



February 2004

Minimum College Admission Standards Review

Background

The Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) has statutory responsibility for establishing minimum college admission standards for four-year public colleges and universities. The current minimum admission standards were created in 1987 – with an implementation date of fall 1992 – and have not been significantly reviewed or revised for more than 10 years. The standards pre-date Running Start and other dual-credit programs, as well as K-12 education reform.

The 2004 Interim Strategic Master Plan calls for improving K-12/higher education linkages as a way of promoting student success in college. One of the most significant linkages is the relationship between a rigorous high school curriculum and student success in college. A rigorous course load increases the likelihood that high school students will go to college and complete a baccalaureate degree, and also reduces the need for remediation once the student has enrolled in college.

Because college admission standards play an important role in increasing the number of K-12 students who complete a rigorous high school curriculum, the strategic master plan includes a strategy for revising minimum college admission standards.

HECB review of current minimum admission standards

The HECB has directed staff to undertake a comprehensive review of current admission standards, and to gather feedback from as many stakeholders as possible. Staff are scheduled to meet with about 20 education organizations over the next three months. Attached to this document are the work plan, a questionnaire that will be used to gather feedback, and a PowerPoint presentation.

The review of current admission standards is intended to determine whether or not these standards are sufficient as they are, whether changes could help reduce the need for recent high school graduates to take remedial classes at college, and whether college admission standards should be linked to specific components of K-12 education reform – such as the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) or Certificate of Mastery (COM).

2004 Work Plan
Minimum College Admission Standards Review

	January to April	
Solicit feedback from stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with education associations: January-April • Meet with state agency, Governor education analysts, education committee members or staff: February-April • Meet with WA roundtable/business interests: February-March • Meet with parents, students, and counselors across the state in a series of open houses: April • Submit PowerPoint and questionnaire to WA Council list serve (and others as identified): February 	
	March to May	
Report on stakeholder feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compile stakeholder feedback into report: March-April • Circulate for review and comment: April-May 	
	May to September	
HECB hearings/adoption of revisions (if any)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HECB draft recommendations and work session: May 20 • HECB adopts revised standards: September 23 	
	March to June	September to End of the Year
Communicate revisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop communication and implementation plan: March • Circulate draft recommendations: June 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend meetings/conferences/workshops • Post revisions to web/list serves • Send out letter to all school districts • Begin work on admissions policy manual for later distribution

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Review of State Minimum College Admission Standards
Interview Questionnaire
Winter 2004

Regular Freshman Admissions

I. Role of Minimum College Admission Standards

Do we need minimum college admission standards, or should we rely solely on institutional admission standards?

II. Current Minimum College Admission Standards

If we continue to require minimum admission standards, should they be changed?

A. College Preparatory Curriculum

Are current core course requirements sufficient? Why or why not? How should they be changed, if at all?

B. Grade Point Average (GPA)

Should a minimum GPA be maintained? Why or why not? How should it be changed, if at all?

C. SAT/ACT

Should the ACT or SAT college admission test be retained? Why or why not?

D. Admissions Index

Should the Admissions Index be retained? Why or why not?

E. Other Standards

Are there other state minimum requirements you would like to see added?

F. Admissions Process

Should college admissions be based on automatic formula, comprehensive review, or some combination of the two?

III. Relationship between State Minimum College Admission Standards and Other Requirements

A. Institution Admission Requirements

Should the six public four-year colleges and universities continue to set admission standards that exceed state minimum requirements? Why or why not?

B. High School Graduation Requirements

Should minimum high school graduation requirements and minimum state college admission requirements be the same? Why or why not? (If they should be the same, should the high school graduation standards be raised or should the minimum state college admission standards be lowered?)

Should the Certificate of Mastery be a state minimum college admissions requirement for students graduating from public high schools? Why or why not?

Should the 10th grade WASL be used for minimum college admission purposes? Why or why not? If it should be used, how do you recommend using it? (Examples: Should specific scores be used? Should passage of all sections of the WASL be required? Should the WASL be used in lieu of certain core course requirements? Should the WASL be used as an option to the ACT or SAT? Are there other ways to use it?)

C. Other K-16 Issues

Do you have any other ideas for strengthening the linkage between K-12 and higher education through college admission standards?

What other changes to the minimum requirements, if any, do you think would help to reduce remediation?

Alternative Freshman Admissions

Should the 15 percent alternative admission standard be retained? Why or why not?

Other Comments

Information about You

Your name _____

Name of your organization _____

Address _____

Telephone number _____

Email address _____

Do the responses on this form represent:

Your organization's position? _____ Your personal ideas? _____

Date _____

Note: Responses to the interview questionnaire will be compiled and submitted to the HECB and may be published as a "report."

Thank you for completing our questionnaire

Please send your completed questionnaire no later than March 26th to:

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