

Shared Governance Proposal Review Process

Official Use Only

Proposal Name:

Date Received:

Is proposal a SGOC issue? Yes No

Responsible Committee:

Type of review:

Faculty Handbook Issue: Yes No Staff Handbook Issue: Yes No

Constituency Groups: Faculty Senate SGA
 Staff Senate GSC
 Dean's Council Vice Chancellors
 Chair's Council

	Expedited (7 Business Days)	Full (39 Business Days)	Extended (93 Business Days)
SGOC establish disposition		2 days	5 days
		Due by:	Due by:
SGOC forward to responsible committees and SGCs		2 days	5 days
		Due by:	Due by:
SGCs send comments to responsible committee		7 days	21 days
		Due by:	Due by:
Responsible committee prepares final draft and sends to SGOC		7 days	21 days
		Due by:	Due by:
SGOC sends final draft to constituency groups for final up/down vote		2 days	5 days
		Due by:	Due by:
Constituency groups vote and notify SGOC		7 days	21 days
		Due by:	Due by:
SGOC tally votes and sends final report		2 days	5 days
		Due by:	Due by:
Chancellor review and response		10 days	10 days
		Due by:	Due by:

Notes:

Final Status:

Date:

Shared Governance Proposal – Admissions

- I. Date: 2/1/2021
- II. Sponsoring Constituent: Admissions Taskforce
- III. Statement of the Issue: Revised Admissions criteria to meet needs of a diverse body of learners
- IV. Rationale for Proposal: The Admissions taskforce was given a charge by the Provost & Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs to review and recommend admissions criteria that best upholds A-State’s commitment to serve a wide spectrum of learners from this region and beyond. The taskforce was also charged with establishing best practices in college access for students, who, given an opportunity, could be successful at A-State.

1. Establish admissions criteria for traditional admissions:

Relying heavily on admission tests such as the ACT or SAT can be a barrier to potential students who could otherwise be successful in college. This criterion is especially concerning for low-income and first-generation students for whom such tests may serve as a financial barrier to college admissions. Furthermore, these students often cannot afford services such as test-prep courses or to retest multiple times to boost their scores. According to the ACT, “[t]he average Comosite score of 2020 AR graduates taking ACT only one time” is 16.3.

Many universities have found that offering diverse opportunities to demonstrate merit for admissions increases access and opportunity. This approach could prove beneficial to students interested in attending Arkansas State University.

A review of A-State data suggests some students may be reasonably successful by achieving one of the benchmarks listed below, prior to admission, and is in keeping with admissions criteria at other four-year public institutions of higher education in Arkansas employing similar criteria.

Furthermore, the committee noted that terms such as “Unconditional” and “Conditional” may inadvertently serve as a deterrent to access and an artificial label once admitted. In order to move away from this nomenclature, it is recommended that A-State publish a single, admissions criteria for “Admission”; however, students identified as requiring necessary support will be notified of these requirements upon acceptance.

Finally, the committee recommends a bottom cutscore be established for special admissions noted below.

Proposed Admissions Criteria

A traditional, first-time undergraduate may be admitted to A-State if the following **criteria** are met:

- Cumulative high school grade point average (**GPA**) of 3.00 or above on a 4.0 grading scale on a minimum of six (6) semesters of high school work **OR**
- 19 on ACT Superscore or equivalent entrance exam (e.g., SAT) **OR**
- Top 20% of graduating class

Students who meet these admissions requirements but have lower than a 3.00 HS GPA or require remediation based upon their placement testing will be admitted to University College and required to complete a predesignated curriculum as described in this proposal. Placement testing of all first-time students is a requirement of ADHE. Remediation requirements are determined by students’ scores in reading, writing, and mathematics as set by the related academic department for each subject area.

Students who do not meet admissions criteria can seek admissions through the existing University Appeals Committee for a broader, holistic, and multi-measure admissions review. **However, it is recommended that an admissions cutscore of HS GPA of 2.00 and ACT of 17 be established unless case is sent for special permission of Chancellor.**

Proposed	Current
<p>Admission*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High School GPA 3.0, or • ACT 19, or • HS Class Rank of Top 20% <p>Appeal cutscore HS GPA 2.00/ACT 17</p> <p><i>*Students who meet admissions requirements but have lower than a 3.00 HS GPA or require remediation based on placement testing will be placed in University College.</i></p> <p><i>*Applicants who do not meet the aforementioned criteria may seek admittance by following the process outlined by the A-State Undergraduate Admissions Appeal Committee.</i></p>	<p>Unconditional Admission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High School GPA 2.75, and • ACT 21 <p>Conditional Admission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High School GPA 2.35 and • ACT 19 <p>No appeal cutscore</p>
<p>NOTE: All students seeking associate-level or higher degrees who do not have a test score on record must complete a placement exam in reading, writing, and math before their first registration for proper course selections.</p>	

2. Establish admissions criteria for nontraditional learners

Many adult learners, those who have not not been enrolled in a high school for five years or more, also experience barriers to college through traditional admissions practices and are a growing college-bound demographic. For some, a poor high school transcript no longer represents their abilities. At the same time, these adults are too far removed from high school to perform well on the latest version of standardized tests such as the ACT/SAT.

Committee members acknowledge that many adult learners may bring with them a great deal of “relevant” life experiences to the college classroom. These experiences may also allow them to be more diligent in their studies compared to the traditional student. Allowing adult learners to demonstrate their abilities in the classroom, as part of the

admissions process, is a growing trend. Therefore, we recommends allowing adult applicants, who do not meet the traditional admission's criteria, entrance into the university using the following process.

Proposed Nontraditional Admissions Criteria

Adult learners who do not have test scores available or do not meet the traditional admission criteria, may be admitted if they:

- hold a high school diploma or equivalent
- have not been enrolled in a high school for five years or more
- have completed 12 or fewer earned college hours (if more hours completed, refer to A-State Transfer Admission Policy)
- have never enrolled as a student at A-State (if so, see information for Readmission Policy)

Nontraditional applicants admitted through this path are considered degree-seeking students yet provisionally admitted. These applicants may also be placed in University College and required to successfully complete a predesignated curriculum of 12 hours. Upon successful completion, these students are no longer provisionally admitted and will follow the requirements outlined by their degree-granting department and/or college.

Proposed Certificate-Only Admits

Another opportunity for adults to gain new skills and advancement in the workplace is to upskill for the workplace by seeking certificate-level completion. Students seeking only certificate coursework may be admitted to the institution with a high school diploma or equivalent and take courses to fulfil requirements for approved certificate programs. Certificate-level programs that do not require ACT scores for enrollment based on feedback from chairs has been confirmed.

3. Recommend comprehensive support programs for students admitted into University College

Historically, A-State's conditionally-admitted students have been provided support through their first year of college only. However, recent data suggests students chances for retention and graduation decrease considerable, following the first year. A-State's Student Support Services' (SSS) along with the Athletic Support Programs have proven that a four-year support model yields long-term student success and are the basis of the new support model for this group of students. As part of this proposal, The Office of the Provost has made a commitment that students admitted with necessitated support will have the required academic coaching, leadership training, career counseling along with tutorial support for their duration at A-State. Students will be admitted as undecided and selection of major will occur at the end of the first year. This group will have additional onboarding experiences including an optional Summer bridge and a living, learning residential program. Upperclass participants will have the opportunity to serve as peer mentors to incoming students. A community-based alumni mentoring program will help

guide students toward career opportunities. A campus advisory board will annually review the admissions criteria, track the success of incoming students, and make ongoing program recommendations.

This policy would take effect beginning with the 2022-2023 incoming class of students.

Statement of Assurance from Dr. Damphousse

After consulting with Dr. Simons and Dr. Utter, I re-confirm my commitment to provide the necessary support for the long-term success of students admitted under the proposed admissions criteria. This aligns with the conversations our campus had throughout the development of the Student Success pillar in our Discover 2025 strategic plan. My goal is that advisors in Transition Studies meet the national standard of an advisor/student ratio no greater than 1:200, and that the students in that program have access to academic counseling from the point of admission through graduation. I also remain committed to providing the necessary resources for growth in the Gateway Math and English programs (correlated with an increasing demand based on enrollment). These commitments align with other current strategic plan implementation efforts to provide the necessary infrastructure to improve our student success.

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V. Type of review (i.e., expedited, full, or extended)

Full

VI. 2020-21 A-State Undergraduate Bulletin

A-State Undergraduate Bulletin 2020-2021. Selected sections, pp 22-25

ADMISSION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Communications concerning admission to the undergraduate programs of the university should be addressed to the Office of Admissions, P.O. Box 1800, State University, AR 72467. Faxes go to 870.972.3406 and email correspondence should be addressed to admissions@astate.edu.

CORE CURRICULUM FOR UNRESTRICTED ADMISSION

ENGLISH — 4 units with emphasis on writing skills, not to include courses in Oral Communication, Journalism, Drama or Debate.

NATURAL SCIENCE — 3 units with laboratories chosen from Physical Science, Biology, Chemistry, or Physics. Only one unit may come from a Life Science.

MATHEMATICS — 4 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. SOCIAL STUDIES — 3 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 1/2 unit of Civics or American Government (not to include courses in practical arts).

ENTERING FRESHMEN

To be considered for admission to Arkansas State University, an applicant must submit the following:

1. An application for admission by the Friday before classes begin.
2. A nonrefundable processing fee.*
3. An official high school transcript mailed directly from the high school** OR the result of the General Education Development (GED) state-approved high school equivalency examination mailed directly from the State Department of Education. Home schooled students should mail equivalent documents. Hand carried documents are NOT considered official unless submitted in a sealed, stamped school envelope or faxed directly from the previous institution. If you are currently enrolled in high school, a second transcript must be sent AFTER you have graduated listing your graduation date and final school GPA.
4. Official ACT scores, or SAT scores** mailed directly to the university from the testing institution or the high school. Test scores are only valid five years from date of exam.
5. Final official transcript from all colleges attended, if any. Official transcripts should be sent to: Office of the Registrar, P.O. Box 1570, State University, AR, 72467.
6. Documentation (required by Arkansas Statute) of two immunizations for measles, mumps, and rubella. The first immunization must have been administered after the applicant's first birthday and after 1/1/68. The second immunization may be administered no sooner than 28 days after the first dose.
7. A minimum ACT composite score of 21 19 and, a minimum high school GPA of 2.75 3.00, or evidence of being in the top 20% of graduation class rank. for unconditional admission OR a minimum ACT composite score of 19 and a minimum high school GPA of 2.30. Comparable scores on the SAT may be submitted for consideration. Admission based upon ACT or SAT require official scores be mailed directly to the university from the testing institution or the high school. Test scores are only valid five years from date of exam.

- * Application processing fees are not covered by scholarship.
- ** Hand-carried documents are not considered official records.

Students enrolling in degree programs at A-State may present faxed documents from the issuing school, as long as a cover letter is accompanied with the fax (i.e., ACT scores and transcripts) in lieu of official documents for registration purposes during the first week of classes only. Official copies must follow for students to be permitted to register for subsequent semesters and to obtain official transcripts from Arkansas State University. Students who present official documents which are incongruent with faxed documents will face disciplinary action by the university.

NON-TRADITIONAL FIRST-TIME FRESHMEN

Adult learners who do not have test scores available or do not meet the traditional admission criteria, may be admitted if they:

- hold a high school diploma or state-approved equivalent
- have not been enrolled in a high school for five years or more
- have completed 12 or fewer earned college hours (if more hours completed, refer to A-State Transfer Admission Policy)
- have never enrolled as a student at A-State (if so, see information for Readmission Policy)

Nontraditional applicants admitted through this path are considered degree-seeking students yet provisionally admitted. These applicants may also be placed in University College and required to successfully complete a predesignated curriculum of 12 hours. Upon successful completion, these students are no longer provisionally admitted and will follow the requirements outlined by their degree-granting department and/or college.

ADMISSION THROUGH TRANSITION STUDIES

~~Any first-time freshman with an ACT of <21 (or comparable SAT) may be admitted to A-State only through Transition Studies. Students admitted through Transition Studies are officially undecided and will be limited in terms of class choices and enrollment hours and must complete two semesters of college work successfully at A-State. Failure to complete the first two semesters successfully will result in dismissal from the Transition Studies program, and therefore, suspension from the University. Suspended students can return only when they have completed 12 or more transfer credits hours. Additioonal information about Transition Studies admissions requirements is on the Undergradaute Studies website and unter Transitions Studies in the bulletin.~~

Any traditionally admitted freshman who have with a HS GPA below a 3.00 or who places into remediation will be admitted to University College and required to participate in the Transition Studies leadership-based support program throughout their enrollment at A-State. Required participation includes enrollment and successful completion of a credited support lab for student's first four semesters, regular meetings with student's assigned academic coach, career assessment, and other unique oportunities as assigned by their academic coach. Optional activities include a summer bridge component and living-learning residential oportunity. The Transition Studies Leadership Program is governed by an advisory board and subject to program changes to meet the long-term needs of participants.

ADMISSION BY EXCEPTION FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS WITH EXCEPTIONAL TALENT

Prospective students who demonstrate exceptional talent, ability, accomplishment, or potential in athletics, leadership, and performance or similar contribution to the university community may be granted admission by exception to Arkansas State University-Jonesboro. Admission by exception provides a means to identify students who do not meet the numerical requirements (GPA and/or ACT/ SAT) for admission but who demonstrate exceptional potential to contribute to A-State. Prospective first-time students admitted by exception will be required to participate in the intensive Transition Studies program. Successful completion of the Transition Studies requirement will allow for continued enrollment at A-State. Prospective transfer students admitted by exception will be required to participate in the Restart@state program.

To be granted admission by exception, prospective first-time student-athletes must **also** satisfy the National Collegiate Athletic Association initial eligibility standards under Division I guidelines and prospective transfer student-athletes must **also** satisfy the National Collegiate Athletic Association transfer eligibility standards under Division I guidelines in order to be eligible to petition for admission via the Undergraduate Admission Appeals Committee. Colleges/Departments desiring to utilize “admission by exception” must provide documentation in support of the student’s extraordinary talent, ability, accomplishment, or potential via petition to the Undergraduate Admission Appeals Committee for consideration. Admission by exception will generally be reserved for students eligible for performance-based scholarships.

In addition, under extraordinary circumstances, prospective students may continue to be granted exceptional admission by the Chancellor as set forth in Article VI of the Bylaws of the Board of Trustees of Arkansas State University.

ADMISSION PROCEDURES

- ~~1. Completed application for admission along with a non-refundable processing fee.~~
- ~~2. Official transcript mailed directly to A-State from each institution previously attended. [Refer to Transfer Credit Policy for definition of acceptable transfer credit.]~~
- ~~3. A student currently enrolled and whose final transcript cannot be provided by the institution until the semester is completed will be evaluated for admission on all work completed to date. A final, official transcript must be received in order to continue enrollment for subsequent terms.~~
- ~~4. Official ACT scores or SAT scores, mailed directly to the university from the testing institution or the high school. Test scores are only valid five years from date of exam.~~
- ~~5. Documentation (required by Arkansas Statute) of two immunizations for measles, mumps, and rubella. The first immunization must have been administered after the applicant’s first birthday and after 1/1/68. The second immunization may be administered no sooner than 28 days after the first dose.~~

CERTIFICATE ENROLLMENT ONLY

Another opportunity to gain new skills and advance in the workplace is to retool by gaining certificate-level competencies. Students seeking only certificate coursework may be admitted to the institution after meeting the following requirements:

- hold a high school diploma or equivalent
- only enroll in courses necessary to fulfil requirements for the approved certificate programs.