

Proposed Admissions Standards Western State Colorado University

October 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).

Western State Colorado University proposes the following standards for admissibility 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 previous year’s admitted new/first-time class, the following range represents the mid 50% GPA of our admits: 2.72 – 3.53 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 previous year’s 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. Western State Colorado University accepts both tests and will consider the written component in decision making:

ACT Composite range = **19 - 24**

SAT Combined (Critical Reading & Math) range = **927 - 1117**

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). Western State Colorado University 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. For the rigor component, Western State Colorado University 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:

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 Western State Colorado University is a *moderately selective* institution as listed in the Colorado Admission Standards Policy, incoming freshman students with the PWR Endorsed Diploma will be guaranteed admission. 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:

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 data for past 10 years of transfer students, the following minimum transfer GPA was a strong predictor of student success upon transferring: 2.00 GPA.