

23-1-113. Commission directive - admission standards for baccalaureate and graduate institutions of higher education

(1) (a) The commission shall commence immediately to establish and the governing boards shall implement academic admission standards for first-time freshmen and transfer students at all state-supported baccalaureate and graduate institutions of higher education in the state. The standards shall be established by the commission, after consultation with the governing boards of institutions, and the first step of implementation shall be completed by the governing boards by the beginning of the fall term in 1986. Effective July 1, 1993, the academic admission standards established for determining admission of students who do not have in-state status, as determined pursuant to [section 23-7-103](#), shall equal or exceed those established for determining admission of in-state students.

(b) (I) (A) The standards established for first-time admitted freshman students shall use a combination of high school academic performance indicators and national assessment test scores for eligibility criteria. The criteria established and the specified performance levels shall be consistent with the role and mission established for each state-supported institution of higher education.

(B) In lieu of the established statewide criteria, additional criteria may be used for up to twenty percent of the admitted freshmen. Beginning with the fall semester 2001, each governing board shall adopt policies and procedures that ensure each matriculated first-time freshman shall take basic skills placement or assessment tests in English and mathematics. Such tests shall be determined by the institution such freshman attends, shall meet the standards adopted by the commission pursuant to [section 23-1-113.3 \(1\)](#), and shall be administered by such institution. Students identified by institutions as needing basic skills remedial course work shall take appropriate course work no later than the end of their freshman year. The commission, in consultation with the governing boards, shall ensure the comparability of these placement or assessment tests for the purpose of providing consistent reporting data as such data are required by [section 23-1-113.3 \(4\)](#). The commission, in consultation with the governing boards, shall ensure that each student identified as needing basic skills remedial course work is provided with written notification identifying which state institutions offer such basic skills courses and the approximate cost and relative availability of such courses, including any electronic on-line courses.

(C) Students who meet the minimum criteria for admission shall not be guaranteed admission to the institution to which they have applied, but they shall be eligible for consideration.

(II) For purposes of this paragraph (b):

(A) "Academic performance indicators" may include, but shall not be limited to, grade point average, class rank, and content standard performance level assessments.

(A.3) "Academic skills courses" means courses that teach the basic academic skills necessary to succeed at a postsecondary institution.

(A.7) "Basic skills courses" means courses that are prerequisites to the level of work expected at a postsecondary institution and include academic skills courses and preparatory courses.

(B) "National assessment test scores" may include, but shall not be limited to, ACT test

scores and SAT test scores.

(B.5) "Preparatory courses" means courses designed for students who demonstrate a deficient skill level in the general competencies necessary to succeed in a standard postsecondary curriculum and shall include, but need not be limited to reading courses that focus on nontechnical vocabulary, word identification, and reading of everyday material; writing courses that focus primarily on grammar, usage, punctuation, and effective sentences and paragraphs; and mathematics courses primarily covering concepts introduced in elementary and intermediate algebra and geometry.

(c) The standards established for transfer students shall use college academic performance indicators as the eligibility criteria for admitted transfer students. In lieu of such criteria, additional criteria may be used for up to twenty percent of the admitted transfer students. The academic admission standards and policies established for transfer students shall be consistent with the student transfer agreements established by the commission pursuant to [section 23-1-108 \(7\) \(f\)](#). Students who meet the minimum criteria for admission shall not be guaranteed admission to the institution to which they have applied, but they shall be eligible for consideration.

(d) Repealed.

(2) Repealed.

(3) (a) (Deleted by amendment, L. 2004, p. 201, § 16, effective August 4, 2004.)

(b) (Deleted by amendment, L. 96, p. 1236, § 78, effective August 7, 1996.)

(4) The commission shall work with the state board of education to align the academic admission standards established pursuant to this section with the guidelines for high school graduation requirements developed pursuant to [section 22-2-106 \(1\) \(a.5\)](#), C.R.S. Any revised academic admission standards shall be implemented no later than the selection of the freshman class of fall 2012.

(5) (a) On or before December 15, 2009, pursuant to [section 22-7-1008](#), C.R.S., the commission shall consult with the state board of education, and the commission and the state board of education shall negotiate a consensus and adopt the description of postsecondary and workforce readiness.

(b) On or before July 1, 2015, and on or before July 1 every six years thereafter, the commission and the state board of education may adopt revisions to the postsecondary and workforce readiness description.

(6) (a) On or before December 15, 2010, pursuant to [section 22-7-1008](#), C.R.S., the commission and the state board of education shall negotiate a consensus and adopt one or more postsecondary and workforce planning, preparation, and readiness assessments for use by school districts, boards of cooperative services, district charter high schools, and institute charter high schools. The commission and the state board of education also shall negotiate a consensus and adopt scoring criteria to indicate a student's level of postsecondary and workforce readiness, as provided in [section 22-7-1008](#), C.R.S.

(b) Every six years after the adoption of the postsecondary and workforce planning, preparation, and readiness assessments pursuant to [section 22-7-1008](#), C.R.S., the commission and the state board of education may negotiate a consensus and adopt

revisions to such assessments. The commission and the state board of education may also revise the scoring criteria for the postsecondary and workforce planning, preparation, and readiness assessments, as necessary.

(7) Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, a student who graduates with a high school diploma that includes a postsecondary and workforce readiness endorsement based on criteria adopted by the state board and approved by the commission and the governing boards of the state institutions of higher education pursuant to [section 22-7-1009](#), C.R.S., shall be guaranteed:

(a) To meet minimum academic qualifications for admission to, and to be eligible, subject to additional institutional review of other admission and placement qualifications, for placement into credit-bearing courses at, all open, modified open, or moderately selective public institutions of higher education in Colorado; and

(b) To receive priority consideration, in conjunction with additional admissions criteria, and to be eligible, subject to additional institutional review of other admission and placement qualifications, for placement into credit-bearing courses, at all other public institutions of higher education in Colorado. The additional admissions criteria shall be determined by each institution of higher education.

(8) (a) On or before December 15, 2014, based on adoption of the description of postsecondary and workforce readiness, the commission shall, if necessary, revise the minimum academic admission standards for first-time freshmen at all state-supported baccalaureate and graduate institutions of higher education in the state to ensure that the minimum academic admission standards are aligned with the description of postsecondary and workforce readiness adopted by the commission and the state board of education.

(b) On or before December 15, 2012, the commission shall review the basic skills placement or assessment tests administered pursuant to sub-subparagraph (B) of subparagraph (I) of paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of this section, and the associated policies, to ensure that the tests and associated policies are aligned with the postsecondary and workforce readiness description.

(c) Consistent with any revisions adopted pursuant to this section to the description of postsecondary and workforce readiness, the commission shall, if necessary, adopt revisions to the minimum academic admission standards and the basic skills placement or assessment tests to ensure continued alignment with the postsecondary and workforce readiness description.

(d) In revising the minimum academic admission standards and the basic skills placement or assessment tests pursuant to this subsection (8), the commission shall consult with the governing boards of the state institutions of higher education.

(9) On or before February 15, 2012, and on or before February 15 each year thereafter, the department of higher education shall submit to the state board of education and the education committees of the house of representatives and the senate, or any successor committees, a report concerning the enrollment, first-year college grades, and, subject to available data, types of academic certificates and degrees attained for the high school graduating classes of the preceding six academic years. The department of higher education shall report the information disaggregated by school district of graduation, ethnicity, gender, financial aid status, and any other characteristic deemed relevant by the commission. The department of higher education shall also make the report available on its

web site.

(10) On or before February 15, 2009, and on or before February 15 each year thereafter, the department of higher education shall submit to the department of education the unit records used for its reporting purposes under this section to enable the department of education to evaluate the effectiveness of the alignment of the preschool through postsecondary education systems in preparing students who demonstrate postsecondary and workforce readiness and subsequently succeed in postsecondary education.

HISTORY: Source: . L. 85: Entire article R&RE, p. 759, § 1, effective July 1.L. 93: (1)(a) amended, p. 2124, § 5, effective June 11.L. 94: (1)(c) amended, p. 1795, § 7, effective May 31.L. 95: (1)(b) and (1)(c) amended and (3) added, p. 54, § 3, effective March 20; (2) amended, p. 39, § 2, effective January 1, 1996.L. 96: (1)(b) and (1)(c) amended, p. 171, § 1, effective July 1; (2) and (3)(b) amended, p. 1236, § 78, effective August 7.L. 99: (2) repealed, p. 849, § 1, effective May 24.L. 2000: (1)(b) amended, p. 1484, § 2, effective June 1.L. 2004: (1)(b)(I)(B), (1)(c), and (3)(a) amended, p. 201, § 16, effective August 4.L. 2007: (4) added, p. 678, § 5, effective May 2.L. 2008: (5) to (10) added, p. 769, § 5, effective May 14.L. 2010: (6)(b) amended, ([HB 10-1013](#)), [ch. 399, p. 1912, § 35](#), effective June 10; (1)(c) amended, ([HB 10-1208](#)), [ch. 191, p. 822, § 2](#), effective August 11.

Editor's note: Subsection (1)(d)(II) provided for the repeal of subsection (1)(d), effective June 30, 1988. (See L. 85, p. 759.)

Cross references: For the legislative declaration contained in the 1996 act amending subsections (2) and (3)(b), see section 1 of chapter 237, Session Laws of Colorado 1996. For the legislative declaration contained in the 2007 act enacting subsection (4), see section 1 of chapter 182, Session Laws of Colorado 2007.
