

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. The Senate Rules are the source of any and all policies and rules that may be replicated in the Bulletin. The University of Kentucky adheres to admission policies promulgated by the Council on Postsecondary Education (cpe.ky.edu under Academics section) and relayed in the university Catalog.

Eligibility for admission to the university is housed with the individual colleges. In compliance with the Senate Rules, the office responsible for undergraduate admissions manages the operations of the admission process on behalf of the individual colleges and university.

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 to the Senate at the end of each admissions cycle and preview the upcoming enrollment cycle.

All individual colleges have the responsibility of determining admissions requirements into their respective colleges/programs of study. Selective admissions policies must be data informed and reviewed by colleges in accordance with college rules prior to implementation.

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 Decisions

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 criterion for entry to the University and go through the traditional Senate approval process for such changes.

4.2.1.2.1.1 Automatic Admissions Criteria

Admissions criteria will be established according to Senate rules through the work of the SAAC and can change annually based on feedback from the chief enrollment officer from previous cycles, based on national grading trends, national admissions best practices and changes mandated through the KDE and CPE. Students that meet the established admissions criteria will be admitted. Selective college admission criteria can be found at undergraduate admissions website by searching selective majors and programs. General application and review process can be found at the main undergraduate admissions website.

Students who do not meet the automatic admission criteria will be reviewed holistically and the results of this review will provide a preliminary decision for non-selective colleges to use in order to make final admission decisions. The holistic review process is a full file review of materials provided by the admissions candidate, inclusive of high school performance, as evidenced through the GPA, grade trends, strength of curriculum, test scores, involvement, leadership, and responses to the essay.

Decisions for students who are denied by the colleges during the holistic review process are deferred. Decisions on students who have deferred applications will be made in mid-Spring, after a thorough review of the admitted class.

4.2.1.3 Academic Preparedness and Placement

Pursuant to 13 KAR 2:020, applicants to four-year public institutions must meet the established college admission or academic readiness indicators established by the Council on Post-Secondary Education. Students who do not meet the established CPE related thresholds in the area(s) of reading, writing or math are placed in the Academic Preparedness and Placement (APP) program.

If the student is denied to their applied major, the office responsible for undergraduate admission will facilitate the holistic review in collaboration with one of the non-selective colleges, who will make final decisions on admissibility to their college.

Students who do not meet automatic admission criteria and/or do not meet one of CPE's readiness indicators, will go through holistic review in collaboration with the non-selective colleges. The applicant's full admissions file, as well as the results of the holistic review, will be shared with the non-selective colleges in order to make final decisions on whether to admit or deny. The non-selective colleges will have final say on admission to students who have gone through holistic review in the office responsible for undergraduate admission. .

Colleges which 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. Each year, on August 1, the admissions application is opened. Once the application cycle is opened, no changes, except those which materially benefit the student, may be made. Changes which are finalized after the admissions cycle is open will be implemented for the next cycle.

4.2.1.3.1.1 Deadlines

The following admissions deadlines are established and published online on the website for Undergraduate Admission. The SAAC may recommend changes.

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 to a final deadline prior to enrollment is made by the college.

4.2.1.3.2 Precollege Curriculum

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

Reference state graduation requirements 704 KAR 3:305

4.2.1.3.2.1 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

Total credits: 22
15 required credits; 7 elective credits

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.

4.2.1.3.3 High School Nongraduates

The office responsible for undergraduate admission may also consider students who have not graduated from high school but can demonstrate through ACT scores, unweighted high school GPA, and other evidence that they are prepared to do the work required. These students are considered on a case-by-case basis. 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.

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 office responsible for undergraduate admission and subject to approval of the University Senate.

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

4.2.1.3.4 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. 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]

4.2.1.3.5 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 have completed 24 credit hours or more and achieved a higher education GPA of 2.00 or higher are admissible to the university. Admissibility to particular colleges or programs would be dictated by SR 4.2.1.

Students who have completed 23 credit hours or fewer must meet both freshmen and transfer admissibility requirements to gain admission to the university. The office responsible for undergraduate admission will review both final high school cumulative and postsecondary GPAs in order to determine admission. Admissibility to particular colleges or programs would be dictated by SR 4.2.1. [US: 3/11/85]

4.2.1.3.6 International Students

Undergraduate international student applicants with an acceptable score on a standardized English proficiency may be admitted. Acceptable scores and test requirements for admission will be posted in the university Catalog 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 office responsible for undergraduate admission. 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 an English language exam score for admission to their programs. [US: 2/10/2014]

4.2.1.4 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 the student's high school records. Credit hours for courses accepted from two-year colleges 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 Commission on Colleges. Advanced standing from an unaccredited US college or university may be obtained by special subject examinations. [US: 12/13/82; US: 2/11/91]

4.2.1.5 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: 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 person responsible for undergraduate admission. [US: 10/11/93; 12/10/2018]

4.2.1.5.1 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.
5. The applicant is classified as a Donovan Scholar

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]

4.2.1.5.1.1 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]

4.2.1.5.1.2 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 and provide a signature from a high school counselor or principal. Students may also choose to include ACT or SAT scores as part of their application. Students must have a minimum 2.00 GPA and must meet the Kentucky Council on Post-Secondary

Education college readiness indicators. The Next Gen Scholars program focuses on partnering with specific high schools. [US: 12/10/2018]

4.2.1.5.1.3 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]

4.2.1.5.2 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]

4.2.1.5.3 Changing Status from Non-Degree to Degree-Seeking

[US: 10/11/93]

Applicants who have earned fewer than 24 semester credit hours at UK must meet the University's standards for automatic admittance 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 UK and who have earned more than 24 semester credit hours in total in the course of a UK 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]

4.2.1.6 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. A student not enrolled in any college must apply for admission to audit.

4.2.1.7 Admission Decision Appeals

Admissions decision appeals are managed by the Committee on Admission by Exception Admission Appeals Committee under the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. Using the form found on the Undergraduate Admissions webpage (<https://admission.uky.edu/admission-decision-appeals>), an applicant completes the admissions appeal form and submits the form to admissions@uky.edu following a set of guidelines published on the website. The applicant submits their appeals within two weeks of receipt of the decision and the applicant will be notified of the decision via email within two weeks of submission of the appeal.

Committee Members consist of:

Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management/Chief Enrollment Officer
Executive Director of Competitive Admission and Operations
Director of Admission Operations
Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Affairs – Arts and Sciences
Chair, Senate Admissions Advisory Committee
Faculty representative provided by the Senate Council

The process listed below is for Freshman, Transfer and Readmission students who have received a denial admission notification. Applicants receive denial admission decisions based on who do not meet automatic admission criterion as outlined by Senate Rules Section 4. Rules Relating to Admission to the University or the University Bulletin. The appeal process is specifically highlighted in the Transfer and Readmission denial letter and located on the website/provided ad hoc for Freshman applicants.

1. Students are notified of their denial through a denial decision and subsequent physical and electronic letter from the Slate application management system.
2. In the letter, students are notified of the appeal process for Readmission/Transfer applicants:
3. Student completes and submits the appeal with supporting documentation.
4. Appeal form and all associated documents are saved to the students application processing system record.
5. Committee members meet virtually and review each appeal holistically.
6. Once a consensus decision is made, the student is notified of the decision.

The person responsible for admission operations drives the committee reviews. All committee members are active in the discussion. Once a verbal decision is rendered, the person responsible for admission operations processes the student accordingly and student is notified. Records are stored virtually in the application processing system which is a centralized system used to manage all aspects of application processing across all colleges.

Records are purged in accordance with the University of Kentucky's record retention policy.