



ANNUAL REPORT ON EXCEPTIONS TO THE MINIMUM ADMISSION STANDARDS AT STATE UNIVERSITIES

January 2023

From 1915 to 2001, Kansas had an open admission policy that guaranteed admission to anyone who graduated from an accredited high school in Kansas. In 1996, the Legislature passed K.S.A. 76-717, which established minimum admission standards for state universities. Those became effective in 2001. The statute requires the Board to annually submit to the Legislature information on undergraduate students admitted to state universities who did not meet minimum admission standards.

Minimum Admission Criteria for 2021-2022 Freshman Applicants

In June of 2017, the First Generation Task Force recommended the Board revisit the qualified admission requirements, which, in accordance with K.S.A. 76-717, included a minimum ACT score of 21+ or a rank in the top third of the applicant's class, as well as a minimum GPA of 2.0 in a specified pre-college curriculum for residents (GPA of 2.5 for nonresidents). In September 2017, the Board adopted the goal of simplifying the admission process for state universities and formed a working group. After two years of work, the group recommended changes to admission requirements, and in September 2019, the Board approved the recommendations, kicking off what became a yearlong process to update the associated state regulations on qualified admissions. All changes were finalized and in effect by October of 2020 for applicants for the summer of 2021 and later. **For admittance to any state university except for the University of Kansas, resident freshmen applicants under the age of 21 and non-resident freshman applicants must meet one of the following criteria:**

1. graduate from an accredited high school and earn a minimum ACT score of 21; **or**
2. graduate from an accredited high school and earn a minimum cumulative high school GPA of 2.25 (ESU, FHSU, PSU, WSU); **or**
3. graduate from an accredited high school and earn a minimum cumulative high school GPA of 3.25 (KSU)

Resident freshman applicants under the age of 21 and non-resident freshman applicants must meet one of the following criteria for guaranteed admission to the University of Kansas:

1. graduate from an accredited high school and earn a minimum ACT score of 21 *and* minimum cumulative high school GPA of 3.25; **or**
2. graduate from an accredited high school and earn a minimum ACT score of 24 *and* minimum cumulative high school GPA of 3.0

All freshman applicants must have earned a minimum 2.0 GPA on any college coursework completed while in high school (2.5 GPA for KU).

Any applicant 21 and older must meet one of the following criteria in order to gain admittance to a state university as a freshman:

- (1) graduate from an accredited high school; **or**
- (2) graduate from a non-accredited private high school (Kansas residents only); **or**
- (3) earn a high school equivalency credential with the prescribed minimum scores.

2021-2022 Freshman Applicants

K.S.A. 76-717 requires that on or before January 31 of each year, the Board submit a report that includes the following information on the number and percentage of **resident freshman class admissions permitted as exceptions to the minimum admissions standards**, disaggregated by institution (Table 1). State universities may, at their discretion, admit applicants who do not meet the minimum freshman

admissions criteria, provided that the number of resident freshmen admitted as exceptions is limited to 10 percent of the university’s total freshmen admitted. No institution exceeded the 10 percent limit.

Table 1: Number of Resident Freshman Exceptions 2021-2022

	Resident Freshman Exceptions	Admits	Percent
Emporia State University	23	1,330	1.7%
Ft. Hays State University	33	1,758	1.9%
Kansas State University	322	9,347	3.4%
Pittsburg State University	23	2,096	1.1%
University of Kansas	4	15,821	0.03%
Wichita State University	94	6,708	1.4%
TOTAL	499	37,060	1.3%

Table 2 presents the number and percent of **non-resident freshman students admitted as exceptions**, disaggregated by institution. By regulation, the number of non-resident freshman exceptions is limited to either 10 percent of the total number of admitted non-resident freshmen, or 50 students, whichever is greater. No institution exceeded the 10 percent limit for Academic Year (AY) 2022.

For AY 2021, Kansas State University exceeded the limit in the non-resident freshman category by 127 students. Per K.A.R. 88-29a-8c,

(c) If the state educational institution exceeds the allotted number of admissions using this exception window, the excess over the allowable total number of exceptions shall be subtracted from the subsequent year’s allowable total number of exceptions for nonresident freshman class admissions.

As such, for AY 2022, Kansas State was allowed to admit by exception 10% of the number of (regular) admits in this category (445), minus last year’s excess admitted by exception (127), for a maximum total of 318 students. K-State only admitted 286 students by exception in this category for AY 2022, thus adhering to this requirement.

Each state university has a written policy to guide decisions about exceptions and per KBOR policy, every student admitted as an exception to the minimum qualified admission standards, resident or non-resident, shall receive a written individual plan for student success from the university prior to enrollment. The individual plan for success shall be reviewed by the student and the student’s advisor at least once each semester in the first academic year immediately after succeeding adoption of the plan.

Table 2: Number of Non-Resident Freshman Exceptions 2021-2022

	Non-Resident Freshman Exceptions	Admits	Percent
Emporia State University	1	149	0.7%
Ft. Hays State University	7	342	2.0%
Kansas State University	286	4,452	6.4%
Pittsburg State University	23	894	2.6%
University of Kansas	8	9,779	0.1%
Wichita State University	36	2,753	1.3%
TOTAL	361	18,369	2.0%

Minimum Admission Criterion for 2021-2022 Transfer Applicants

State universities are required to admit resident transfer applicants who have earned at least 24 credit hours of transferable coursework with a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale (2.5 for KU). State universities may admit non-resident transfer applicants who have met this criterion, but they are not required to do so. State universities may adopt additional and/or more stringent standards to admit non-resident transfer applicants.

Exceptions to the Minimum Admission Standards

State universities may admit transfer applicants who have earned less than a 2.0 GPA on 24 or more transferable semester credit hours, but the number of these exceptions is limited by statute. The number of resident transfer exceptions is limited to 10 percent of the university’s resident transfer admits. The number of non-resident transfer exceptions is limited to 10 percent of the university’s non-resident transfer admits. Admitting applicants as exceptions is at the discretion of the state university and each student receives an individual success plan.

K.S.A. 76-717 requires the Board to report the following to the Legislature on or before January 31 of each year: (1) the number and percent of resident transfer students admitted as exceptions, and (2) the number and percent of non-resident transfer students admitted as exceptions. The statute specifies this information to be disaggregated by institution.

Table 3 presents the **number and percent of transfer students admitted by each state university through the 10 percent exception window**. This information is disaggregated by institution and by residency status. No institution exceeded the 10 percent limit.

Table 3: Number of Transfer Students Admitted as Exceptions 2021-2022

	Resident Transfer			Non-Resident Transfer		
	Exceptions	Admits	Percent	Exceptions	Admits	Percent
Emporia State University	4	447	0.9%	0	51	0.0%
Ft. Hays State University	88	1,607	5.5%	50	833	6.0%
Kansas State University	9	1,177	0.8%	5	776	0.6%
Pittsburg State University	13	411	3.2%	6	239	2.5%
University of Kansas	1	1,328	0.1%	0	676	0.0%
Wichita State University	48	1,774	2.7%	9	365	2.5%
TOTAL	163	6,744	2.4%	70	2,940	2.4%