



## **AOP 12.29: UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Academic Operating Policy and Procedure (AOP) is to establish an understanding of the undergraduate admission requirements at Mississippi State University, as defined by the Board of Trustees of the State Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL).

### **POLICY/PROCEDURE**

The Office of Admissions and Scholarships administers general admission requirements. Applicants who meet general admission requirements to the University may not meet the admission requirements for a specific program, department, and/or college.

#### **I. Freshman Admission Requirements**

1. **Regular Admission.** Freshman applicants for regular admission may be admitted to Mississippi State University provided the following requirements are met:
  - a. The applicant must have graduated from an approved secondary school.
  - b. The applicant must submit an official American College Test (ACT) score or Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) score. The highest ACT or SAT subject test scores from the same test type will be used when scores from more than one test date are submitted. This process is known as superscoring. A combination of ACT and SAT subtest scores cannot be combined to calculate a superscore.
  - c. To enroll as a freshman in any of the programs of study at MSU, a student, during grades 9-12, must have satisfactorily completed, at minimum, the number of units as shown in the Policies and By Laws as set forth by the Board of Trustees, Institutions of Higher Learning State of Mississippi at their website.

Full admission to Mississippi State University for Mississippi residents will be granted to high school graduates who complete the required high school courses with one of the following:

- ♦ A minimum 3.20 grade-point average; or,
- ♦ A minimum 2.50 grade-point average or standing in the top 50 percent of the class and a composite score of 16 or higher on the ACT or the equivalent SAT score; or,
- ♦ A minimum 2.0 grade-point average and a composite score of 18 or higher on the ACT or the equivalent SAT score; or

- Satisfy the National Collegiate Athletic Association standards for student athletes who are “full qualifiers” or “academic redshirts” under Division I guidelines.

Full admission to Mississippi State University for nonresidents of Mississippi will be granted to high school graduates who complete the required high school courses with one of the following:

- A minimum 2.50 grade-point average and a composite score of 20 or higher on the ACT, or the equivalent SAT score; or
  - Student-athletes who satisfy the National Collegiate Athletic Association standards and who are “full qualifiers” or “academic redshirts” under Division I guidelines are exempt from the above requirement.
2. Contingent Admission. Applicants who are Mississippi residents and fail to meet the full admission standards may, as a result of a review, be admitted. The review will be conducted by an admissions committee, who will consider the student’s high school performance, ACT/SAT scores, placement testing, and special interests and skills.

A student athlete must meet the requirements of the Southeastern Conference and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

3. Special Program for Academically Talented Students (SPATS). Academically talented students in high school who have a standard composite minimum score of 24 on the ACT or equivalent SAT score, may apply for admission as a SPATS student to earn regular college credit.

SPATS students may take courses during the spring, summer, or fall term. Information concerning the program and application forms may be obtained at the Office of Admissions and Scholarships website or by writing to: SPATS, Office of Admissions and Scholarships, P.O. Box 6334, Mississippi State, MS 39762. Students in this category will be advised by and will schedule classes through the University Academic Advising Center.

4. Admission by High School Equivalency Exam – Domestic Applicants. An applicant who has not graduated from high school may substitute the state approved high school equivalency examination for the requirement of high school graduation. The approved high school equivalency examination will substitute for the requirement of high school graduation only, and not for the other requirements for freshman admission. Therefore, applicants who took an approved high school equivalency examination must submit an acceptable ACT/SAT score. Applicants who pass an approved high school equivalency examination and who do not meet other requirements for freshman admission may enroll at Mississippi State as transfers after meeting the normal requirements for transfer admission from an accreditation agency that is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.
5. Home Schooled. Home Schooled applicants are required to meet the same requirements as other freshman applicants. Official ACT/SAT scores and transcripts (or portfolios) are

required.

6. Special Non-Degree Classification. An applicant who is at least twenty-one (21) years old and who does not meet the regular freshman admission requirements may apply to the Admissions Office for acceptance into the Special Non-Degree (SND) student category. Students in this category will be advised by and will schedule classes through the University Academic Advising Center. Applicants must demonstrate adequate preparation for the classes they plan to schedule. SND students may schedule a maximum of twelve (12) semester hours during a regular term and three (3) semester hours during a five-week summer term. To move from the SND status, students must satisfactorily complete twelve (12) semester hours with a C or better average in core courses that are applicable to a degree at MSU. Students wishing to gain reclassification to a traditional major should discuss this during their initial meeting with one of the professional advisors in the University Academic Advising Center. For students admitted to a degree program, a maximum of eighteen (18) semester hours of credit earned while in the SND classification may be counted toward a baccalaureate degree, pending approval by the dean of the college or school from which the degree is sought.

Degree seeking adult applicants with previous college attendance must meet regular transfer student requirements and, therefore, may not apply for admission under the Special Non-Degree option.

Non-degree seeking adult applicants with previous college attendance who do not meet regular transfer requirements may be allowed to schedule courses for self-improvement and/or job enhancement. Applicants must file a letter of intent with the Director of Admissions to enroll under this option.

7. Transient Admission. Students who are enrolled fulltime at a 2-year or 4-year institution and wish to enroll at MSU for course-work to be transferred to their home institution may be admitted in transient status for one term (spring, summer, or fall) with the expectation of returning to their previous institution. Applicants must submit an application for admission along with the required application fee and transcript showing good standing for the term immediately prior to enrollment at MSU, plus an approved Letter of Transiency, from their current institution. If a student in transient status wishes to remain at MSU in a degree seeking status, he or she must apply and meet the requirements of a transfer applicant. Students may apply for subsequent terms in transient status. However, an updated application for admission, and all other documents required for transient admission will be required. Students in this category will be advised by and will schedule classes through the University Academic Advising Center.
8. International Baccalaureate and University of Cambridge International Examinations. International Baccalaureate and University of Cambridge International Examinations graduates follow the same procedures as applicants holding a regular high school diploma.
9. Undergraduate students who are part of a Partnership Pathway program between their community college and the Meridian campuses are automatically eligible for concurrent

admission at the Meridian Campus. Students are required to submit final official transcripts by the end of their first semester of full-time enrollment.

## II. Transfer Student Admission Requirements

Applicants who attend another institution before applying to MSU must be eligible to re-enroll in the last institution they attended. Transfer applicants must meet one of the following criteria for admission.

Transfer credits used to satisfy admissions requirements to the University are not automatically applied to the student's degree program of choice. The application of transfer credit to a degree program is determined by that degree program's academic department.

### Admission Option 1:

1. Submit a high school transcript and ACT or SAT scores showing that the applicant qualified initially as a freshman enrollee (see Freshman Admission Requirements), and
2. Earn an overall 2.0 GPA on all courses attempted (as computed by Mississippi State University) at an institution of higher learning that is accredited through an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

### Admission Option 2:

Any applicant who does not meet freshman requirements may attend an institution of higher learning that is accredited through a U.S. Department of Education recognized agency and complete the core courses listed below and earn an overall 2.0 GPA on all hours attempted (as computed by Mississippi State University). Official transcripts from each institution attended must be submitted; faxed transcripts will not be accepted.

The applicant must attain a "C" average (2.0 GPA on a 4.0 scaled) on the following 30 semester hours of college work at an institution that is accredited through a U.S. Department of Education recognized agency:

6 semester hours English Composition

3 semester hours College Algebra, Quantitative Reasoning, or higher level mathematics

6 semester hours Natural Science

9 semester hours Humanities or Fine Arts

6 semester hours Social or Behavioral Sciences

### Admission Option 3:

Any applicant who does not meet freshman requirements may attend an institution of

higher learning that is accredited through a U.S. Department of Education recognized agency and earn an A.A., B.S., or equivalent degree with a 2.0 GPA (as computed by Mississippi State University). Official transcripts from each institution attended must be submitted; faxed transcripts will not be accepted.

A transfer applicant who meets general admissions requirements to the University, may not meet the requirements for a specific department. Applicants should contact the academic department for additional requirements. Transfer work earned from an institution that is not accredited through a U.S. Department of Education recognized agency is not acceptable at Mississippi State University and applicants from these institutions must meet the admission requirements as an entering freshman.

### III. International Student Admission Requirements

International applicants who wish to gain admission as an undergraduate student at Mississippi State must follow the admission procedures described for international students as described at the Office of Admissions and Scholarships website. Requirements for admission also include:

Credentials from Non-US Institutions: Post-secondary school credentials from non-U.S. institutions must be submitted through a National Association of Credential Evaluation Services member for a course-by-course evaluation with grade point average calculation.

English Language Proficiency Requirement: International undergraduate students admitted to Mississippi State University must demonstrate English language proficiency to register for academic courses offered through the colleges. Any of the following scores are acceptable to demonstrate English language proficiency:

- International English Language Testing System (IELTS): minimum band score of 6.0.
- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL): minimum 525 for paper-based test; 197 for computer-based test, and 71 for Internet-based test.
- Duolingo English Test score of 120
- A score of 19 or higher in the English section of the ACT or a score of 510 in the Evidence -Based Reading and Writing Section of the SAT

Although applicants may meet general language requirements for admission to the university, some departments have established higher English language proficiency requirements. For a complete listing, please visit the web site at [www.admissions.msstate.edu](http://www.admissions.msstate.edu).

#### Exemption from English Language Proficiency Requirement

The following applicants are exempt from submitting one of the above English Language Proficiency scores:

- International applicants who apply for admission as degree-seeking freshmen and who have completed two years minimum of high school education and earned at least a C in English courses and graduated from an accredited high school in the US. Such applicants must, however, comply with the admission standards for domestic (i.e. US) applicants.
- International applicants who apply for admission as degree-seeking transfer students and who have completed at least one English Writing/Composition course at an accredited institution of higher education in the U.S. Such applicants must, however, comply with the admission standards for domestic (i.e. US) applicants.

#### Admission with English Language Deficiency

International students who wish to enroll in academic courses but fail to demonstrate English language proficiency using one of the approved methods will be required to enroll in the English Language Institute (ELI). Students who successfully complete the ELI program will be considered to have demonstrated English language proficiency and will then be allowed to register in academic courses offered through the colleges. Admission to the English Language Institute is an additional process. Please visit the International Institute's website for details concerning the English Language Institute.

#### **REVIEW**

This AOP will be reviewed every four years or earlier if circumstances require a review by the Office of Admissions and Scholarships with recommendations for revision presented to the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs.

**REVIEWED:**

/s/ Peter Ryan 04/26/2023  
Executive Vice Provost and Dean, Graduate School Date

/s/ David Shaw 08/14/2023  
Provost and Executive Vice President Date

/s/ Robert Banik 10/06/2023  
President, Robert Holland Faculty Senate Date

/s/ Tracey N. Baham 10/11/2023  
Associate Vice President, Institutional Strategy & Effectiveness Date

/s/ Joan Lucas 10/11/2023  
General Counsel Date

**APPROVED:**

/s/ Mark E. Keenum 11/27/2023  
President Date