



### 3.2.6 Special Admissions

Students may also be admitted as freshmen based on other evidence of college readiness. Following are modified or additional requirements for specific groups of applicants.

#### Limited Admissions

In recognition of the fact that a limited group of students does not meet established standards but does demonstrate special potential for success, the BoR has created other categories of admission that institutions can use. Institutions are expected to adhere to requirements prescribed and the admissions percentages allotted for their sectors.

#### Limited Admissions Restrictions

Institutions are restricted by sector to a maximum number of students who may be admitted in this category. The number of traditional freshmen students who can be granted Limited Admissions for the entire academic year will be no more than the following percentages of the institution's annual first-time freshman headcount enrollment.

Research Universities	Up to 7 percent
Regional Universities	Up to 15 percent
State Universities	Up to 20 percent
State Colleges*	Up to 33 percent

\*State Colleges that elect to require test scores for admission are required to adhere to the limited admit percentage.

Non-traditional freshmen and transfer students are not to be included in the Limited Admissions percentage allowed for each institution, nor will these groups be included in determining the base.

#### Presidential Exceptions

Under the limited admissions provision, presidents of USG institutions may grant exceptions to the BoR minimum freshman admission requirements if the student shows promise for academic success in college. Institutions can use multiple measures, such as interviews, portfolios, and records of experiential achievements for considering students in this category.

Students who are admitted under the Presidential Exception option should be included in the maximum number of Limited Admissions allowed for an institution.

Even under very special and rare circumstances when institutions have extensive evidence that a student has potential for success despite not meeting USG requirements, institutions must demonstrate that the student meets at least one of the following:

High school diploma from an accredited or approved high school as specified in BoR Policy 4.2.1.1, Freshman Requirements (certificate of attendance or special education diplomas are not acceptable)

## GED

### Addressing RHSC Deficiencies

Students admitted in the Limited Admission category, including Presidential Exceptions, who have RHSC deficiencies shall be required to satisfy those deficiencies by subject area in the following manner:

English and Mathematics

Students with fewer than the four required units of English or mathematics are required to take the comparable COMPASS (computer-adaptive college placement test) sections administered by a USG institution or a comparable placement examination approved by the BoR. Based on his or her scores, the student will exempt Learning Support (LS) or be placed in the appropriate LS course in English and/or reading and/or mathematics.

Institutions may use comparable scores for students transferring from Commission on Colleges (COC) accredited Technical College System of Georgia institutions. See BoR Policy 3.3.5, Collaboration Between the USG and the Technical College System of Georgia.

Science, Social Science, and Foreign Language

Students with fewer than the required number of units in an area are required to take additional for-credit courses selected from the appropriate area of the USG Core Curriculum. The course(s) must be in the specific content area in which the student is deficient. Students who have completed only one year of American Sign Language are considered deficient and are required to take courses in a foreign language to satisfy the deficiency.

The college credit courses used to satisfy RHSC deficiencies will count as degree credit, but the hours earned will not count toward a student's degree program. The student must earn a "C" or better in each of these courses.

Students who accumulate 30 or more semester hours of college-level credit in the institution before completing all RHSC requirements may not register for other courses, unless they also register for the appropriate deficiency course or courses.

Institutions may petition the Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer of the USG for permission to offer a Learning Support (LS) course for students admitted with RHSC deficiencies in the sciences and social sciences that would serve as an option to taking additional college-level courses in science and social science for no degree credit. This might be a co-requisite LS experience when science and social science courses are taken in the core.

### Summary of Regular and Limited Freshman Admissions Standards

Summary of Minimum System Admissions Requirements by Sector for Freshman Applicants		
Sector	Regular Admission	Limited Admission
Research Universities	16 CPC or 17 RHSC units FI of 2500 Minimum testing scores: 430 SAT Verbal/Critical Reading 400 SAT I Math or 17 ACT English and Math	16 CPC or 17 RHSC units FI of 2020 Minimum testing scores: 430 SAT Verbal/Critical Reading 400 SAT I Math or 17 ACT English and Math

Regional Universities	16 CPC or 17 RHSC units FI of 2040 or more Minimum testing scores: 430 SAT Verbal/Critical Reading 400 on the SAT I Math or 17 on ACT English and Math	16 CPC or 17 RHSC units FI of 1830 or more Minimum testing scores: 430 SAT Verbal/Critical Reading 400 SAT I Math test or 17 on ACT English and Math
State Universities	16 CPC or 17 RHSC units FI of 1940 or more Minimum testing scores: 430 SAT Verbal/Critical Reading 400 SAT I Math or 17 on ACT English and Math	16 CPC or 17 RHSC units FI of 1790 or more Minimum testing scores: 430 SAT Verbal/Critical Reading 400 on the SAT I Math or 17 on ACT English and Math
State Colleges	16 CPC or 17 RHSC units FI of 1830 or more Minimum testing scores: 330 SAT Verbal/Critical Reading 310 SAT I Math or 12 on ACT English and 14 on Math	High School diploma or Minimum testing scores: 330 SAT Verbal/Critical Reading 310 SAT I Math or 12 on ACT English and 14 on Math
Two-Year College	16 CPC or 17 RHSC units	High school diploma or GED

**Alternative Requirements for Students Graduating from Non-Accredited High Schools or Non-Accredited Home School Programs**

Applicants who have graduated from a non-accredited high school or a non-accredited homeschool program may be considered for admission at any USG institution. BoR Policy 4.2.1.1, Freshman Requirements, establishes guidelines for institutions to determine a homeschooled/non accredited high school student’s probability of success in college. Institutions wishing to use SAT II tests to validate a student’s college preparatory requirements are expected to establish required scores for students seeking admission to the institution. Each institution may establish additional admission requirements above those set by the BoR. Institutions are encouraged to list requirements for homeschooled and graduates of non-accredited high schools in the catalog and on the institution’s website. Homeschooled students or graduates of non-accredited high schools must submit SAT or ACT equivalent scores and satisfactory documentation of equivalent competence in each of the RHSC areas at the college preparatory level in lieu of the Freshman Index and Carnegie unit requirements of the RHSC. For the period of time the Pilot Admission Project is in effect, homeschooled students or students from non-accredited high schools seeking admission to a two-year institution will be expected to present test scores at or above the average test scores for the institution’s Fall 2005 freshman class. Homeschooled students seeking admission to a state college that has reinstated the test score requirement must meet the test score requirement for the institution.

### **Admission of Students with Outstanding Scores**

BoR Policy 4.2.1.1 permits institutions to consider those few students who, through test scores and personal achievement, have demonstrated their potential for success in college. However, institutions are advised to assess the student's readiness to do college work. Factors that should be considered include academic experience, historical attendance patterns, and level of maturity. Students under the age of 18 are at greater risk for failure, and institutions are advised to admit only those students who show the greatest potential for success. Institutions seeking to enroll students under the age of 16 should consult federal guidelines for compliance rules before offering letters of acceptance. For requirements for students who have not yet graduated from high school but who wish to enroll in USG core courses, see Opportunities for High School Students in this same section.

### **Admission of Students with Non-U.S. Academic Credentials/ Admission of Students Whose First Language Is Not English**

#### **Freshman Students**

Freshman international students may be considered for admission in any category or in this special category. International students may also be admitted as Presidential Exceptions. Students whose secondary education was completed outside the United States system of education may be admitted with acceptable foreign credentials and English language proficiency as described below:

#### **Foreign Credentials**

Academic performance described by a certificate, diploma, or other document deemed generally equivalent to a U.S. required high school curriculum by a reputable credential evaluator (internal or external to the institution) is acceptable.

#### **English Language Proficiency Requirements**

The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), or some other USG-approved evaluation of English proficiency is required.

The minimum and recommended scores acceptable for admission follow:

	Minimum Score for Admission	Recommended Score for Admission
Paper TOEFL	523	550
Computer TOEFL	193	213
Internet TOEFL	69	79
IELTS	6	6.5
SAT Critical Reading	430	

ACT English	17	
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Institutions and departmental programs within the institution may set higher minimum test scores for admission.

Institutions may develop procedures to determine whether there is a need for placement in LS reading and English and/or ESL courses for students who meet the minimum English Proficiency requirements.

Math admissions criteria, including the SAT or ACT, and placement criteria are required for international students.

An academically admissible applicant with credentials from another country who needs supplemental English language instruction (as indicated by an approved method for determining English Proficiency described above) may be admitted to a degree program on the condition that the student will receive the supplemental English language instruction in a System-approved program. This conditional admission is possible only at those institutions approved to provide English language instruction for non-native speakers of English. Programs of English-as-a Second Language used under this provision must be approved by the Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer.

### **English Proficiency and Transfer Students**

Students who are non-native speakers of English, who transfer from an institution of higher education outside the U.S. where English was not the language of instruction, are required to submit a TOEFL or IELTS score or some other recognized evaluation of English along with their foreign credentials.

The minimum and recommended scores acceptable for admission follows:

	Minimum Score for Admission	Recommended Score for Admission
Paper TOEFL	523	550
Computer TOEFL	193	213
Internet TOEFL	69	79
IELTS	6	6.5

Institutions and departmental programs within the institution may set higher minimum test scores for admission.

Students who are non-native speakers of English and who are transferring from an accredited institution of higher education inside the U.S. may be required to retake the TOEFL if their English proficiency cannot be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the admitting institution.

### **U.S. Immigration Regulations**

Federal regulations place significant responsibilities on students and universities in the administration of the U.S. laws pertaining to F-1 or J-1 non-immigrant students. Institutions are required to follow certain record-keeping and reporting requirements of the U.S. government.

Institutions enrolling international students are required to determine the academic admissibility and the financial resources of applicants prior to the issuance of the immigration document I-20 A-B or IAP-66.

Only a Designated School Official appointed by the institution's president and registered with the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) may sign forms I-20 A-B, I-538, and other F-1 student immigration-related documents. Only a Responsible Officer or Alternate Responsible Officer approved by the U.S. Department of State may sign forms IAP-66. For more information, see [http://www.immigrationdirect.com/?gclid=CK3qo\\_zM85oCFQJ-xgodwmDydA](http://www.immigrationdirect.com/?gclid=CK3qo_zM85oCFQJ-xgodwmDydA) and <http://www.ice.gov/sevis/>.

### **Admission of Students with Disabilities**

Students who meet regular admission requirements should be admitted without regard to disabilities. Students with documented disabilities seeking admission to a USG institution are required to meet the RHSC requirements and achieve the institution's SAT or ACT score requirements with testing accommodations. Students who are unable to meet the foreign language requirement due to a documented disability may petition for a course substitution following the procedures described in Section 3.11.3. See Section 3.11 for additional information regarding students with disabilities.

### **Opportunities for High School Students**

The USG is committed to providing opportunities to high school students allowing for the enhancement of their high school curriculum through the availability of college offerings prior to high school graduation.

The USG has approved the following three opportunities for academically talented high school students to earn college credit before graduating from high school:

Dual enrollment	A student, while continuing his/her enrollment in high school, enrolls in a course for both high school and college credit.
Joint enrollment	A student, while continuing his/her enrollment in high school as a junior or senior, enrolls in courses for college credit.
Early admissions	The student enrolls as a full-time college student following completion of the junior year in high school.

To participate in one of these options a student must be enrolled in a public or private secondary high school that is regulated by a school system and state department of education or accredited by one of the following:

- A regional accrediting association (such as the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools)
- The Georgia Accrediting Commission
- The Georgia Private School Accrediting Council (GAPSAC)

### **Homeschooled Students**

Homeschooled students may be considered for joint enrollment if they are enrolled in Non-traditional Educational Centers that are recognized by GAPSAC or by state departments of education. Students attending non-accredited home school programs or non-accredited high

schools may also be eligible to participate in joint enrollment opportunities if they meet all general admission requirements for dual enrollment and have validated their on-track Required High School Curriculum (RHSC) units according to the policy of the institution to which they are applying. Institutions are encouraged to include information about joint enrollment requirements for students from non-accredited home school programs or non-accredited high schools in their catalog and on their web sites.

### **General Admission Requirements**

The BoR has established the following admission standards for accelerated learning; however, each institution has the authority to establish higher and additional admission requirements.

- Minimum SAT score of 970 (combined Verbal/Critical Reading and Mathematics sections) or ACT composite of 20. Institutions seeking to use alternative placement test(s) must seek prior approval from the Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer of the USG.
- Minimum cumulative high school grade point average of 3.0 as calculated by the institution for admission purposes
- Exemption of all LS requirements
- Written consent of parent or guardian if the student is a minor
- Evidence in the transcript that student is on track towards the completion of the USG RHSC requirements and high school graduation.

Institutions may have more restrictive requirements for high school juniors; however, establishing such higher requirements may not preclude high school juniors from participating in these programs.

### **Exceptions for Outstanding Scores**

Students who do not necessarily meet all of the above admission criteria but who demonstrate very high academic abilities through their SAT or ACT scores may be permitted to enroll in college courses at the discretion of the institution. Institutions may set additional requirements but may permit students with scores of at least the following:

700 on the SAT I Mathematics test (or 31 on ACT Mathematics) to enroll in college courses that require advanced mathematical ability

700 on the SAT I Verbal/Critical Reading test (or 31 on ACT English) to enroll in college courses that require advanced verbal ability

### **Certificate Programs**

Students who do not meet the admission requirements for Dual Enrollment, Joint Enrollment or Early Admission but who wish to enroll in courses leading to a certificate program should contact the Director of Admissions at the institution. High school students who enroll in certificate programs may be eligible to apply for the HOPE Grant. For more information on the HOPE Grant program, students should contact the Georgia Student Finance Commission.

### **Acceptance of Transfer Credit for Dual Enrollment, Joint Enrollment and Early Admission Students**

Freshman seeking admission to a USG institution can expect that the college credit earned at a

COC-accredited institution prior to high school graduation will be considered as transfer credit if the prospective student meets the USG institution's regular admission requirements.

**Residential Programs** The Advanced Academy of Georgia on the campus of the University of West Georgia and the Georgia Academy of Mathematics, Engineering and Science at Middle Georgia College offer on-campus residential programs for gifted, talented, and motivated high school student. Admission and program requirements are established by the individual institutions.

### **Early College**

Early College represents an approved partnership between a Georgia public school system and a USG college or university. For more information and a complete list of Early College programs and their partner institutions, see <http://www.gaeearlycollege.org/earlysites/>.