

Proposed Admissions Standards Colorado Mesa University November 2014

Purpose:

The “Submission of Institutional Standards to Commission” (4.01.02.04) section of the *Admissions Standards Policy* approved by CCHE in December 2013 with revisions from September 2014, states the following:

...institutions are required to establish and submit to the Commission for approval admissions standards by December 1, 2014. Institutions will submit admissions standards in a format to be determined by the Department in consultation with the institutions.

Colorado Revised Statute 23-1-113 explains that the admission standards shall be established at “...all state-supported baccalaureate and graduation institutions of higher education in the state.”

It is important to clarify that admission standards are intended to be a means of determining requirements for admission at four-year colleges. Meeting the admission standards does NOT guarantee admission to students as there is a broad range of factors which institutions consider in making decisions.

The CCHE Admissions policy was updated to reflect three areas from which institutions are to set admissions standards (4.01.02). This includes mid 50% range of Assessment Scores from ACT or SAT (4.01.02.01), mid 50% range of Grade Point Average correlated to a 4.0 scale (4.01.02.02), and Rigor (4.01.02.03).

Colorado Mesa University proposes the following standards for admissibility of new first-time entering student applicants:

Assessment Scores and High School GPA:

In 1986, the admission policy led to the creation of an admission index score. This score was created using 2 factors, high school performance based on GPA or class rank, and test score performance using ACT or SAT Composite scores. For each factor, the components were then aligned and normalized so that 50 points would be assigned at the average scores of each factor. CMU has analyzed student performance using the old index and finds it to be a good sorting mechanism for its students. CMU proposes for the HS Performance and Test Performance pieces to utilize an “Admissions Score.” CMU will admit students into its baccalaureate program at an Admissions Score of 92 or higher.

High School GPA mid 50% range:

High School GPA is considered along with other measures when determining admissibility. Based on analysis of data for past years admitted first-time baccalaureate-seeking students, the following represents the middle 50% range GPA of Colorado Mesa University: 3.0 – 3.75 GPA.

Assessment Scores mid 50% range:

Assessment scores are considered along with other measures when determining admissibility. Based on analysis of data for past years admitted first-time baccalaureate-seeking students, the following test scores represent the middle 50% range ACT and SAT scores of Colorado Mesa University:

ACT Composite range = 20-25

SAT (Critical Reading + Math) = 930-1110

Rigor:

4.01.02.03 states: "Institutions will set a performance indicator using rigor of students' high school program of study. Research indicates the best preparation for success in college is for a student to take a rigorous high school curriculum. Institutions can assess rigor in multiple ways, recognizing that students engaged in competency-based high school programs of study and those in traditional seat-time based programs may have different methods of demonstrating rigor. Institutions' performance indicators should accommodate these different demonstrations of rigor..." Please refer to 4.01.02.03 for other examples of rigor beyond HEAR (e.g. quantity and quality of successfully completed core course work; successful completion of AP/IB courses; successful completion of college level course work; positive trend in grades; rigorous senior year course load; and high school courses in chosen career path).

Beginning with the class of 2008, the CCHE implemented the Higher Education Admission Requirements (HEAR) based on research done by American College Testing (ACT). CMU has also done much analysis on the transcript data of incoming students and has found the coursework listed below to be highly predictive of first-year student success. Additionally, the local school districts have adopted the HEAR as graduation requirements. For the rigor component, CMU proposes to maintain the HEAR standard and content areas listed below for admission into its baccalaureate programs.

<u>Academic Area</u>	<u>2008/2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
English	4 Units	4 Units
Mathematics	3 Units	4 Units
Natural Science	3 Units	3 Units
Social Science	3 Units	3 Units
Foreign Language	Not Req.	1 Unit
<u>Academic Electives</u>	<u>2 Units</u>	<u>2 Units</u>
TOTAL	15 Units	17 Units

Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness (PWR) Endorsed Diploma

Admission Guidelines:

Colorado Mesa University is a selective institution as listed in the Colorado Admission Standards Policy. When the PWR Endorsed Diploma is adopted, incoming freshman students with the PWR Endorsed Diploma will receive priority consideration throughout the admission review process. Exclusions as listed in the Admission Policy will prevent students from this guarantee (i.e. missing admission application deadline; failure to successfully complete PWR Endorsed Diploma as reflected on the final transcript; and other factors like violations of the institution's campus safety/conduct guidelines).

Minimum Transfer GPA:

Transfer GPA is considered along with number of college credits when determining admissibility. Applicants should present a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or above for admission consideration. Applicants with AA or AS degrees are guaranteed admission with a 2.4 GPA.

Based on analysis of transfer GPA data for past years, the following represents the middle 50% range GPA of Colorado Mesa University transfer admits: 2.4 – 3.3 Transfer GPA.