



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

January 2016

BACKGROUND

From 1915 to 2001, Kansas had an open admission policy which 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 of Regents 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 2014-2015 Freshmen Applicants

K.S.A.76-717 requires resident and non-resident freshmen applicants under the age of 21 to meet one of the following criteria to gain admittance to a state university: (1) graduate from an accredited high school and earn a minimum ACT score of 21; (2) graduate from an accredited high school and in the top one-third of the class; (3) graduate from an accredited high school and complete the precollege curriculum with a GPA of at least 2.0 for residents and 2.5 for non-residents; or (4) graduate from an unaccredited high school and earn a minimum ACT score of 21; or (5) earn a GED with the prescribed minimum scores (Kansas residents only).

Kansas residents 21 and older must meet one of the following criteria to gain admittance to a state university as freshmen: (1) graduate from an accredited high school; (2) graduate from an unaccredited high school; or (3) earn a GED with the prescribed minimum scores. Non-resident freshmen applicants 21 and older must either (1) graduate from an accredited high school or (2) earn a GED with prescribed minimum scores for admission to a state university.

Exceptions to the Minimum Admission Standards—Freshmen Applicants

State universities may, at their discretion, admit applicants who do not meet the minimum freshmen admissions criteria. The number of resident freshmen admitted as exceptions is limited by statute to 10 percent of the university's total freshmen admissions. The number of non-resident freshmen exceptions is limited to either 10 percent of the total number of admitted non-resident freshmen, or 50 students, whichever is greater. Each state university has a written policy to guide decisions about exceptions and every student admitted as an exception receives an individual success plan.

Minimum Admission Criterion for 2014-2015 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 grade point average of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale. State universities may admit non-resident transfer applicants who have met this criterion, but 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—Transfer Applicants

State universities may admit transfer applicants who have earned less than a 2.0 on 24 or more transferable 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 admissions. The

number of non-resident transfer exceptions is limited to 10 percent of the university’s non-resident transfer admissions. Admitting applicants as exceptions is at the discretion of the state university and each student receives an individual success plan.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

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 admissions: (a) the number and percentage of **freshmen class admissions** permitted as exceptions to the minimum admissions standards (Table 1) and (b) the number and percentage of **transfer student admissions** permitted as exceptions to the minimum admissions standards (Table 6). The statute specifies this information be disaggregated by institution. Though not required by statute, Tables 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, and 8 are included to place admission, enrollment and denial information in a broader context.

2014-2015 Freshmen Applicants

Required Report #1. Number of Resident Freshmen Exceptions (Table 1)

Table 1 presents the number and percent of resident freshmen students admitted as exceptions to the minimum admission standards, disaggregated by institution. No institution exceeded the 10 percent limit.

Table 1: Number of Resident Freshmen Exceptions

	Exceptions	Admits	Percentage
Emporia State University	91	1,537	5.8%
Fort Hays State University	127	1,829	6.9%
Kansas State University	83	9,040	0.9%
Pittsburg State University	68	2,131	3.2%
University of Kansas	68	15,108	0.5%
Wichita State University	8	4,286	0.2%

Additional Information on Freshmen Applicants (Optional Tables 2, 3, 4, and 5)

Though not required by statute, Tables 2, 3, 4, and 5 provide information on freshmen exceptions, admission by categories, enrollment rates and denial rates. It was decided to include information in Tables 2 through 5 to provide a broader context for freshmen admission.

Table 2 presents the number and percent of non-resident freshmen students admitted as exceptions, disaggregated by institution. The Board set the maximum number of exceptions under this category as either 10 percent of the total number of admitted non-resident freshmen, or 50 students, whichever is greater. No institution exceeded this limit.

Table 2: Number of Non-Resident Freshmen Exceptions

	Exceptions	Admits	10% or 50 students, whichever is greater (the greater is shown)
Emporia State University	18	202	8.9%
Fort Hays State University	53	548	9.7%
Kansas State University	69	3,121	2.2%
Pittsburg State University	48	855	5.6%
University of Kansas	174	8,913	2.0%
Wichita State University	8	792	1.0%

Table 3 displays the aggregate number of students admitted under the ACT, class rank or precollege curriculum criteria or admitted as exceptions. Students are counted only in the criterion on which they were admitted even though they may have met more than one criterion.

Table 3 shows that of resident students under the age of 21 and who graduated from high school, 74.5% were admitted under the test score criterion; 8.5% were admitted on the class rank criterion; and 11.0% were admitted on the curriculum criterion. Less than one percent of resident freshmen applicants were accepted on the GED criterion and 3.3% of resident freshmen applicants gained admission by virtue of being at least 21 years of age with a high school diploma. Universities chose to admit as exceptions 2.3% of resident applicants who did not meet minimum admission criteria.

Data in Table 3 are similar to data in previous years, except for the GED criterion and the number of students admitted as exceptions. The number of resident and non-resident students admitted on the GED criterion decreased by approximately 50%. A new and more rigorous GED test was implemented January 1, 2014, and the number of test-takers and the number who passed the GED sharply declined. The number of resident and nonresident students admitted as exceptions decreased from the previous year, accounting for 2.5% of students admitted in 2014-2015, as compared to 3.2% in 2013-2014.

Table 3: Freshmen Admitted by Categories

	Resident		Non-Resident	
	State Totals	Percentage of Admits	State Totals	Percentage of Admits
Test Score	14,527	74.5%	9,871	68.4%
Class Rank	1,662	8.5%	1,584	11.0%
Curriculum	2,154	11.0%	2,254	15.6%
GED	74	0.4%	17	0.1%
21+ Diploma	638	3.3%	335	2.3%
Exception	445	2.3%	370	2.6%

Table 4 displays the “yield rate,” or the number of freshmen students admitted under the test score, class rank, precollege curriculum, GED or 21+ diploma criteria, or as exceptions, who actually enrolled.

Table 4: Freshmen Admitted by Categories Who Enrolled

	Resident		Non-Resident	
	Enrolled	Yield Rate ¹	Enrolled	Yield Rate ¹
Test Score	6,788	46.7%	1,838	18.6%
Class Rank	661	39.7%	270	17.0%
Curriculum	1,210	56.1%	532	23.7%
GED	48	64.9%	4	23.5%
21+ Diploma	375	58.8%	117	34.9%
Exception	329	73.9%	198	53.5%

¹Yield Rate is the number of students who enrolled, divided by the number of students who were admitted.

Table 5 shows the number of freshmen applicants denied admission to state universities.

Table 5: Number of Freshmen Applicant Denials

	Resident			Non-Resident		
	Denials	Applied	Percent	Denials	Applied	Percentage
Emporia State University	16	1,351	1.2%	3	205	1.5%
Fort Hays State University	85	1,366	6.2%	118	666	17.7%
Kansas State University	151	6,070	2.5%	351	3,472	10.1%
Pittsburg State University	39	1,315	3.0%	75	930	8.1%
University of Kansas	174	6,369	2.7%	717	9,630	7.4%
Wichita State University	150	3,644	4.1%	68	860	7.9%

2014-2015 Transfer Applicants

Required Report #2: Transfer Students Admitted as Exceptions (Table 6)

K.S.A. 76-717 requires the Board report the following to the Legislature on or before January 31 of each year: (1) the number and percentage 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 be disaggregated by institution.

Table 6 presents the number and percent of transfer students admitted by each state university under the 10 percent exception window. This information is disaggregated by institution and by residency status. No institution exceeded the 10 percent limit, though the number of resident and nonresident transfer students admitted as exceptions increased from the previous year by 0.6%.

Table 6: Number of Transfer Students Admitted as Exceptions

	Resident			Non-Resident		
	Exceptions	Admits	Percentage	Exceptions	Admits	Percentage
Emporia State University	12	497	2.4%	4	71	5.6%
Fort Hays State University	127	1,821	7.0%	83	1,478	5.6%
Kansas State University	20	1,541	1.3%	11	994	1.1%
Pittsburg State University	11	539	2.0%	4	232	1.7%
University of Kansas	43	1,584	2.7%	8	639	1.3%
Wichita State University	29	2,184	1.3%	6	348	1.7%

Additional Information on Transfer Student Admissions and Denials (Optional Tables 7 and 8)

Table 7 and Table 8 are not required by statute. The information is included because the tables provide information that contextualizes the number of transfer exceptions admitted. Table 7 displays the “yield rate,” or number of admitted transfer students who actually enrolled in the university. Transfer students meeting minimum admission requirements were admitted under the GPA criterion.

Table 7: Admitted Transfer Students Who Enrolled

	State Total: Resident			State Total: Non-Resident		
	Admitted	Enrolled	Yield Rate ¹	Admitted	Enrolled	Yield Rate ¹
GPA	7,924	5,723	72.2%	3,646	2,005	54.9%
Exception	242	198	81.8%	116	97	83.6%

¹Yield Rate is the number of students who enrolled, divided by the number of students who were admitted.

The number of transfer applicants denied admission to state universities is presented in Table 8.

Table 8: Number of Transfer Applicant Denials

	Resident			Non-Resident		
	Denials	Applied	Percentage	Denials	Applied	Percentage
Emporia State University	1	498	0.2 %	1	72	1.4 %
Fort Hays State University	14	1,835	0.8 %	27	1,505	1.8 %
Kansas State University	58	1,599	3.6 %	95	1,089	8.7 %
Pittsburg State University	9	548	1.6 %	5	237	2.1 %
University of Kansas	61	1,645	3.7 %	72	711	10.1 %
Wichita State University	77	2,261	3.4 %	13	361	3.6 %