

**ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS  
POLICY MANUAL**

2-105 Admission Requirements (formerly 2-120 and 2-121)

Revision Dates

2/19/2026, 4/10/2025 (adopted)

Admission standards are established to ensure applicants are prepared to succeed in college. This policy sets out minimum admission requirements, core competencies, and further admission considerations for Arizona's public universities, under which each institution may adopt additional requirements for general admission and/or for other academic units within the university.

In accordance with A.R.S.15-1821(b)(3), an applicant admitted to a university is not guaranteed admission to a specific degree program or to all courses offered by the university. Additionally, an applicant admitted to a specific degree program or college is not guaranteed admission to other programs or courses offered by the university.

Meeting admission requirements does not create the expectation of a scholarship, grant or other form of financial aid; policies for financial aid are specified under chapter 4 of this policy manual.

**A. Undergraduate Admission**

1. Applicants will be considered for admission according to the minimum requirements set out below. An applicant is an individual who is applying to or has applied to a university for admission.
2. Categories of Admission and Criteria

To provide broad access for applicants, several categories of entry and associated admission criteria are established. The requirements set out below recognize that applicants bring a range of academic preparation to their studies and that students follow multiple pathways to attain their higher education goals.

**a. First-Year Entry**

- 1) Definition: an applicant who will receive, or has received, a state-recognized high school diploma with fewer than 12 transferable college or university credits completed post-high school.
- 2) Criterion: earn an unweighted grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 or above on a 4.00 = a scale in the high school core

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competencies, as defined below.

b. Transfer Entry

1) Definition: a student who has attended one or more colleges/universities and has completed 12 or more transferable college or university credits post-high school. A student is an individual who is or was matriculated (enrolled) at a college or university. Transferable credits are those from courses taken at another college or university that meet requirements to be counted towards a program of study at a university to which a student wishes to transfer.

2) Criteria

Have fewer than 24 transferable college or university credit hours (12 – 23 credit hours) and have a core unweighted high school grade point average of 2.00 or above on a 4.00 = a scale, or

Have 24 or more transferable college or university credit hours with a cumulative (college or university) grade point average of at least 2.00 on a 4.00 = a scale, or

Have completed the Arizona general education curriculum (AGEC) with cumulative grade point average of at least a 2.00 on a 4.00 = a scale.

c. Additional or alternative admission criteria may apply to certain types of applicants, as detailed in section 4 below.

3. Core Competencies

a. An applicant must demonstrate academic competency across the high school credit subject areas in the table below. A high school credit is defined as 1 year of study. Applicants must complete a minimum of 14 credits from the 16 listed; the 2 unselected credits cannot be in the same core subject area or a combination of math and laboratory science. Applicants must attain a grade point average of at least 2.00 on a 4.00 = a scale in each subject area.

b. A university may require that, in order to complete an application for admission, applicants must submit scores from college admission standardized tests.

- c. To maximize their potential for success, applicants are encouraged to complete more than the minimum core credits and to complete courses appropriate to their intended pathway of study.

<b>MINIMUM HIGH SCHOOL CORE COMPETENCIES</b>				
COMPLETE A MINIMUM OF 14 CREDITS FROM THE 16 LISTED; THE 2 UNSELECTED CREDITS CANNOT BE IN THE SAME SUBJECT AREA OR A COMBINATION OF MATH AND LABORATORY SCIENCE. ATTAIN A GRADE POINT AVERAGE OF AT LEAST 2.00 ON A 4.00 = A SCALE IN EACH SUBJECT AREA.				
<b>SUBJECT AREA</b>	<b>ABOR DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>OR ACT SCORE</b>	<b>OR SAT SCORE</b>	<b>OR COLLEGE</b>
English 4 credits/years of Composition/Literature	English must include literature and have a substantial emphasis on grammar and composition. Courses such as, for example, journalism, business communication, and speech may improve a student's ability in English, but they are not devoted exclusively to the study of English and may not be substituted for a regular English course.	English sub score of 21 or above.	Evidence based reading and writing score of 580 or above.	One 3-credit transferable English course.
Mathematics 4 credits/years	Applicants must complete 4 high school credits in college preparatory mathematics including algebra I and II, geometry, and culminating in 1 credit in quantitative methods (e.g., advanced math, calculus, statistics, data science, modeling, artificial intelligence) for which algebra II or a comparable course in quantitative methods is a prerequisite, or the equivalent in integrated mathematics credits. Students are strongly recommended to take quantitative methods during their senior year of high school.	Math sub score of 24 or above.	Math score of 580 or above.	One transferable 3-credit course at the college algebra level or higher.
Lab Science 3 credits/years	A Laboratory Science course has at least 1 class period each week for students to manipulate equipment, materials, or specimens, to develop skills in observation and analysis, and to discover, demonstrate, illustrate, or test scientific principles or concepts. Applicants must complete at least 1 credit in each of 3 different laboratory sciences selected from the following: Chemistry, Physics, Earth Science, or Biology. A laboratory-based integrated science course may be allowed to substitute for 1 of the 3 required courses. It is strongly recommended that students take 3 years of different laboratory science subjects before taking an advanced/honors university course in the same subject.	Natural science sub score of 20 or above. (Test scores may be used to show competency in one (1) science only).	SAT Subject Test: Chemistry—600 or above; Biology—590 or above; Physics—620 or above.	Three transferable courses each equivalent to 4-credit lab science courses (only two may be in the same field).
Social Science 2 credits/years	Applicants must demonstrate competency in Social Science by completing at least 1 year of study in American History and at least 1 additional year of study in 1 other social science field such as European or World History, Economics, Sociology, Geography, Government, Psychology, or Anthropology.	N/A	SAT subject test scores: American History/Social Studies: 560 or above; European/World Culture: 580 or above.	One 3-credit American History course and one 3-credit social science course.
Second Language 2 credits/years	Applicants must demonstrate competency in a Second Language by completing 2 high school credits in the same Second Language.	Attain a minimum score on a national standardized language test such as AP or CLEP Examination scores; or earn certified placement into third college-level semester of higher based on an exam given by an accredited institution of higher education.		One year of study in the same language; includes American Sign Language.
Fine Arts 1 credit /year	Fine Arts courses provide knowledge and experience in the visual and performing arts, covering production and performance; analysis, interpretation, and evaluation; and historical and cultural aspects. Courses must combine theory and practice and include critical thinking skills.	N/A	N/A	One 3-credit fine arts class.
----- OR ----- CTE 1 credit/year	Competency may be demonstrated by completing 1 high school credit in a Career & Technical Education (CTE) course or 2 semesters of high school CTE.	N/A	N/A	One 3-credit CTE course in to a CTE program approved by ADE.

4. Further admission considerations
  - a. State-recognized high school diplomas include conventional and high school equivalency diplomas recognized by a U.S. state, including those earned via the general educational development (GED) or another equivalency test. First-year applicants who will receive or have received a high school diploma not recognized by a state in the U.S. shall be evaluated for admission using the requirements outlined in section 2 of this policy or appropriate equivalents as applicable.
  - b. Each university will admit home-schooled students who meet criteria developed and established by each university. As possible, the universities will follow the admission criteria outlined in section 2.
  - c. Each university may, with approval of the board, set additional requirements for general university admission, including an appeal process. Additional requirements may include, for example, core academic coursework, grade point average, residency, standardized admission tests, language tests, and placement tests. Requests for board approval of additional general university admission criteria shall be completed no later than one year prior to the term for which the new standards shall apply.
  - d. In accordance with A.R.S.15-1626(a)(10), for students who are classified for tuition purposes as Arizona residents in accordance with ABOR policy 4-203 (requirements for resident status), each university will, with approval of the board, establish qualifications that guarantee admission to the university. Such requirements may be the same as the minima set forth in section 2, they may be the same as the additional requirements immediately above, or they may be separately defined.
  - e. Each university may offer conditional admission and/or earned admission to applicants who are reasonably expected to demonstrate success in college coursework.
  - f. Each university will establish requirements, as applicable, of applicants to be international students, domestic U.S. students who have attended an institution outside of the U.S., returning students who stopped attending and now wish to be readmitted, non-degree seeking students, military and veteran students, and other categories as may be necessary. Such requirements shall be consistent with section (a)(2) of this policy and with any applicable details specified in this section.

- g. Each university may, with approval of the board, adopt alternative admission criteria for applicants who do not fully meet the minimum admission requirements.
  - 1) Such alternative criteria shall be specified for first year and transfer applicants.
  - 2) A university may specify alternative criteria for applicants who:
    - i. Are age 22 or older.
    - ii. Do not meet grade point average requirements but have an upward trend in academic course grades.
    - iii. Have positive written recommendations from professional individuals who are personally familiar with their academic potential as demonstrated by work experience, leadership ability, or extracurricular activities.
    - iv. Meet other applicable requirements, as necessary.
  - 3) Each university shall report the number of applicants admitted for each semester as follows: those meeting the minimum criteria for each category in section (a)( 2) above, those meeting university-specific additional criteria in this section, and those meeting each of the alternative admission criteria in this section.
  - 4) Admitted applicants who have not fully met admission requirements may be required to satisfy one or more deficiencies or may be required to participate in special programs designed to strengthen academic preparedness for university-level courses.
- h. Each university may adopt additional requirements for admission to colleges or other academic units within the university.
  - i. Each university shall clearly post its admission requirements.
  - j. In accordance with A.R.S.15-1821(b)(1), an applicant under age 18 shall not be denied admission because of age, lack of a high school diploma or high school certificate of equivalency, grade in school, lack of permission of school officials or lack of concurrent

enrollment in a public or private school, if the applicant has achieved at least a specified score on a college entrance examination or equivalent admission requirements established by each university.

- k. Each university may establish a maximum number of semester credit hours in which an applicant admitted under this section may enroll. The maximum will not be fewer than 6 credit hours per regular semester or equivalent.
  - l. Honorably discharged veterans who have served in the armed forces of the United States for a minimum of 2 years and who were previously enrolled at a university or community college in Arizona may be admitted by the criteria in this policy, except that no failing grades received by such veterans at any Arizona university or community college prior to their military service may be considered. Students readmitted under this section are subject to progression, retention, graduation, and other academic regulations and standards of the university.
  - m. No institution under the jurisdiction of the board will refuse, on the basis of policy, to recognize the degrees or accept the transfer of credits from a regionally accredited institution of higher education or a higher education institution that is a candidate for regional accreditation. Each university may recognize degrees or accept the transfer of credits from institutions of higher education that are not regionally accredited.
5. High School Course Equivalency
- a. Requests may be submitted to the universities in accordance with the process delineated in this section to have a course reviewed to determine its equivalency to competency requirements for university undergraduate admission. Standard courses do not require approval.
  - b. The universities shall establish a process to review high school courses to determine whether the proposed course content will satisfy competency requirements for university admission.
  - c. The universities shall coordinate their review of proposed courses to ensure that the universities are evaluating the requests in a consistent manner and that the entity submitting the request receive clear and consistent information regarding course approval or denial.
  - d. Once a course title is approved, the course title listed will be

accepted for the specified competency requirement at all three universities.

- e. As part of the process, the universities shall establish and make publicly available the following:
  - 1) A list of standard courses that do not require approval.
  - 2) A description of the review and approval process and instructions regarding eligibility and submission requirements.
  - 3) Guidelines for course approval that specify the rigor and content required to meet the competency requirements in this policy.
  - 4) A record of courses approved and denied and the reason for denial for a minimum of three years.
  - 5) Timeframes for approving or denying a course for the requested competency requirement.
  - 6) A process for notification of the outcome of the decision.
  - 7) A process to request review by the provosts or their designees for proposed course equivalencies that are denied.

**B. Graduate Admission**

- 1. Each university will establish and clearly post requirements for applicants to be considered for admission to its graduate programs.
- 2. Graduate programs include those requiring completion of coursework or a degree at the baccalaureate (undergraduate) level for admission.

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Policy History

- 4/10/2025 The Board repealed 2-120 and 2-121 and approved on second reading 2-105 in their place.
- 2/19/2026 Policy revision approved by the Board on second reading.