

## Proposed Admissions Standards Colorado School of Mines September 2014

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### **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 School of Mines proposes the following standards for admission consideration of new first-time entering student applicants:**

#### **High School GPA mid 50% range:**

*Provide mid 50% GPA range based on 4.0 scale here of most recently admitted class.*

**Based on analysis of data for the Fall 2014 admitted new/first-time class, the following range represents the mid 50% GPA (based on 4.0 unweighted scale) of our admits: 3.7 – 4.0 GPA.**

#### **Assessment Scores mid 50% range:**

*Provide ACT and/or SAT mid 50% score range here and if your institution requires the written component (composite scores – option to include subscores?). Provide information on any supplemental assessment your college may use (i.e. Accuplacer and/or Compass).*

**Based on analysis of data for the Fall 2014 admitted new/first-time class, the following test scores in combination with the aforementioned GPA range were a strong predictor of student success in the first year. Colorado School of Mines accepts both tests (ACT and/or**

SAT I) and although not required, encourages those taking the ACT to take ACT with writing:

ACT Composite range = 29 - 33

SAT Combined (Critical Reading & Math) range = 1280 - 1420

**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). Colorado School of Mines has also done much analysis on the transcript data of incoming students and has found the coursework listed below to be predictive of first-year student success. For the rigor component, Colorado School of Mines proposes to maintain the HEAR standard and content areas listed below as the minimum basis for consideration 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>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15 Units</b>	<b>17 Units</b>

**Additional information about the above HEAR requirements in mathematics and natural science – particularly pertinent to Colorado School of Mines: high school curriculum should be rigorous and at a minimum should include: 2 units of algebra, 1 unit of geometry, and 1 unit of advanced mathematics (trigonometry/pre-calculus); and 3 units of lab science (1 unit must be chemistry or physics; both are preferred).**

**As a highly selective institution with a focus in applied sciences and engineering, admission is competitive and Colorado School of Mines encourages a rigorous college-preparatory course selection in quality and quantity throughout high school, positive trend in grades; rigorous senior year course load; when available, successful completion of AP and/or IB courses; and the successful completion of college level course work when student excels beyond opportunities available in high school.**

## **Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness (PWR) Endorsed Diploma**

### **Admission Guidelines:**

*As 4.02 states, “Open, modified open and moderately selective institutions shall have as part of their admission policies that students with a PWR Endorsed Diploma are guaranteed admission.” “Selective and highly selective institutions shall have as part of their admissions policies that students with a PWR Endorsed Diploma will receive priority consideration.”*

**As a highly selective institution, Colorado School of Mines shall provide new/first-time students with a PWR Endorsed Diploma priority consideration in the admissions process. Exclusions as listed in the Admission Policy will preclude 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).**

**Colorado School of Mines proposes the following standards related to cumulative college GPA for admission consideration of transfer student applicants:**

### **Transfer Student - Minimum Transfer GPA:**

*The minimum cumulative GPA from all previous college-level course work your institution will accept. The minimum Transfer GPA will also be used to determine eligibility for Guaranteed Transfer Admission (excluding Colorado School of Mines).*

**Based on extensive analysis of college transfer data for the previous 3 years of transfer students, the following range represents the mid 50% GPA of our transfer admits: 3.2 – 3.8 cumulative college transfer GPA.**

**Understanding that transfer applicants frequently come from a diverse academic background; as a general guideline, a minimum 3.0 cumulative college transfer GPA, coupled with prescribed, recent college coursework particularly in science and mathematics was a predictor of a competitive application for transfer admission and a predictor of student success upon transferring.**