

Appendix F. Conditional Admission

Conditional Admission for High School Graduates (Revised)

Act 1290 of 1997 (A.C.A. §6-60-208), as amended by Act 520 of 1999, requires the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board to develop procedures for implementing certain admission requirements as defined in the act. The proposed policy was developed in consultation with a committee of college and university personnel including registrars, admission officers, academic and student services administrators, and high school counselors. The proposed policy has also been reviewed by all chief academic officers.

Act 1290 requires students who are public high school graduates and did not complete the core curriculum to be admitted conditionally to state-supported colleges and universities. The act further requires that these students successfully complete 12 hours from a designated list of courses. Successful completion is defined as achieving a minimum of a 2.0 grade point average. The required courses are to be designated by each institution, usually drawn from the college's general education requirements and, when applicable, technical education requirements.

The proposed policy defines the action required by each institution to comply with the act. Institutions must submit a plan by October 1, 1998, for review and approval of the Coordinating Board. The act, as amended, is effective for students graduating after May 1, 2002.

The present policy will be amended through this agenda item. The revised policy was presented for Board consideration during a public hearing at the July 24, 1998, AHECB meeting. Legal notice of this hearing was published in the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* more than thirty days prior to July 24.

The following resolution was approved by the Board on July 24, 1998.
(Agenda Item No. 53):

RESOLVED, That the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves the policy regarding conditional admission requirements for high school graduates who did not complete the core curriculum, effective fall semester 1997.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Coordinating Board instructs the Director of the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to notify the president and chancellor of each state-supported college and university of this policy.

I. General Information and Definitions

Act 1290 of 1997(A.C.A. §6-60-208), as amended by Act 520 of 1999, requires students graduating from high school in 2002 and after **to have completed the core curriculum for unconditional admission to public colleges and universities**. The following definitions and regulations apply to the implementation of this act. Nothing in the act or these procedures prevents an institution from setting higher admission standards for first-time full- and part-time enrolling students.

All students graduating after May 1, 2002, from Arkansas public high schools, out-of-state high schools, home schooling, private high schools and GED recipients **shall be evaluated for the purpose of being granted conditional or unconditional admission status**.

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A student admitted conditionally is a student admitted to an institution with certain requirements, conditions, or restrictions placed on initial and/or future enrollment status.

A student admitted unconditionally is a student admitted to the institution without requirements, conditions, or restrictions placed on initial enrollment status.

For students seeking unconditional admission to a public **four-year** college or university, a student must have completed the core requirements *and* have a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.

For students seeking unconditional admission to a public **two-year** college, students must have completed the core requirements; there is no grade point average requirement.

In computing an enrolling student's high school grade point average, the grade point average as computed by the high school (converted to a four-point scale) shall be used.

Exempt from these requirements:

- Students enrolling in Certificate of Proficiency programs *or* noncredit courses
- Students who are **not seeking a degree** *or* other award above the Certificate of Proficiency **and** are enrolled part-time

These requirements apply to all other award-seeking students and to students who must follow course placement guidelines as required by Act 1290 of 1997.

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II. Procedures

Each institution shall develop a plan for the implementation of this act using the following guidelines. Each plan must be approved by the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Implementation of the approved plan is a condition for receiving state funds.

1. Each institution will designate an office of responsibility for implementation and define the method of informing incoming students of their admission status.
2. Core academic courses, as required in Section 1 (c)(1)(A) and (B) of Act 1290 (see below) will be designated by each institution. Such courses will be regular, non-remedial credit courses as listed in the college catalog. These courses will be listed in the institution's implementation plan. The implementation plan will also include a listing of appropriate technical courses as required in Section 1 (c) (1)(B).

Section 1 (c)

(1) At a minimum, these **conditional admissions standards** shall require the following:

- (A) For a student seeking an associate of arts degree or a baccalaureate degree and who failed to successfully complete the core curriculum, completion of twelve (12) hours of core academic courses, and any necessary remedial courses with a cumulative grade point average of 2.0.
 - (B) For a student seeking a **diploma, technical certificate** or an **associate of applied science** degree and who failed to successfully complete the core curriculum, completion of six (6) hours of core academics courses and six (6) hours of technical courses required for the diploma, technical certificate or an associate of applied science degree and any necessary remedial courses with a cumulative grade point average of 2.0." (Act 1290 of 1997)
3. Students must successfully complete (defined as a 2.0 GPA) the required hours of core academic subjects and technical courses (as defined in number 2 above) and any remedial courses **within the first 30 semester hours, excluding developmental courses**. The institution must develop, define, and implement enrollment consequences (i.e., suspension, expulsion, limited course enrollment, etc.) for students who do not successfully complete (2.0 GPA) the required core academic subjects, technical, or remedial courses within the first 30 semester hours, excluding developmental courses.

The institution's regular definition of cumulative grade point average will be used in defining the attainment of a 2.0 grade point average.

4. Transcripts of **out-of-state** high school students will be evaluated for meeting the core curriculum. Students not meeting either the core curriculum requirement and relevant grade point average requirement will be admitted conditionally.
5. Students who receive a **GED** or are graduates of **home schooling** or **private high schools** after May 1, 2002, must make a composite score of 19 on the American College Test (**ACT**) or the equivalent score on the SAT, ASSET, or COMPASS in order to be unconditionally admitted.

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If the GED student tests at the college level in Math and English, they may also be unconditionally admitted. As with all other students, these students must meet the admission requirements of the college or university where they seek to enroll.

Each college and university will submit a plan for the implementation of the guidelines. Plans must be submitted by October 1, 1998.

Approved: Agenda Item No. 28
October 20, 1995

Amended: Agenda Item No. 53
July 24, 1998

Core Curriculum Requirements For Unconditional Admission

English	Four units with emphasis on writing skills, not to include courses in oral communications, journalism, drama or debate.
Natural Science	Three units, with laboratories, chosen from Physical Science, Biology, Chemistry, or Physics. Only one unit may come from a Life Science.
Mathematics	Four units, including Algebra I and II, Geometry, and an advanced math course. It is strongly recommended that students take a math course during their senior year. (Three units of math will be required for graduating seniors in 2002 and 2003. Four units will be required starting with the graduating class of 2004).
Social Studies	Three units, including one of American History (does not include Contemporary American History), one of World History (not to include World Cultures, World Geography, or Global Studies), and at least one-half unit of Civics or American Government (not to include courses in practical arts).

Note: These requirements differ slightly from the core curriculum requirements for the Arkansas Challenge Scholarship.