

## Statewide Admission Standards Policy Review

The **Admission and Transfer Policy Review Task Force and Advisory Board** is comprised of representatives from public institutions of higher education, and K-12 constituents (committee roster is attached). The group has met since May 2012 to review the Colorado Commission on Higher Education Admission Education Policy (section I, part E).

The Task Force was **charged** with:

- Considering the effect of the current policy on student success;
- Examining how HEAR and the Index are ensuring students are prepared for college;
- Embedding Colorado Academic Standards & national consortia assessments into the policy;
- Aligning the statewide Admission Standards and Remedial Education policies;
- Considering how the rigor of high school curriculum impacts the development of this policy; and
- Developing admission criteria for Postsecondary Workforce Ready Endorsed Diploma.

### **Task Force Guiding Principles:**

That Colorado's statewide admissions policy promotes access and provides a transparent and inclusive way for all prospective students and affiliated constituents to understand the multiple pathways to postsecondary education; That the policy provides flexibility for all institutions, equity for all students and is based upon data, best practices and alignment with K-12, high school graduation guidelines, statewide remedial education policy, and transfer policy.

### **The revised Policy Goals:**

Through this policy, the Commission intends to provide an opportunity for all qualified individuals to attend a Colorado public institution by:

1. Informing an eligible pool of prospective students and affiliated constituencies regarding the unique roles and missions of Colorado's public institutions.
2. Establishing and clearly communicating performance based admission standards that reflect differentiated institutional role and mission to prospective students and affiliated constituents, which align to the:
  - a. Colorado High school graduation guidelines
  - b. Colorado guarantee transfer and state-wide articulation agreements
  - c. Colorado Remedial Education Policy
  - d. Appropriate alternative pathways
3. Encouraging diversity by supporting the admission of applicants from underrepresented groups, applicants with special talents, and applicants with other unique circumstances.
4. Allowing institutional flexibility for making admissions decisions to support increased enrollment, persistence and graduation rates.

During the discovery process, the task force has been exposed to several presenters, reports and data elements. Below is a brief list of those **presentations and reports**.

- Dr. Sonia Brandon presented the work she conducted for the Colorado Department of Higher Education on the index recalibration and grade inflation.
- Dr. Beth Bean discussed the types of research the Department of Higher Education has been conducting, including the 2011 Report on Remedial Education and the 2012 Legislative Report on the Postsecondary Progress and Success of High School Graduates..
- Representatives from a few institutions represented on the committee discussed their respective admissions processes.
- Partners from the Colorado Department of Education provided information on the new Colorado Academic Standards, role of higher education in designing forthcoming state and national assessments, building high school graduation guidelines and understanding the criteria for earning a Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness endorsed diploma, and data on Postsecondary Outcomes of High School Graduates.
- Representatives from ACT and College Board shared their assessment success predictability.
- Partnership for Assessment of Readiness of College and Careers (PARCC) Assessment and Smarter Balance Assessment on the new high school assessment development

### **Subcommittees**

The task force has created three subcommittees to address specific elements of the policy.

**HEAR/Mastery requirements** subcommittee is considering:

- Whether the current HEAR is adequately preparing students for postsecondary education;
- How to include mastery demonstration in the current HEAR requirements; and
- How to align the current HEAR with K-12 Colorado Academic Standards.

The **Transfer** student subcommittee is considering:

- Creating a more precise definition of a transfer student;
- How this policy works with the Transfer Policy (gtPathways policy), and
- Whether or not the current standards ensure success for students.

The **Index** subcommittee is considering

- Whether the current Index is an adequate way to predict success;
- Examining whether another system might be more predictive;
- How we would use the distribution process if we did not use the Index/Window, and how we can use the index as an audit tool but not as a forward facing tool for the public;
- Recalibrating the index, assessing how grade inflation is affecting the index;
- Examining the weight of index components (GPA/assessments).

### **Timeline**

The Task Force and Advisory Board will meet in February and March to continue to review the policy. In April/May/June we will be seeking feedback on preliminary recommendations throughout the state. In July/August we will reconvene the Task Force and Advisory Board to finalize the draft policy and present it to the Commission.