or later) specified USG units are:

1. **MATHEMATICS:** Four (4) units of Mathematics, including Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry. For students who graduate from a Georgia Public School in 2012 or later, the 4 units of Mathematics must include a course at the level of Math 3 or higher.
2. **ENGLISH:** Four (4) units of English which have as their emphasis grammar and usage, literature (American, English, World), and advanced composition skills.
3. **SCIENCE:** Three (3) units of science, with at least one laboratory course from the life sciences and one laboratory course from the physical sciences. Students who graduate in 2012 or later must have four (4) units of science. Georgia Public high School graduates must have at least one (1) unit of biology, one (1) unit of physical science or physics, and one (1) unit of chemistry, earth systems, environmental science, or an advanced placement science course.
4. **SOCIAL SCIENCE:** Three (3) units of social science, with at least one (1) course focusing on United States studies and one (1) course focusing on world studies.
5. **FOREIGN LANGUAGE/AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE/COMPUTER SCIENCE:** Two (2) units in the same foreign language emphasizing speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Two (2) units of American Sign Language or two (2) units of Computer Science emphasizing coding and programming may be used to satisfy this requirement.

In addition to these minimum requirements, students are encouraged to take additional academic units in high school to improve their probability for admission and success.

↑ Top

SAT/ACT Scores

Students must present at least the following minimum test scores for admission to a research, comprehensive, or state university:

1. 24 on the Reading test and 22 on the Math test of the new SAT (administered March 2016 or later);
2. 430 on the Critical Reading section and 400 on the Mathematics section of the old SAT (administered prior to March 2016); or
3. 17 on the English test and 17 on the Mathematics test of the ACT.

Presidents of the state colleges at their option shall require one of the following:

1. Submission of SAT/ACT test scores and meeting of the Freshman Index, as described below; or,
2. A minimum high school grade point average (HSGPA) and mandatory evaluation for Learning Support in lieu of SAT/ACT test scores for admissions.

State colleges requiring SAT/ACT shall establish minimum test score requirements of at least the following:

1. 19 on the Reading test and 18 on the Math test of the new SAT (administered March 2016 or later);
2. 330 on the Critical Reading section and 310 Mathematics section of the old SAT (administered prior to March 2016); or,
3. 12 on the English test and 14 on the Mathematics test of the ACT.

Students meeting the above minimum SAT/ACT scores but without scores sufficient to exempt placement screening will have a Mathematics Placement Index (MPI) and English Placement Index (EPI) calculated as outlined in Section 2.9.1, Administrative Procedures for Learning Support Programs, of the Academic and Student Affairs Handbook.

Freshman Index

The Freshman Index (FI) is calculated using a combination of a student's SAT or ACT scores and high school grade point average (HSGPA).

↑ Top

Scores earned on the old SAT (administered prior to March 2016) are entered directly into the SAT FI formula. Scores earned on the new SAT (administered March 2016 or later) must be converted to the equivalent scores on the old SAT using the appropriate concordance tables provided by the College Board. The equivalent old SAT scores are then entered into the SAT FI formula.

The following are the FI formulas:

SAT FI = $500 \times (\text{HSGPA}) + \text{old SAT Critical Reading section score} + \text{old SAT Math section score}$
ACT FI = $500 \times (\text{HSGPA}) + (\text{ACT Composite} \times 42) + 88$

The minimum FI required for admission to a: 1. Research university is 2500; 2. Comprehensive university is 2040; 3. State university is 1940; and, 4. State college requiring SAT/ACT is 1830.

Institutions may set higher requirements for admission. Students meeting the minimum FI and test score requirements are not guaranteed admission.

(BoR Minutes, Aug. 2010; Aug. 2014; Sept. 2015; Nov. 2016)

4.2.1.2 Exceptions to Freshman Admission Requirements for Special Groups of Students

Students may also be admitted as freshmen based on alternative evidence of college readiness. The following are modified or additional requirements for specific groups of applicants.

Limited Admissions Category

In recognition of the fact that a limited number of students do not meet established standards but do demonstrate special potential for success, institutions are authorized to grant admission to a limited number of such students. Institutions will use multiple measures whenever possible, such as interviews, portfolios, and records of experiential achievements, for students being considered for Limited Admission.

The number of students who may be granted Limited Admissions will be restricted based on institutional sectors, with state colleges allowed the highest percentage for Limited Admissions. Nontraditional freshmen will not be included in the Limited Admissions percentage allowed for each institution.

↑ Top