

## **Section 4. Rules Relating to Admission to the University**

### **4.1. APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION AND READMISSION**

All applicants meeting the appropriate academic requirements shall be considered equally for admission to the University or to any college or academic program regardless of economic or social status and will not be discriminated against on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability. All applicants for admission to the University, and all University students who have not been enrolled for one or more semesters, must submit to the Office of Undergraduate Admission an official application for admission and supporting documents as described in the Bulletin.

### **4.2. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

#### **4.2.1 UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS**

Students who satisfy the basic admission requirements may register in any undergraduate program at the University except as additional entrance requirements are hereinafter stated.

The Senate's Admissions Advisory Committee shall review the undergraduate admissions policy and all associated academic standards each academic year.

- \* The status of a student being 'undeclared major' or 'non-degree-seeking' in a college is a Provost-level administrative matter and does not require the approval of the Senate, except insofar as a college may have adopted additional admissions criteria. [SREC: 1/5/2016]

Some undergraduate programs have adopted more rigorous admissions policies. These policies can be found in SR [10.4](#).

##### **4.2.1.1 Annual Reporting**

The Chief Enrollment Officer shall provide an annual report at the end of each admissions cycle and preview the upcoming enrollment cycle. Timing of this annual update will occur when the Senate comes back in session ~~in the fall and committees begin meeting.~~

Colleges that wish to make changes to their selective admissions policies must go through the process to have them approved by the final May Senate meeting, should they want them to be in place for the next enrollment cycle. This is to ensure that students have full awareness before they apply about admissions policies, as well as to allow the impact of those changes on enrollment to be considered as the enrollment plan and goals for the upcoming cycle are being developed over the summer.

##### **4.2.1.2 Basic Lower Division Selective Admissions**

[US: 11/12/90; US: 4/14/97; 11/13/2017]

#### **4.2.1.2.1 Admissions Management System**

The Senate's Admissions Advisory Committee (SAAC), a standing committee of the University Senate (SR 1.4.3.3), will recommend any changes to the Admissions Management System and go through the traditional Senate approval process for such changes.

##### **4.2.1.2.1.1 Automatic Admissions Criteria**

Admissions criteria will be a combination of student's application file, inclusive of high school performance, as evidenced through the GPA, grade trends, strength of curriculum, ACT/SAT test scores, involvement, leadership and responses to the essay. Students that meet the established criteria, established through data, as well as through a holistic review process will be admitted. Students for whom the decision are deferred, based on the materials provided through the application process, will go through the holistic review process. The holistic review process will provide a preliminary decision for the APP accepting colleges to use in order to make final determinations. All individual colleges have the responsibility of determining admissions requirements into their respective colleges/programs of study.

#### **4.2.1.3 Deficiencies**

Pursuant to 13 KAR 2:020, applicants to four year public institutions must take the established college admission or academic readiness assessments established by the Council on Post-Secondary Education and have a minimum unweighted high school GPA of: 2.5 on a 4.00 scale; or must have 2.0 to 2.49 on a 4.0 scale and enter into a learning contract with the university prior to enrollment. Students who do not meet the established CPE related thresholds in the area(s) of reading, writing or math are identified at UK as APP students (Academic Preparedness and Placement).

All individual colleges have the responsibility of determining admissions requirements into their respective colleges/programs of study.

There are five APP accepting colleges: Arts and Sciences, CAFÉ, Communication and Information, Fine Arts, and Education. For any student that applies and does not meet the selective criteria of their major choice; or falls below the automatic admissions criteria; or is APP, the student will go through a holistic review in the office of undergraduate admission. The applicant's full admissions file, as well as the results of the holistic review, will be shared with the APP accepting colleges in order to make final decisions on whether to admit or deny. In some cases (based primarily on major, or at the request of one of the colleges) students denied by one of the colleges may then be shared with another for consideration for admission. The five APP accepting colleges will have final say on admission to those APP students who have gone through holistic review in the Office of Undergraduate Admission.

The remaining colleges have selective criteria established by the individual college and their faculty in line with the college's rules regarding such determinations. Any changes to the admissions criteria by an individual college should be based on data and current best practices in admission; must be governed by their college rules; and go through the appropriate senate approvals. This process must be completed by May 1 for it to be in place for the recruitment of the next cohort of students. Changes made after that date will not be able to be considered until the next year, unless they decrease the selectivity or admissions requirements.

#### **4.2.1.4 Holistic Review and Exceptions**

Students who are not yet admitted based on the established criteria shall have their files reviewed in a holistic manner using a combination high school performance as evidenced through the GPA, ACT/SAT, personal achievements, strength of schedule, grade trends and distinguishing characteristics as noted in the application for admission. The outcome of those reviews will be shared with the appropriate APP accepting colleges, in order to make final decisions on the outcome of their admissions decision.

#### **4.2.1.4.1.1 Deadlines**

The following admissions deadlines are established:

- December 1, for Early Decision applications
- February 15, for regular, full consideration applications
- August 1, for the submission of all documents
- (June 1, for participation in the summer advising conference)

Students who apply after the deadline for full consideration will be admitted only as enrollment goals permit. The Chief Enrollment Officer will annually report to the Senate Council statistics on the incidence and number of students admitted who applied after February 15. [US: 11/13/2017]

These deadlines apply to both transfers and entering students. Applications received after February 15 may be rejected even if they demonstrate better qualifications than some already admitted.

An exemption from the August 1 deadline may be granted to non-degree-seeking students who enroll for no more than eight (8) credits. These students may enroll through the Evening Weekend Program, at the registration conducted before the opening of classes.

The SAAC may change these deadlines, based on future experience.

#### **4.2.1.4.2 Precollege Curriculum**

[US: 3/21/83; 11/10/86; 11/12/90; SC 10/15/2001]

##### **4.2.1.4.2.1 Requirements**

To be admitted to the University of Kentucky under the admission policy outlined above, an applicant must have completed successfully the following high school courses as a minimum:

English/Language Arts – 4 credits required  
English I, II, III, IV (or AP English)

Science – 3 credits required  
Credits to include life science, physical science, and earth/space science (at least one lab course)

Mathematics – 3 credits required  
Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry  
(see note below on substitutions)

Social Studies – 3 credits required  
From U.S. History, Economics, Government, World Geography and World Civilization

Health – ½ credit required

Physical Education – ½ credit required

History and Appreciation of Visual, Performing Arts – 1 credit required  
History and Appreciation of Visual and Performing Arts or another arts course that incorporates such content.

Electives – 7 credits required (5 rigorous)  
Recommended strongly: 1 or more courses that develop computer literacy

Total credits: 22  
15 required credits; 7 elective credits (2002)

A student may substitute an integrated, applied, interdisciplinary, or higher level course within a program of study if the substituted course offers the same or greater academic rigor and the course covers or exceeds the minimum required content.

Rigorous electives should have academic content at least as challenging as that in courses required in the minimum high school graduation requirements. These electives also should be in social studies, science, math, English and language arts, arts and humanities, foreign language, and, above the introductory level, in agriculture, industrial technology, business, marketing, family and consumer sciences, health sciences, and technology education and career pathways. Electives in physical education and health are limited to one-half unit each.

(In addition, the University Senate recommends that high school students complete at least two years of a foreign language.)

#### **4.2.1.4.3 High School Nongraduates**

The Admissions Committee may also consider students who have not graduated from high school if they have had no previous college work and can demonstrate through ACT scores and other evidence that they are prepared to do the work required.

The condition of graduation from high school may be waived for superior students with appropriate recommendations from their high school counselors or teachers. The academic criteria for admission under these conditions shall be established by the Director, Undergraduate Admissions and University Registrar subject to approval of and revision by the Senate Council.

However, students who have not graduated from high school, or received a GED, will not be eligible to Title IV funds.

#### **4.2.1.4.4 Prospective Student Athletes Receiving Athletics-Related Aid**

Student-athletes, as identified by a designee within the Department of Athletics, who do not meet established standards for automatic acceptance but do meet Southeastern Athletic Conference (SEC) and National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) academic requirements for freshman eligibility shall be eligible for admission. Such student-athletes shall be admitted pursuant to policies established by the Academic Integrity Committee. Student-athletes who do not meet SEC and NCAA academic requirements for freshman eligibility may be admitted only through the provisions of SR 4.2.1.2.1, above. [US: 3/21/83 & BoT: 5/3/83; US: 4/28/86; 11/12/90; 10/11/93]

#### **4.2.1.4.5 Transfer Students**

Students at other colleges or universities will be permitted to transfer to the University of Kentucky if they meet one of the following criteria: [US: 4/10/2000]

Students who would have been automatically accepted at the time they entered the first institution attended will be allowed to transfer at any time to UK if they have attempted at least twelve credit hours (or the equivalent thereof) at that institution. [US: 3/11/85; SREC: 11/20/87]

A student who would not have been automatically accepted but has completed 24 semester hours or more and achieved a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or better for all college and university work attempted and has a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or better for all work attempted at the last institution attended will be allowed to transfer to UK. [US: 3/11/85]

#### **4.2.1.4.6 International Students**

Undergraduate international student applicants with an acceptable score on an English proficiency test such as TOEFL, IELTS, Duolingo or other English proficiency test may be admitted. Acceptable scores and test requirements for admission will be posted in the Bulletin and on the International Center website at <https://international.uky.edu/Apply/Admissions>. An applicant with an English proficiency exam score below the acceptable level may be admitted if other factors such as previous academic record, interviews and other English tests indicate that the applicant will be academically successful. Decisions concerning admission of applicants with scores below these levels shall be made by the Admissions Committee. International students who are otherwise admissible, but who have not yet demonstrated English proficiency, may be conditionally admitted. They will be invited to enroll in the University of Kentucky's Center for English as a Second Language (CESL), for instruction and, upon demonstrating evidence of English proficiency as defined by CESL, they will be admitted as full-time degree-seeking students. In the absence of conditional admission, admission to the programs administered by CESL does not guarantee future admission to the University. [US: 3/21/83; BoT: 5/3/83; US: 2/10/2014]

Students enrolled in Level 5 or Level 6 of CESL coursework may, upon meeting criteria set forth by the CESL program, enroll for one semester as non-degree-seeking students in a pre-matriculation bridge program (half-time enrollment in non-credit CESL coursework and 6-8 hours of credit-bearing undergraduate coursework), constituting full-time enrollment in English preparation for immigration purposes. Completion of the bridge program with grades of A or B in all classes will constitute demonstration of English proficiency for full admission to the University of Kentucky; however, some UK academic colleges and/or majors may require a TOEFL/IELTS or other English proficiency exam score for admission to their programs. [US: 2/10/2014]

#### **4.2.1.5 Admission to Advanced Standing**

[SREC: 6/8/2006]

Applicants for admission must present evidence that they are in good standing in every respect in the institution they last attended. At no time shall college or university records be disregarded to admit an applicant solely on the basis of his/her high school records. Credit hours for courses accepted from a junior college, or other two-year colleges or branches, shall be limited to a maximum of 67 semester hours, except for the programs listed below.

1. Students in the RN-BSN (Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing) program, for whom the limit shall be a maximum of 90 semester hours. Applicants must have maintained a grade point average of 2.0 or an average of C in all previous course work. [US: 12/13/82; US: 5/7/2012]
2. Students in the MLT to MLS (medical laboratory technician to medical laboratory scientist) track, of the Medical Laboratory Science program, for whom the limit shall be a maximum of 80 semester hours. [US: 3/10/2014]

All collegiate level work taken at an accredited college or university is recognized credit hour for credit hour except that the dean of a college may require validation by appropriate means of course equivalencies or applicability toward degree requirements for more specialized courses. In order to be classified as accredited, a college or university must be a member of one of the six regional accrediting associations, such as the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Advanced standing from an unaccredited US college or university may be obtained by special subject examinations. [US: 12/13/82; US: 2/11/91]

#### **4.2.1.6 Non-degree-seeking students**

[US: 10/11/93]

The goal of the University of Kentucky policy for non-degree-seeking students is to provide appropriate access to academic courses for students who would like to continue their education, but who do not wish to seek a degree. Although degree-seeking students should have top priority in terms of utilization of University resources, the University does wish to provide access to these resources on a space available basis for non-degree-seeking students. This policy will provide reasonable access to a broader range of students without unnecessarily limiting University resources for degree-seeking students.

Non-degree status affords an opportunity for individuals to pursue lifelong learning without the structure of degree-seeking status and is consistent with the educational mission of this University. [US: 10/11/93; US: 4/13/98]

Most non-degree-seeking students are considered "Lifelong Learners" and include the following groups: Donovan Scholars, students who have already earned degrees and non-traditional students who wish to begin their studies as non-degree-seeking students in order to be considered for degree-seeking status later. Other students eligible to enter the University in a non-degree status include visiting students from other colleges and universities, high school students seeking dual enrollment, and other students in special circumstances as determined by the Dean of Undergraduate Admission. [US: 10/11/93; 12/10/2018]

#### 4.2.1.6.1 Rules Governing Admission of Non-Degree-seeking Students

[US: 10/11/93]

To be admitted as a non-degree-seeking student, an applicant must meet the following criteria: the high school class of a non-degree applicant must have graduated at least two years prior to the applicant's anticipated semester of enrollment unless:

1. The applicant will be on active military duty during his/her tenure as a non-degree-seeking student or the applicant has been admitted by exception according to SR [Error! Reference source not found.](#); [US: 10/11/93]
2. The applicant is a visiting student or;
3. The applicant is seeking high school dual enrollment or;
4. The applicant possesses a bachelor's degree.

Applicants who have been denied admission as degree-seeking students may **not** in turn be enrolled as non-degree-seeking students. [US: 10/11/93; US: 4/13/98]

Former University of Kentucky degree-seeking students generally will not be enrolled as non-degree-seeking students without having earned an undergraduate degree. [US: 10/11/93; 12/10/2018]

University students under academic or disciplinary suspension at any higher education institution may not be enrolled as non-degree-seeking students. [US: 10/11/93 4/13/98; 12/10/2018]

Students currently under suspension at other institutions may not be enrolled as non-degree-seeking students at UK. Failure to disclose a current suspension may result in forfeiture of eligibility for future enrollment. [US: 10/11/93; US: 4/13/98]

Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit transcripts of prior colleges at the time of application in order to facilitate advising about appropriate coursework. [US: 10/11/93; 4/13/98; 12/0/2018]

International students applying as non-degree-seeking students whose primary physical residence will be UK, will apply using the same application process as those who are degree seeking. [US: 12/10/2018]

There are three types of non-degree students at the University of Kentucky. The first two types, visiting and high school dual enrollment students, are degree-seeking at other institutions. The third type is not seeking a degree from any institution at the time of enrollment. [US: 12/10/2018]

##### 4.2.1.6.1.1 Visiting Students

A visiting student is a student that is currently enrolled at another institution of higher education who intends to earn credit at UK that will be applied to degree requirements at his or her home

institution. Visiting students must meet the same admission requirements as regular transfer students. Applicants will be asked to self-certify that they are in good standing at their home institution and have a minimum 2.00 GPA at the time of application. [US: 12/10/2018]

#### **4.2.1.6.1.2 High School Students Seeking Dual Enrollment**

Students currently enrolled in high school who desire to enroll in courses at UK must submit a high school transcript, ACT or SAT scores and provide a signature from a high school counselor or principal. Students must have a minimum 2.00 GPA and must meet the Kentucky Council on Post-Secondary Education college readiness indicators. [US: 12/10/2018]

#### **4.2.1.6.1.3 Other Non-Degree Students**

These students are not currently enrolled in a degree program at a high school, college or university, but wish to take undergraduate coursework at the University of Kentucky without pursuing a formal degree. Applicants will be asked to self-certify that they have obtained a high school diploma, GED or meet the Kentucky Council on Post-Secondary Education college readiness indicators. Students wishing to change to degree-seeking status at the University of Kentucky after enrolling as a non-degree student must apply using the same application process as those who are degree seeking. [US: 12/10/2018]

#### **4.2.1.6.2 Rules Governing Enrollment of Non-Degree-Seeking Students**

[US: 10/11/93]

Non-degree-seeking students must meet course prerequisites or obtain the consent of the instructor to enroll in a course.

Non-degree students (except Donovan Scholars) who complete nine credit hours or more with less than a 2.00 GPA will not be allowed to continue enrollment. [US: 12/10/2018]

No student may continue to enroll as a non-degree-seeking student after earning 24 semester hours in this status without the special permission of the dean of the college in which the student is registered.

Credit earned as a non-degree-seeking student will be evaluated for applicability toward a degree by the dean of the college in which the student will be enrolled. Successful completion of course work as a non-degree-seeking student does not ensure admission as a degree-seeking student. No graduate or professional credit is awarded for courses taken while a student is enrolled as an undergraduate non-degree-seeking student. [US: 3/12/84; 10/11/93; 4/13/98; 11/13/2017]

#### **4.2.1.6.3 Changing Status from Non-Degree to Degree-Seeking**

[US: 10/11/93]

Applicants who have earned fewer than 24 semester credit hours at this University must meet the University's standards for automatic acceptance as first-time freshmen. Students who have earned 24 semester hours at UK may apply for degree-seeking status and will be considered as transfer students for admission purposes. [US: 10/11/93; US: 4/13/98]



High school students who have enrolled continuously at the University and who have earned more than 24 semester credit hours in total in the course of a University of Kentucky dual credit program (including credit for prior assessment) will be considered as first-time freshmen when first changing their status from non-degree- to degree-seeking. [US: 3/19/2012]

#### **4.2.1.7 Admission as an Auditor**

By payment of the required fees, any person may be admitted to a class or classes as an auditor. An individual who is admitted to the University as an auditor may not change from audit to credit. A student regularly enrolled in any college must apply to the dean of the college in which the student is registered in order to be an auditor. Other persons should apply to the Admissions Office.

#### **4.2.1.8 Admission Decision Appeals**

Every applicant who was not admitted to the University of Kentucky has had their application file considered through guidelines established by the University Senate Rules and published in the University Bulletin. It is because of the thoroughness of the process that it is unusual for an admission decision to be reversed. Therefore, for an appeal to have merit, it must bring to light new compelling academic and/or personal information as well as details pertaining to extenuating circumstances that were not addressed in the original application. For more information on the appeals process, the applicant should contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions.