

**KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE
AGENDA**

**September 18, 2019
10:30 am – 11:50 am**

The Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee will meet in the Kathy Rupp Room located in the Curtis State Office Building at 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 520, Topeka, Kansas, 66612.

I. Call To Order

Regent Schmidt

A. Introductions

Student Liaisons: Tiara Floyd, KU
Kitrina Miller, WSU

University Chief Academic Officers:

David Cordle, ESU
Jill Arensdorf, FHSU
Charles Taber, K-State
Howard Smith, PSU
Carl Lejuez, KU
Rick Muma, WSU
Julie Mazachek, Washburn
Robert Klein, KUMC

KBOR staff: Daniel Archer, Vice President for Academic Affairs
Karla Wiscombe, Director
Samantha Christy-Dangermond, Director
Crystal Puderbaugh, Director
Erin Wolfram, Associate Director
Ronda Franco, Executive Assistant

B. Approve Minutes from the September 3, 2019 committee meeting

p. 3

II. Executive Session

Board of Academic Affairs Standing Committee – Matters deemed Confidential in the Attorney-Client Relationship

III. Committee Matters

A. Request for Change of Ownership for the Kansas Health Science Center *Crystal Puderbaugh* *p. 5*

B. Act on Proposed Changes to Qualified Admissions *Daniel Archer* *p. 8*

C. Discuss BAASC AY 2020 Work Topics *BAASC members*

D. Tentative October Conference Call – date & time *BAASC members*

IV. November 4th 11:30 a.m. conference call draft agenda items

- **BAASC 20-01:** Approval of Performance Reports for Academic Year 2018

V. Adjournment by 11:50 a.m. for Board responsibilities

Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee

Four Regents serve on the Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee (BAASC), established in 2002. The Regents are appointed annually by the Chair and approved by the Board. BAASC meets by conference call approximately two weeks prior to each Board meeting and prior to the Board Chair's conference call to finalize items for the Board agenda. The Committee also meets in person the morning of the first day of the monthly Board meeting. Membership includes:

Allen Schmidt, Chair

Cheryl Harrison-Lee

Shelly Kiblinger

Helen Van Etten

Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee AY 2020 Meeting Schedule

Meeting Dates	Time	Location	Institution Materials Due
September 3, 2019	11:30 am	Conference Call	August 16, 2019
September 18, 2019	10:30 am	Topeka	August 28, 2019
TBD	TBD	Tentative Conference Call	
November 4, 2019	11:30 am	Conference Call	October 16, 2019
November 20, 2019	10:30 am	Pittsburg State University	October 30, 2019
December 2, 2019	11:30 am	Conference Call	November 13, 2019
December 18, 2019	10:30 am	Topeka	November 26, 2019
December 30, 2019	11:30 am	Conference Call	December 11, 2019
January 15, 2020	10:30 am	Topeka	December 26, 2019
February 3, 2020	11:30 am	Conference Call	January 15, 2020
February 19, 2020	10:30 am	Topeka	January 29, 2020
March 2, 2020	11:30 am	Conference Call	February 12, 2020
March 18, 2020	10:30 am	University of Kansas Medical Center	February 26, 2020
March 30, 2020	11:30 am	Conference Call	March 11, 2020
April 15, 2020	10:30 am	Kansas State University	March 25, 2020
May 4, 2020	11:30 am	Conference Call	April 15, 2020
May 20, 2020	10:30 am	Topeka	April 29, 2020
June 1, 2020	11:30 am	Conference Call	May 13, 2020
June 17, 2020	10:30 am	Topeka	May 27, 2020

**Kansas Board of Regents
Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee**

**MINUTES
Tuesday September 3, 2019**

The September 3, 2019, meeting of the Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee of the Kansas Board of Regents was called to order by Chair Allen Schmidt at 11:30 a.m. The meeting was held by conference call.

In Attendance:

Members:	Regent Allen Schmidt Regent Helen Van Etten	Regent Shelly Kiblinger	Regent Cheryl Harrison-Lee
Staff:	Daniel Archer Erin Wolfram Julene Miller	Karla Wiscombe Renee Burlingham Kelly Oliver	Samantha Christy-Dangermond Elaine Frisbee Natalie Yoza
Institutions Represented:	Allen CC Colby CC ESU Highland CC K-State Labette CC Pratt CC	Barton CC Cowley CC FHSU Hutchinson CC KU Neosho County CC Seward County CC	Coffeyville CC Dodge City CC Garden City CC Independence CC KUMC PSU WSU

Approval of Minutes

Regent Van Etten moved that the minutes of the June 19, 2019, meeting be approved. Following the second of Regent Kiblinger, the motion carried.

Agenda Planning for September 18th Board Meeting

A. Consent Agenda

- a. Act on Request to Change Kansas State University's 2021 and 2022 Spring Break dates was presented by Daniel Archer.

Regent Kiblinger moved that K-State's request be placed on the September 18th Board Consent Agenda. Following the second of Regent Van Etten, the motion carried.

- b. Act on Request to Change Emporia State University's 2020 Fall Break date was presented by Daniel Archer.

Regent Harrison-Lee moved that ESU's request be placed on the September 18th Board Consent Agenda. Following the second of Regent Van Etten, the motion carried.

B. Discussion Agenda

- a. Act on Request for Change of Ownership for the Kansas Health Science Center was presented by Crystal Puderbaugh. Julene Miller explained the role of the Board for this request and informed BAASC of a proposed statute revision. The proposed statute revision will be presented to BAASC at a later date.

Following discussion, Regent Van Etten moved that the Kansas Health Science Center request be placed on the September 18th Board Consent Agenda and for BAASC to discuss further at the September 18th meeting. Following the second of Regent Kiblinger, the motion carried.

Other Board Matters

A. BAASC 20-01: Approval of Performance Reports for Academic Year 2018 was presented by Samantha Christy-Dangermond for the following institutions:

University/College	Funding Recommendation
Allen Community College	100% funding
Barton Community College	100% funding
Colby Community College	100% funding
Garden City Community College	100% funding
Labette Community College	100% funding
Neosho County Community College	100% funding

Kelly Oliver reviewed the performance funding process and answered questions. Discussion was held as each institution’s performance report was presented. Regent Kiblinger requested information for previous Performance Reports. The link for the Performance Agreements website, which includes current agreements and previous reports, will be e-mailed to BAASC members.

Regent Van Etten moved that the above listed institutions receive the recommended funding. Following the second of Regent Kiblinger, the motion carried.

September 18th BAASC Draft Agenda discussion

The BAASC Work Topics from the August retreat were discussed. The list of tentative topics includes:

- Common admission application platform for universities
- Qualified Admissions
 - o Positive Pathways as a proposed Board Goal
- Kansas High School-to-College Going Rate
- Postsecondary education opportunities for Direct Support Professionals
- Virtual Career Advisor
- Math Pathways and minimum standard for general education requirement
- First Generation Success

Regent Van Etten moved to adjourn the meeting. Following the second of Regent Harrison-Lee, the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 12:28 pm.

Act on Request for Change of Ownership Approval for the Kansas Health Science Center

Summary

On May 20, 2019, the Kansas Health Science Center entered into a transaction with TCS Education Systems that resulted in a change in the ownership of the institution. Therefore, the institution is seeking the Board's approval of the change of ownership. September 2019

Board Statutory Authority

The Kansas Board of Regents performs different roles with regard to the various postsecondary educational institutions operating in Kansas. The Board governs the state regional and research universities, coordinates community and technical colleges, and regulates the private and out-of-state schools that operate in Kansas under the Private and Out-of-State Postsecondary Education Institution Act (Act).^[1] This Act and the regulations subsequently adopted by the Board^[2] under the authority of the Act require non-exempt private and out-of-state postsecondary educational institutions to obtain a “Certificate of Approval” from the Kansas Board of Regents to operate in this state. This Act applies to “brick and mortar” institutions with a physical presence in Kansas, as well as institutions that offer or provide online distance education to Kansans who remain in Kansas while receiving that education.

Summary of Institution Requirements

In order to receive a Certificate of Approval, a school must first provide the Board sufficient evidence that it has complied with all the statutory requirements and standards established by the Legislature. Documentation required as part of the application for a Certificate of Approval includes:

- A financial statement prepared or audited by a CPA for the most recent, completed fiscal year;
- proof of accreditation, if applicable;
- a description of the institution's facilities, equipment, and instructional materials;
- a certification by an owner of the applicant institution or the owner's designee that the building that is to house the institution meets the requirements of all local, state, and federal regulations;
- a resume of each administrator and instructor that includes the individual's education, previous work experience, professional activities, and, if applicable, licensure;
- evidence of the institution's professional development and in-service activities;
- an outline of each program offered in Kansas;
- a copy of the proposed catalog or, if existing, a copy of each of the institution's most recent catalogs, bulletins, and brochures, with any supplements, or functional equivalents;
- a copy of the enrollment documents, or functional equivalent;
- a written policy on how the institution accounts for previous experience, training, or coursework for students;
- a copy of the institutions' grievance policy, termination policy, and refund policy;
- a statement of the extent to which job placement services are available to students;
- a copy of the credential to be given to each student upon completion of a program;
- a description of how the student and administrative records are maintained; and
- a copy of any advertising.

^[1] K.S.A.74-32,162 *et. seq.*

^[2] K.A.R. 88-28-1 *et seq.*

When a school receives a Certificate of Approval from the Board, it is subject to the Board's on-going regulatory and statutory authority. Certificates of Approval must be renewed annually by providing updated documentation indicating the school continues to meet the statutory and regulatory standards. If a school covered by the Act operates without a current Certificate of Approval from the Board or falls out of compliance after receiving such a Certificate, the Board may initiate revocation proceedings and legal penalties may be pursued with the assistance of the Attorney General's office.

Change of Ownership Requirements

If a change in ownership occurs, the Act requires the institution to apply to the Board and provide information about the ownership change. The change of ownership application includes the date of the ownership change, the legal name of the new owner(s), current financial statements for the institution or the new owner(s), an updated bond reflecting the new ownership, and a description of any changes to the institution's mission, corporate structure, program offerings, or institutional contacts as a result of the ownership change.

If there is a change in ownership of an institution and, if at the same time, there also are changes in the institution's programs of instruction, location, entrance requirements or other substantive changes, the institution shall be required to submit an application for an initial Certificate of Approval and shall pay all applicable fees associated with an initial application.

Kansas Health Science Center

The Kansas Health Science Center (KHSC) is a private, nonprofit postsecondary institution with the mission to provide access to osteopathic medical and health science education in Wichita, KS. KHSC first communicated with Board staff in August of 2018, seeking information regarding the institutional approval process and submitted an initial application on December 3, 2018. In addition to review by Board staff, the Board office established an outside review team of four osteopathic medical physicians practicing in Kansas, to complete an evaluation of the curriculum submitted by KHSC. On May 16, 2019, the Board found KHSC eligible for a Certificate of Approval based on the facts and evidence submitted in KHSC's initial application.

On May 20, 2019, KHSC entered into a transaction with TCS Education Systems (TCS) that resulted in a change in the member ownership of KHSC. Prior to the transaction, the membership of the corporation was the sole trustee, Ms. Sudha Tokala. After the transaction, the trustee was replaced, and the sole member of the corporation became TCS. In addition, this transaction resulted in changes to the composition of the Board of Trustees, created a Fiduciary Council, and the Board of Trustees appointed a new president, Dr. Tiffany Masson, and new founding dean and chief academic officer, Dr. Robert Hasty.

The change of ownership application submitted to the Board on August 6, 2019, included current financial statements for KHSC, Inc. as of May 31, 2019. Those financial statements meet the minimum requirements established by statute and regulation. Additionally, the application included a valid bond, a description of changes to the corporate structure resulting in a change of the sole member of KHSC, and a correction to the list of institutional leadership contacts. The application also noted a non-substantive change to the institution's mission statement. The pre-affiliation mission statement was *"to create solutions for a healthier community by educating a diverse workforce of tomorrow's leaders in medicine, science and health sciences and healing through innovative and compassionate care."* The post-affiliation mission statement is *"to provide access to osteopathic medical and other health sciences education and training through emphasizing opportunity, academic excellence and community engagement."*

TCS, located in Chicago, IL, is a nonprofit system of colleges founded in 2009. In addition to KHSC, five other institutions partner with TCS – The Chicago School of Professional Psychology, Pacific Oaks College, The Santa Barbara & Ventura Colleges of Law, Dallas Nursing Institute, and Saybrook University. TCS provides KHSC with

administrative activities including admission and enrollment operations, finance and accounting, information and learning technology, marketing, strategic planning, compliance and legal services, and human resources.

KHSC is renovating historic buildings in downtown Wichita to include facilities for instruction, diagnosis and treatment, virtual anatomy labs, ultrasound labs and an on-site healthcare clinic. Currently, KHSC has begun demolition of the buildings' interior and is finalizing the architecture plans, which should be completed by October 2019. It expects to begin the building remodel in the summer of 2020 with a completion date of December 2021.

KHSC is seeking accreditation from the American Osteopathic Association's Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation. The accreditation process includes three phases before a school reaches full accreditation: Applicant Status, Candidate Status, and Pre-Accreditation Status. Once granted Pre-Accreditation Status, the school has up to five (5) years to complete the Pre-Accreditation requirements and prepare to graduate its first class. Accreditation is typically granted the spring before the expected graduation date of the first class.

Currently, KHSC is in the Applicant Status phase. In order to apply for Candidate Status, approval from the Board of Regents (the state authorizing agency for this type of institution) is required, and the Dean must be in place for at least 12 months. KHSC intends to submit for Candidate Status in May of 2020. During the Candidate Status, the school submits a self-study and feasibility study. Once all feasibility procedures are met based on the paper submission, a Candidate Status site visit is authorized by the accrediting body. While in Candidate Status, KHSC cannot recruit, accept application from, or admit prospective students. The school has two (2) years to complete the feasibility studies to move to the Pre-Accreditation Status phase of accreditation. KHSC expects to apply for Pre-Accreditation Status in the summer of 2022.

Staff Recommendation

KHSC's financial statements and bond, as submitted with the change of ownership application, meet the minimum requirements established by law. Additionally, the institutional mission remains focused on providing access to osteopathic medicine and health science education, and there are no changes to program offerings as a result of the ownership change. Therefore, staff recommends approval of the change of ownership.

Summary

In June 2017, the Board received a report from the First-Generation Taskforce recommending the Board review the admission criteria for entrance into a state university with a specific focus on precollege curriculum course requirements. The intent was to simplify the undergraduate admission process. The Board adopted the review as an AY 2018 goal and a working group was selected by the state university academic officers to address this Board goal. The group met multiple times and presented recommendations, which the Board adopted at its June 2018 meeting. However, based on a staff recommendation, the Board asked the working group to reconvene to explore additional options to admit otherwise qualified students who may not meet the ACT requirement for admissions. Statewide ACT testing was made available in AY 2019, which was predicted to identify qualified high school students who may not meet the ACT requirement for admission to a state university. (Currently, such students are admitted as exceptions to the minimum admission standards.) The working group convened multiple times through AY 2019 and provided final recommendations to Board staff. Those include the addition of an option for admission based on an applicant's cumulative high school GPA for most state universities. Numerous studies show that high school grades are a strong predictor of undergraduate performance. Because the cumulative GPA is proposed as an admission criterion for five institutions, requiring and tracking certain units for the precollege curriculum is duplicative. As a result, the precollege curriculum is being recommended, but not required as a condition of admission. Staff note that many universities offer a test-optional admission criterion because studies show that doing so increases the number of first-generation, minority, and rural students attending college. The proposed admission criteria changes were scheduled to be considered at the June 2019 Board meeting. Concerns regarding the proposed ACT/high school GPA requirements prompted the Board to table the changes. Based on these issues, a variety of additional information is compiled herein to help the Board further examine admission issues and the proposed criteria. Staff recommends approval of the changes. If the changes in admissions requirements are approved, regulatory amendments are required to affect such changes.

Background

In June 2017, the Board received a report from the First-Generation Taskforce recommending the Board review the Qualified Admissions criteria for entrance into a state university with a specific focus on pre-college curriculum course requirements. The intent was to simplify the undergraduate admission process. The Board adopted the review as an AY 2018 goal and a working group was selected by the state university chief academic officers to address this Board goal. The group included university admissions officers, enrollment management personnel, and diversity and inclusion staff.

Beginning in October 2017, the eight-member working group met multiple times throughout the academic year. Their recommendations to address the Board goal dealt with introducing more flexibility for how applicants met and reported meeting the precollege curriculum requirement, using the overall cumulative GPA listed on the high school transcript instead of calculating the prescribed precollege curriculum GPA, and revising the prescribed precollege curriculum GPA to allow for variation in admission requirements based on institutional mission. The Board approved these recommendations at its June 2018 meeting, but also asked the working group to reconvene to explore additional options to admit otherwise qualified students who may not meet the ACT requirement for Qualified Admissions.

The working group convened multiple times through the 2019 academic year and provided final recommendations to Board staff. After consultation with the institutions by Board staff, the following recommendations were made. Proposed changes are highlighted in grey.

Current Freshmen Criteria – Under 21 <i>Requirements for Accredited High School Graduate</i>	Proposed Changes <i>Accredited High School Graduate</i>	
ESU, PSU, FHSU, KSU, and WSU	ESU, PSU, FHSU, and WSU	K-State
ACT: 21+ <u>or</u> Rank in top third of class	ACT: 21+ <u>or</u> Cumulative GPA of 2.25	ACT: 21+ <u>or</u> Cumulative GPA of 3.25
Complete Precollege Curriculum with a 2.0 GPA (Resident)/2.5 GPA (Nonresident). Curriculum consists of: -English (4 units); Math (3 units with ACT benchmark of 22 or 4 units with one taken in senior year); Natural Science (3 units with one unit in chemistry or physics); Social Science (3 units); Electives (3 units) <i>Note: As part of the admission application, students list each high school course taken along with the grade.</i>	Units (but not specific courses) are recommended; units are not required.	Units (but not specific courses) are recommended; units are not required.
2.0 cumulative GPA on any college courses taken while in high school	2.0 cumulative GPA on any college courses taken while in high school	2.0 cumulative GPA on any college courses taken while in high school

Current Freshmen Criteria – Under 21 <i>Requirements for Accredited High School Graduate</i>	Proposed Changes <i>Accredited High School Graduate</i>	
KU	KU	
Cumulative GPA of 3.25 and ACT 21+ <u>or</u> Cumulative GPA of 3.0 and ACT 24+	Cumulative GPA of 3.25 and ACT 21+ <u>or</u> Cumulative GPA of 3.0 and ACT 24+	
Complete the Precollege Curriculum as described above	Units (but not specific courses) are recommended; units are not required.	
2.0 cumulative GPA on any college courses taken while in high school	2.0 cumulative GPA on any college courses taken while in high school	

The primary difference in the current and proposed criteria include the addition of an option for admission based on an applicant’s cumulative high school GPA for five state universities. Because the cumulative GPA is proposed as an admission criterion for these five institutions, requiring and tracking certain units for the pre-college curriculum is duplicative leading the precollege curriculum to be recommended, but not required.

Specific differences in the cumulative GPA requirement exist with K-State recommending a cumulative GPA of 3.25 for admission, and the comprehensive and urban serving institutions recommending a 2.25. This difference reflects differences in mission and types of students served.

The proposed admission criteria changes were scheduled to be considered at the June 2019 Board meeting. Concerns regarding the proposed ACT/high school GPA requirements prompted the Board to table the changes. It is understood that the primary concern was based upon a belief that the proposed criteria could be too restrictive. Based on these issues, a variety of additional information is compiled herein to help the Board further examine admission issues and the proposed criteria. The remainder of this paper addresses how:

- admission criteria are defined in other states;
- the proposed criteria may impact access;
- the proposed criteria may impact the probability of collegiate success;
- students who do not meet the requisite admission criteria may pursue additional options; and
- a commitment to developing an alternative admission framework for students who do not meet the Qualified Admission criteria will be made through establishing a positive pathways theme.

Other States

Public universities in other states employ a multitude of college readiness factors when determining admission eligibility. These include, but are not limited to, ACT scores, high school GPAs, and high school class ranking systems. Like the proposed admission criteria, most public university admission criteria within states vary based upon institutional mission, function, and student population. As a basis for comparison, a list of admission criteria for universities in nearby states is detailed below:

Arkansas	Requirement
Research (University of Arkansas)	20 ACT AND 3.0 high school GPA
Regional (Arkansas Tech University)	19 ACT AND 2.0 high school GPA
Colorado	Requirement
Research (Colorado State)	No defined thresholds. Specifies that applicants who fall within the middle 50% of the previous year's admitted class will likely gain admission. Last year, this accounted to between a 3.4 to 4.0 GPA AND 23-29 ACT.
Regional (Adams State University)	No defined thresholds. Specifies that applicants who fall within the middle 50% of the previous year's admitted class will likely gain admission. Last year, this accounted to between a 2.7 and 3.6 GPA and 17-22 ACT.
Missouri	Requirement
Research (University of Missouri)	Uses a scale that weighs both ACT and High School GPA: 24 ACT AND 2.0 GPA 23 ACT AND 2.80 GPA 22 ACT AND 2.90 GPA 21 ACT AND 3.05 GPA 20 ACT AND 3.20 GPA 19 ACT AND 3.35 GPA 18 ACT AND 3.50 GPA 17 ACT AND 3.65 GPA
Regional (University of Central Missouri)	Uses a scale that weighs both ACT and High School GPA: 21 ACT OR higher and 2.0 GPA 20 ACT AND 2.85 GPA 19 ACT AND 2.95 GPA 18 ACT AND 3.25 GPA 17 ACT AND 3.45 GPA
Oklahoma	Requirement
Research (Oklahoma State University)	24 ACT OR 3.0 GPA AND Top 33% Class Rank
Regional (University of Central Oklahoma)	20 ACT OR 2.7 GPA AND Top 50% Class Rank
Nebraska	Requirement
Research (University of Nebraska)	20 ACT OR Top 50% Class Rank
Regional (University of Nebraska at Kearney)	20 ACT OR Top 50% Class Rank

<i>Texas</i>	<i>Requirement</i>
Research (Texas A&M University)	Top 10% of a Texas High School Class Rank OR Top 25% Class Rank AND 30 ACT
Regional (West Texas A&M University)	Uses a scale that weighs both ACT and High School GPA: No ACT AND Top 25% of a Class Rank 18 ACT AND Top 26%-50% of a Class Rank 21 ACT AND Top 51%-75% of a Class Rank 23 ACT AND Top 76%-100% of a Class Rank

Access

ESU, FHSU, PSU, and WSU

The proposed criteria establish a 2.25 requisite GPA as one option for admission. Based on data analysis of Kansas high school graduate GPAs, Board staff estimate that 30,361 of 34,898 (87%) Kansas high school graduates will be admissible based upon this threshold.³ It should be noted that the existing high school performance criterion, which requires an applicant to rank in the top 33.3% of his/her graduating class, is significantly more restrictive. Thus, a high quantity of students who are not currently admissible will gain admission eligibility if the proposed criteria are adopted.

K-State

The proposed criteria establish a 3.25 requisite GPA as one option for admission. Based on data analysis of Kansas high school graduate GPAs, Board staff estimate that 16,053 of 34,898 (46%) of Kansas high school graduates will be admissible to K-State based upon the high school GPA threshold.³ As such, compared to the existing high school performance criterion, which requires an applicant to rank in the top 33.3% of his/her graduating class, the proposed criterion will increase access for high school students who wish to attend K-State.

K-State reported that if its proposed criteria (21 ACT or 3.25 GPA) would have been applied to its Fall 2018 applicant pool, 93% of applicants would have been admitted (73% would meet both the ACT and GPA requirement, 10% would have only met the ACT requirement, and 10% would have only met the GPA requirement).

Academic Performance

ESU, FSU, PSU, and WSU

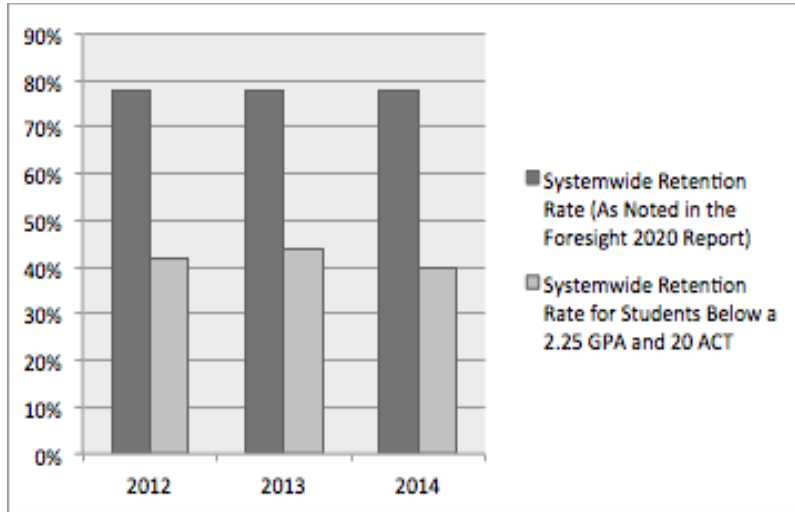
While current policy establishes that students must meet the requisite criteria to qualify for admission, it also permits universities to admit applicants who do not meet the minimum freshmen admissions criteria, provided that the number of freshmen admitted as exceptions is limited to 10 percent of the university's total freshmen admissions. Given that the proposed criteria for ESU, FSU, PSU, and WSU would require an applicant to earn a 21 ACT or a 2.25 high school GPA, performance outcomes of students who were previously admitted by exception and did not meet the proposed admission criteria are examined herein.

When reviewing the first-year-to-second year retention rate of students between 2012 and 2014, students who did not earn a 20 ACT or 2.25 GPA exhibited a significantly lower first-year-to second-year retention rate. Compared to the Systemwide University retention rate, which was 78% in 2012, 2013, and 2014, the retention rate for students who did not earn a 2.25 GPA or 20 ACT was 42% in 2012, 44% in 2013, and 40% in 2014. In addition to measuring early student success, the retention rate has also been employed as an indicator to gauge cost effectiveness. Multiple studies have found that it costs 3-5 times less to retain a student than it does to recruit one.⁴ As a case in point, a student who is retained for four years is projected to generate the same amount of revenue as four students who only attend one year.

³ Data were collected from five Kansas school districts, which are in urban, suburban, and rural settings, and extrapolated.

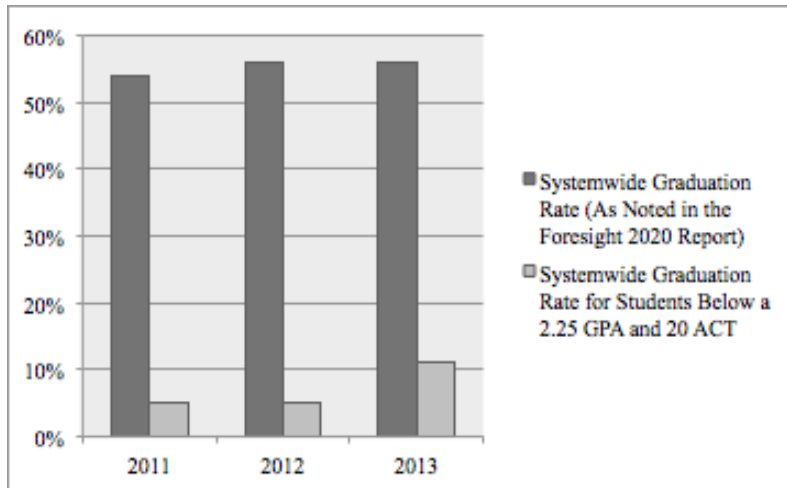
⁴ Cuseo, J. (2003). *Academic Advisement and Student Retention: Empirical Connections and Systemic Interventions*. Brevard College, NC: Policy Centre on the First Year of College.

Retention Rates



When examining graduation, there is an even wider performance gap. Compared to the Systemwide University graduation rate, which averaged 54% between 2011 and 2013, the average Systemwide University graduation rate during the same period for students who had below a 2.25 GPA and 20 ACT was 7%.

Graduation Rates



Like the retention rate, there are also financial challenges associated with low graduation rates. Studies have demonstrated that students who do not graduate are significantly more likely to default on loans. One such study found that borrowers who do not graduate are three times more likely to default than borrowers who graduate.⁵

⁵ United States Department of Education. (2015). Fact Sheet: Focusing Higher Education on Student Success.

K-State

As previously noted, K-State wishes to use a higher high school GPA admission standard (3.25 instead of 2.25) than ESU, FHSU, PSU, and WSU. K-State worked with Huron, a higher education consulting group, to establish this standard. The 3.25 GPA was identified as the threshold because it provides an opportunity to draw a wide range of students who have a high probability of performing well. When evaluating the potential admission thresholds, K-State linked collegiate performance data with both a 3.0 and 3.25 high school GPA to analyze and assess the probability of success. In the end, a 3.25 high school GPA was identified as the proposed threshold because it was linked to a retention rate that was over 12 percentage points higher than a 3.0 high school GPA. Although K-State has raised its retention rate in recent years, it still trails its peer institutions. As such, employing a 3.25 high school GPA threshold puts K-State in a position to continue improving this rate while also enhancing access. Lastly, KU, which is not requesting any changes to its existing admission criteria, also employs a 3.25 high school GPA within its criteria. Thus, a precedent has been established to employ this GPA threshold within another university's admission review process.

Additional Options

If an applicant does not meet the proposed criteria, the university may still consider him/her for admission. Based on the Qualified Admissions Rules and Regulations framework, universities are permitted to admit applicants who do not meet the minimum freshmen admissions criteria, provided that the number of freshmen admitted as exceptions is limited to 10 percent of the university's total freshmen admissions. In the 2017-18 academic year, a total of 1,232 resident freshmen exceptions were made at the six universities, which accounted for 3.85% of the resident freshmen admission class.

In addition to the exception window option, it should also be noted that the 19 community colleges and six technical colleges function as open admission postsecondary institutions. If a student attends one of these institutions and earns a 2.0 GPA in at least 24 college credit hours, he/she will automatically be eligible for admission at ESU, FSHU, K-State, PSU, and WSU (KU requires a 2.5 GPA). Depending on the time of the year and schedule availability, a student could complete 24 college credit hours in a six-to-nine-month period.

Positive Pathways

While the proposed changes will significantly increase the number of high school graduates who meet the Qualified Admissions criteria, it is also recognized that further efforts are needed to establish an alternative admission framework for students who are unable to qualify. As such, a positive pathways theme, which will be based upon helping these students achieve success beyond high school, will be explored and developed.