

9/15/26

BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM

Education Committee

Via Zoom Videoconference

Thursday, September 17, 2026

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

- A. Calling of the Roll
- B. Declaration of Conflicts
- C. Proposed Consent Agenda:
 - 1. Approval of the Minutes of the August 20, 2026 Meeting of the Education Committee
- D. ~~Regent Policy Document Review: Proposal to Amend RPD 4-16, "Criteria for Approval of Wisconsin Technical College System Liberal Arts and Pre-Professional Transfer Programs" (First Read)~~
- E. Regent Policy Document Review: Proposal to Amend and Renumber RPD 7-1, "Transfer and Award of Credit for Extra-Institutional Learning" to RPD 4-X, "Undergraduate Transfer Credit and Award of Credit for Extra-Institutional Learning" (First Read)
- F. Regent Policy Document Review: Proposal to Amend RPD 7-3, "University of Wisconsin System Freshman Admissions Policy" (First Read)

**REGENT POLICY DOCUMENT REVIEW:
PROPOSAL TO AMEND AND RENUMBER RPD 7-1, "TRANSFER AND
AWARD OF CREDIT FOR EXTRA-INSTITUTIONAL LEARNING"**

REQUESTED ACTION

First reading and discussion of proposed amendments to Regent Policy Document (RPD) 7-1, "Transfer and Award of Credit for Extra-Institutional Learning" to include new policy language regarding how courses will transfer and apply to degree requirements for students who transfer between UW institutions, to remove any references to transfer admission, and to clarify and update other policy language.

SUMMARY

The proposed amendments to RPD 7-1 address four areas of revision:

1. Removal of reference to transfer admission to create a singular focus on the awarding of transfer credit and credit for extra-institutional learning.
2. Adding policy language to incorporate the Wisconsin Statute ([Wis. Stat. s. 36.31](#)) that requires that the Board of Regents (Board) of the University of Wisconsin (UW) System shall establish policies where all credits for Core General Education Requirement courses are transferable between universities and satisfy Core General Education Requirements.
3. Updating and clarifying statutory and policy references.
4. Clarifying and restructuring policy language related to the awarding and application of credit as well as transfer agreements.

The proposed revised RPD creates a singular focus on the awarding of credit and removes any reference to the admission of transfer students. As such, this policy would be renumbered and moved from RPD Section 7, "Admissions Policy" to RPD Section 4, "Academic Policies and Programs" to better align with the focus.

Presenters

- Dr. Julie L. Amon, Associate Vice President for Enrollment & Student Success, UW Administration
- Dr. Shanna Nifoussi, Director of Academic Student Success Initiatives, Office of Academic Affairs

BACKGROUND

The Universities of Wisconsin are subject to statutory provisions that require the Board to establish policies related to the transfer of credits between UW universities. Most of these statutory requirements have been addressed in the current RPD 7-1. However, given the new transfer requirements associated with the transfer of Core General Education Requirements across UW universities, an update is necessary. As a result, the proposed policy revisions bring together most of those statutory requirements and related transfer rules into one policy, including:

- Section 36.11(3)(b), Wis. Stats., which requires that the Board establish policies related to the transfer of all credits for core general education requirement courses, and that the courses satisfy core general education requirements.
- Section 36.31(2m)(am), Wis. Stats., regarding promotion and support of program-to-program articulation agreements.
- Section 36.31(2m)(b), Wis. Stats., which requires the implementation of systemwide transfer agreements with other educational agencies such as through the Universal Credit Transfer Agreement.
- Section 36.31(2m)(d), Wis. Stats., which states that no agreement may limit transfer of credits for core general education courses between institutions within the system.
- Section 36.31(4), Wis. Stats., related to the transfer of military credits.

The proposed policy also includes the addition of a transfer issue currently addressed in RPD 4-16, "Criteria for Approval of Wisconsin Technical College System Liberal Arts and Pre-Professional Transfer Programs." RPD 4-16 indicates that students who complete a WTCS liberal arts or pre-professional collegiate transfer degree will transfer to a UW institution with the Core General Education Requirements fulfilled at the receiving institution.

The proposed revisions to RPD 7-1 remove any reference to transfer admission practices. Currently, RPD 7-1 states that "UW institutions shall base transfer admission on comprehensive, individualized admission review, consistent with the process for freshman admission." Removing this reference allows this policy to have a clear focus on the transfer and awarding of credit. Transfer admission policies and practices will be addressed in proposed revisions to RPD 7-3, "University of Wisconsin System Freshman Admissions

Policy,” which will bring all undergraduate admissions policies and practices into a single policy as opposed to the current context in which undergraduate admission is addressed in RPD 7-1, RPD 7-3, and UW System Administrative Policy 135, “UW System Undergraduate Transfer Policy”.

In addition to the forthcoming revision of RPD 7-3, modifications to existing UW System Administrative (i.e., SYS 135) and UW university policies will be necessary to implement the proposed revisions to RPD 7-1. Alignment between this Regent Policy Document and UW System Administrative and UW university policies is critical to ensuring that all undergraduate students earn all possible credit and have that credit apply to as many degree requirements as possible.

Related Policies and Applicable Laws

- Section 36.11(3), Wis. Stat., “Admission of Applicants.”
- Section 36.31, Wis. Stat., “Coordination with other educational agencies; credit for military education.”
- [Regent Policy Document 4-16, “Criteria for Approval of Wisconsin Technical College System Liberal Arts and Pre-Professional Transfer Programs”](#)
- [Regent Policy Document 4-23 “Core General Education Requirements”](#)
- [Regent Policy Document 7-3, “University of Wisconsin System Freshman Admissions Policy”](#)
- [SYS 135, “UW System Undergraduate Transfer Policy”](#)
- [SYS 138, “Award of Credit by Prior Learning Assessment”](#)
- [SYS 140, “Templates for Articulation Agreements Between UW System Institutions and WTCS Districts”](#)
- [SYS 185, “Awarding of UW System Credit in Wisconsin Schools”](#)

ATTACHMENTS

- A) RPD 4-X, “Undergraduate Transfer Credit and Award of Credit for Extra-institutional Learning.” (Proposed Clean)
- B) RPD 4-X, “Undergraduate Transfer Credit and Award of Credit for Extra-institutional Learning.” (Proposed Tracked Changes)
- C) RPD 7-1, “Transfer and Award of Credit for Extra-Institutional Learning.” (Current)

Regent Policy Document 4-X

Undergraduate Transfer Credit and Award of Credit for Extra-Institutional Learning

Scope

UW institutions award transfer credits for educational experiences, courses, degrees, or credentials completed by students at other higher education institutions. UW institutions award credit for extra-institutional learning for knowledge and skills acquired through education and training received in a setting outside of a higher education institution and includes knowledge and skills acquired from life experience.

This policy applies to efforts at UW institutions to evaluate and award transfer credits and credits for extra-institutional learning, including statutorily mandated efforts to establish systemwide transfer agreements with other Wisconsin higher education systems and institutions as required under s. 36.31(2m), Wis. Stats.

Purpose

The UW System Board of Regents has authority, under s. 36.11(3)(b), Wis. Stats., to establish policies for the transfer of credits between institutions within the UW System and, under s. 36.11(3)(c), Wis. Stats., to establish transfer policies with other educational institutions outside the system.

This policy:

- addresses how credit for Core General Education Requirements will transfer between UW institutions in accordance with Wis. Stat. 36.11(3)(b), 36.31(2m)(a)(2), and 36.31(2m)(d) and how completion of an associate degree will fulfill the UW Core General Education Requirements;
- provides guidance regarding the implementation of systemwide transfer agreements with other educational agencies such as through the Universal Credit Transfer Agreement, which is required under s. 36.31(2m)(b), Wis. Stats., and the agreement required under s. 36.31(2m)(am), Wis. Stats., to promote and support program-to-program articulation agreements;
- establishes guidelines for evaluating and awarding transfer credits and credits for extra-institutional learning within the UW System with the goal of fostering educational attainment and accommodating student mobility. Student-centered policies that give full consideration for prior education and experience are essential for reducing time-to-degree, improving graduation rates, and minimizing the cost of attendance.

Policy Statement

The Board of Regents endorses the *Joint Statement on the Transfer and Award of Credit* developed by the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO), the American Council on Education (ACE), and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) as of [Month DD, YYYY]. This document sets forth a number of basic assumptions regarding the transfer of credit between universities, be they similar or dissimilar, as well as recommended best practices for developing university-specific policies and procedures. UW institutions will follow the guidelines set forth in the *Joint Statement* in awarding transfer credit based on the combination of quality, comparability, and applicability of the sending university's academic program. Further, UW institutions will trust that higher education institutions accredited by federally recognized accrediting agencies have demonstrated academic quality.

The Board of Regents expects UW institutions to award and apply as much credit as possible to students for all learning, wherever and however attained. At the same time, the Board recognizes that there are legitimate differences between the missions and academic programs of UW institutions and acknowledges that institutional autonomy and program integrity may result in differences in the awarding of transfer credit and credit for extra-institutional learning.

The following responsibilities apply to the transfer and award of credits for extra-institutional learning associated with coursework from UW institutions, the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS), or from other higher education institutions accredited by federally recognized accrediting agencies:

- The UW System shall develop policies and processes for evaluating and awarding transfer credits and credits for extra-institutional learning, which shall be designed to provide, to the extent possible, equitable treatment of transfer and continuing students.
- UW institutions shall provide transfer students with the same opportunities as continuing students to demonstrate their competence through the use of internally and externally developed examinations, portfolio assessment procedures, and other competency-based alternatives.
- UW institutions will award and apply all credit earned from higher education institutions accredited by federally recognized accrediting agencies in the same manner regardless of when (e.g., as a high school dual enrollment student) and how (e.g., course modality) that credit was earned.

Transfer Rules

TRANSFER OF UW SYSTEM ASSOCIATE DEGREES

UW institutions shall recognize an associate degree earned from a UW institution as having fulfilled the Core General Education Requirements of the receiving UW institution. Associate degrees offered by the UW System shall meet minimum Core General Education Requirements as required by the UW System President. UW institutions shall establish an appeal process for students to resolve any disputes regarding the transfer process.

TRANSFER OF LIBERAL ARTS AND PRE-PROFESSIONAL COLLEGIATE TRANSFER ASSOCIATE DEGREES FROM THE WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM (WTCS)

In accordance with Regent Policy Document 4-16, "Criteria for Approval of Wisconsin Technical College System Liberal Arts and Pre-Professional Collegiate Transfer Programs," UW institutions shall recognize a liberal arts or pre-professional collegiate transfer degree earned from a WTCS institution as having fulfilled the Core General Education Requirements at the receiving UW institution.

TRANSFER OF CORE GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS BETWEEN UW INSTITUTIONS

The UW System Core General Education Requirements as referred to in Wis. Stat. 36.11(3)(b), 36.31(2m)(a)(2), and 36.31(2m)(d) comprise undergraduate courses that impart foundational knowledge and skills. In accordance with RPD 4-23, "Core General Education Requirements," Core General Education Requirement credit must transfer across all UW institutions. Courses that fulfill a Core General Education Requirement category at any UW institution will transfer and fulfill the same Core General Education Requirement category at the receiving UW institution. Further procedures and processes regarding Core General Education Requirement credit transfer and applicability between UW institutions are outlined in Regent and System Administrative policies.

EXTRA-INSTITUTIONAL LEARNING

The UW System President shall establish a policy related to awarding credit for extra-institutional learning experiences. Credits for extra-institutional learning that are transcribed as a course equivalent by the sending UW institution will be evaluated for transfer by the receiving UW institution based on the applied equivalency. Among other provisions, the policy shall include guidance regarding the following:

Evaluation and Award of Credit for Extra-institutional Learning and Prior Learning Assessment

UW institutions may award credit for educational accomplishments obtained through extra-institutional learning, such as from credit for prior learning and experience in the workplace or military, from community service, or through independent study. Institutions may assess extra-institutional learning for the award of credit through a variety of methods, including evaluating student portfolios, adopting credit recommendations published by national organizations for courses offered by extra-institutional organizations, and awarding credit based on acceptable scores on national or university-developed examinations.

Credit for Military Experience and Training

The Board expects the UW System President and UW institutions to identify and promote efforts to award credit for military experience and training. In support of this goal and consistent with s. 36.31(4), Wis. Stats., a UW institution shall upon receiving a student's official joint services transcript or Community College of the Air Force transcript from the Department of Defense:

- a. Accept all American Council on Education credit recommendations included in the official joint services transcript and award and apply academic credit to the student record in accordance with these recommendations; and
- b. Accept all credits included in the Community College of the Air Force transcript and award and apply academic credit to the student record accordingly.

Credit Earned by Examinations

UW System policies, procedures, and guidelines shall include the systemwide examination score standards adopted by the Board of Regents for examinations such as the College Board Advanced Placement Program, Project Lead the Way, College-Level Examination Program (CLEP), and the International Baccalaureate Program.

Upon approval by the UW System Board of Regents, the UW System President may modify existing examination score standards or adopt additional standards for awarding credit for completion of specific courses or credit by examination programs.

Transfer Agreements

ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS

An articulation agreement is a signed document that guarantees the transfer of credits following "the completion of requirements for a specified program of study at an educational institution ... toward completion of requirements for a specified program of study at another educational institution" as defined in Wis. Stat. [§ 36.31\(2m\)\(a\)\(4\)](#).

Section 36.31(2m)(am), Wis. Stats., requires the UW System and the Wisconsin Technical College System to enter into an agreement to promote and support program-to-program articulation agreements, as defined by s. 36.31 (2m) (a), Wis. Stats. Wisconsin's tribally controlled colleges and the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities acting on behalf of its membership of private nonprofit higher education institutions may also elect to enter into the agreement.

Subject to Board approval, the Board authorizes the UW Administration's Division of Academic and Student Affairs to develop the agreement consistent with the provisions of s.

36.21(2m)(am), Wis. Stats. The Board further authorizes the Division of Academic and Student Affairs to implement and maintain the agreement as needed to comply with state statutes and to ensure the agreement remains current with curricular and course offerings. Once the initial

agreement is approved, the Division shall seek Board approval for any substantive change to the agreement.

UNIVERSAL CREDIT TRANSFER AGREEMENT

In accordance with s. 36.31 (2m), Wis. Stats., the UW System Board of Regents and the Wisconsin Technical College System are required to enter into an agreement identifying an array of not less than 72 credits of core general education courses that shall be transferable and satisfy general education requirements of the receiving institution. Wisconsin's tribally controlled colleges and the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities acting on behalf of its membership of private nonprofit higher education institutions may also elect to enter into the Universal Credit Transfer Agreement.

The Board approved the initial Universal Credit Transfer Agreement with the Wisconsin Technical College System on June 6, 2014. The Board authorizes the UW Administration's Division of Academic and Student Affairs to implement and maintain the Universal Credit Transfer Agreement as needed to comply with the statutes and to ensure the agreement remains current with curriculum and course offerings. The Division shall seek Board approval for any substantive change to the Universal Credit Transfer Agreement.

Student Information

UW System and UW institutions shall publish clear, complete and accessible information about the policies and procedures for awarding credit for transfer and extra-institutional learning, consistent with procedures established by the UW System President. The information shall be published on an electronic transfer information system administered by the UW System Administration, as well as in institutional printed and electronic resources.

Oversight, Roles, and Responsibilities

The Board of Regents delegates authority to the UW System President to develop policies to further define and implement this policy, in compliance with all applicable accreditation standards and federal and state laws. The UW Administration's Division of Academic and Student Affairs is charged with developing and ensuring compliance with systemwide transfer and award of credit policies, and with coordinating the UW System's electronic transfer information system, the Universal Credit Transfer Agreement and other articulation agreements between UW System and other institutions.

Related Regent Policy Documents and Applicable Laws

- Section 36.11(3), Wis. Stats., "Admission of Applicants."
- Section 36.31, Wis. Stats., "Coordination with other educational agencies; credit for military education."

- Regent Policy Document 4-16, “Criteria for Approval of Wisconsin Technical College System Liberal Arts and Pre-Professional Collegiate Transfer Programs”
- Regent Policy Document 4-23, “Core General Education Requirements”

History: Res. 429, adopted 03/09/1973, created Regent Policy Document 73-5; Res. 942, adopted 02/07/1975, created Regent Policy Document 75-1; Res. 1205, adopted 04/09/1976, created Regent Policy Document 76-1. Res. 3045, adopted 05/11/1984, created Regent Policy Document 84-3 and replaced Regent Policy Documents 73-5, 75-1, and 76-1.

Res. 5383, adopted 12/08/1989, created Regent Policy Document 89-9 and amended Regent Policy Document 84-3. Res. 7076, adopted 12/08/1995; Res. 7718, adopted 06/05/1998; Res. 8276, adopted 12/08/2000; and Res. 8847, adopted 05/07/2004, amended Regent Policy Document 84-3. Regent Policy Document 84-3 was subsequently renumbered 7-1.

Res. 9960, adopted 07/15/2011, and Res. 10383, adopted 06/06/2014, amended Regent Policy Document 7-1. Res. 10835, adopted 03/09/2017, authorized technical corrections.

Res. 11404, adopted 04/02/2020, rescinded and recreated Regent Policy Document 7-1.

Res. 11405, adopted 04/02/2020, rescinded Regent Policy Document 4-4 and consolidated provisions with the recreated Regent Policy Document 7-1. (Res. 3850, adopted 07/10/1987, created Regent Policy Document 87-9, subsequently renumbered 4-4.)

Res. 11406, adopted 04/02/2020, removed Regent Policy Documents 4-11, 4-17, and 7-2, and consolidated provisions with the recreated Regent Policy Document 7-1. (Res. 5746, adopted 04/11/1991, created Regent Policy Document 91-3, subsequently renumbered 4-11. Res. 8128, adopted 05/05/2000, created Regent Policy Document 00-2, subsequently renumbered 7-2. Res. 9714, adopted 12/11/2009, created Regent Policy Document 4-17.)

SEE ALSO:

[SYS 135, UW System Undergraduate Transfer Policy](#) (formerly ACIS 6.0)

[SYS 138, Award of Credit by Prior Learning Assessment](#)

[SYS 140, UW System Templates for Articulation Agreements Between UW System Institutions and WTCS Districts](#) (formerly ACIS 6.2)

[SYS 185, Awarding of UW System Credit in Wisconsin Schools](#) (formerly G36)

[UW System Administrative policies are included for reference and are separate from Regent Policy Documents adopted by the Board.]

Regent Policy Document ~~7-14-X~~

Undergraduate Transfer Credit and Award of Credit for Extra-Institutional Learning

Scope

UW institutions award transfer credits for educational experiences, courses, degrees, or credentials completed by students at other higher education institutions. UW institutions award credit for extra-institutional learning for knowledge and skills acquired through education and training received in a setting outside of a higher education institution and includes knowledge and skills acquired from life experience.

This policy applies to efforts at UW institutions to evaluate and award transfer credits and credits for extra-institutional learning, including statutorily mandated efforts to establish systemwide transfer agreements with other Wisconsin higher education systems and institutions as required under s. 36.31-(2m), Wis. Stats.

Purpose

The UW System Board of Regents has authority, under s. 36.11(3)-(b), Wis. Stats., to establish policies for the transfer of credits between institutions within the UW System and, under s. 36.11-(3)-(c), Wis. Stats., to establish transfer policies with other educational institutions outside the system.

This policy:

- addresses how credit for Core General Education Requirements will transfer between UW institutions in accordance with Wis. Stat. 36.11(3)(b), 36.31(2m)(a)(2), and 36.31(2m)(d) and how completion of an associate degree will fulfill the UW Core General Education Requirements;
- provides guidance regarding the implementation of systemwide transfer agreements with other educational agencies such as through the Universal Credit Transfer Agreement, which is required under s. 36.31-(2m)-(b), Wis. Stats., and the agreement required under s. 36.31-(2m)-(am), Wis. Stats., to promote and support program-to-program articulation agreements;
- -establishes guidelines for evaluating and awarding transfer credits and credits for extra-institutional learning within the UW System with the goal of fostering educational attainment and accommodating student mobility. Student-centered policies that give full consideration for prior education and experience are essential for reducing time-to-degree, improving graduation rates, and minimizing the cost of attendance. ~~The policy also provides guidance regarding the implementation of systemwide transfer~~

~~agreements with other educational agencies such as through the Universal Credit Transfer Agreement, which is required under s. 36.31 (2m) (b), Wis. Stats., and the agreement required under s. 36.31 (2m) (am), Wis. Stats., to promote and support program-to-program articulation agreements.~~

Policy Statement

~~UW System transfer and award of credit for extra-institutional learning policies shall, to the extent possible, align with~~The Board of Regents endorses the *Joint Statement on the Transfer and Award of Credit* developed by the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO), the American Council on Education (ACE), and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) as of [Month DD, YYYY]. This document sets forth a number of basic assumptions regarding the transfer of credit between universities, be they similar or dissimilar, as well as recommended best practices for developing university-specific policies and procedures. UW institutions will follow the guidelines set forth in the *Joint Statement* in awarding transfer credit and credit for extra-institutional learning, UW institutions shall consider the~~based on the combination of quality and, comparability of the transfer student's coursework, and the applicability of that work to the receiving institution's degree requirements~~the sending university's academic program. Further, UW institutions will trust that higher education institutions accredited by federally recognized accrediting agencies have demonstrated academic quality.

The Board of Regents ~~encourages expects~~ UW System institutions to ~~consider awarding~~award and apply as much credit as possible to students for all learning, wherever and however attained. At the same time, the Board recognizes that there are legitimate differences between the missions and academic programs of UW System's educational institutions and acknowledges that institutional autonomy and program integrity ~~must be considered~~may result in differences in the awarding of transfer credit and credit for extra-institutional learning.

~~In awarding transfer credit and credit for extra-institutional learning, UW institutions shall consider the quality and comparability of the transfer student's coursework, and the applicability of that work to the receiving institution's degree requirements. UW institutions shall base transfer admission on comprehensive, individualized admission review, consistent with the process for freshman admission.~~

~~These principles~~The following responsibilities apply to all transfer students~~the transfer and award of credits for extra-institutional learning associated with coursework from within the UW System~~UW institutions, from the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS), or from other accreditedhigher education institutions accredited by federally recognized accrediting agencies:

- The UW System shall develop policies and processes for evaluating and awarding transfer credits and credits for extra-institutional learning, which shall be designed to provide, to the extent possible, equitable treatment of transfer and continuing students.
- UW institutions shall provide transfer students with the same opportunities as continuing students to demonstrate their competence through the use of internally and

externally developed ~~test~~examinations, portfolio assessment procedures, and other competency-based alternatives.

- UW institutions will award and apply all credit earned from higher education institutions accredited by federally recognized accrediting agencies in the same manner regardless of when (e.g., as a high school dual enrollment student) and how (e.g., course modality) that credit was earned. ~~These principles apply to all transfer students with coursework from within the UW System, from the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS), or from other accredited institutions.~~

~~UW System transfer and award of credit for extra-institutional learning policies shall, to the extent possible, align with the Joint Statement on the Transfer and Award of Credit developed by the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO), the American Council on Education (ACE), and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).~~

Articulation Agreements and Transfer Credits Rules

~~The Board of Regents delegates authority to the System President to establish a UW System transfer policy. The policy shall comply with all applicable accreditation standards, federal and state laws, and this policy.~~

~~UNIVERSAL CREDIT TRANSFER AGREEMENT~~

~~In accordance with s. 36.31 (2m), Wis. Stats., the UW System Board of Regents and the Wisconsin Technical College System are required to enter into an agreement identifying an array of not less than 72 credits of core general education courses that shall be transferable and satisfy general education requirements of the receiving institution. Wisconsin's tribally controlled colleges and the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities acting on behalf of its membership of private nonprofit higher education institutions may also elect to enter into the Universal Credit Transfer Agreement.~~

~~The Board approved the initial Universal Credit Transfer Agreement with the Wisconsin Technical College System on June 6, 2014. The Board authorizes the UW System Administration's Office of Academic and Student Affairs to implement and maintain the Universal Credit Transfer Agreement as needed to comply with the statutes and to ensure the agreement remains current with curriculum and course offerings. The Office shall seek Board approval for any substantive change to the Universal Credit Transfer Agreement.~~

~~ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS~~

~~An articulation agreement is a written agreement between institutions that guarantees the transfer of credits from one institution to another typically for completion of an academic program.~~

~~Section 36.31 (2m) (am), Wis. Stats., requires the UW System and the Wisconsin Technical College System to enter into an agreement to promote and support program to program articulation agreements, as defined by s. 36.31 (2m) (a), Wis. Stats. Wisconsin's tribally~~

~~controlled colleges and the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities acting on behalf of its membership of private nonprofit higher education institutions may also elect to enter into the agreement.~~

~~Subject to Board approval, the Board authorizes UW System Administration's Office of Academic and Student Affairs to develop the agreement consistent with the provisions of s. 36.21(2m)(am), Wis. Stats. The Board further authorizes the Office of Academic and Student Affairs to implement and maintain the agreement as needed to comply with the statutes and to ensure the agreement remains current with curricular and course offerings. Once the initial agreement is approved, the Office shall seek Board approval for any substantive change to the agreement.~~

TRANSFER OF UW SYSTEM ASSOCIATE DEGREES

UW ~~System~~ institutions shall recognize an associate degree earned from a UW institution as having fulfilled the ~~general education distribution or breadth requirements~~ Core General Education Requirements of the receiving UW institution. Associate degrees offered by the UW System shall meet minimum ~~general education and breadth requirements~~ Core General Education Requirements as required by the UW System President. UW institutions shall establish an appeal process for students to resolve any disputes regarding the transfer process.

TRANSFER OF LIBERAL ARTS AND PRE-PROFESSIONAL COLLEGIATE TRANSFER ASSOCIATE DEGREES FROM THE WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM (WTCS)

In accordance with Regent Policy Document 4-16, "Criteria for Approval of Wisconsin Technical College System Liberal Arts and Pre-Professional Collegiate Transfer Programs," UW institutions shall recognize a liberal arts or pre-professional collegiate transfer degree earned from a WTCS institution as having fulfilled the Core General Education Requirements at the receiving UW institution.

TRANSFER OF CORE GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS BETWEEN UW INSTITUTIONS

The UW System Core General Education Requirements as referred to in Wis. Stat. 36.11(3)(b), 36.31(2m)(a)(2), and 36.31(2m)(d) comprise undergraduate courses that impart foundational knowledge and skills. In accordance with RPD 4-23, "Core General Education Requirements," Core General Education Requirement credit must transfer across all UW institutions. Courses that fulfill a Core General Education Requirement category at any UW institution will transfer and fulfill the same Core General Education Requirement category at the receiving UW institution. Further procedures and processes regarding Core General Education Requirement credit transfer and applicability between UW institutions are outlined in Regent and System Administrative policies.

EXTRA-INSTITUTIONAL LEARNING

The UW System President shall establish a policy related to awarding credit for extra-institutional learning experiences. Credits for extra-institutional learning that are transcribed as a course equivalent by the sending UW institution will be evaluated for transfer by the receiving UW institution based on the applied equivalency. Among other provisions, the policy shall include guidance regarding the following:

Evaluation and Award of Credit for Extra-institutional Learning and Prior Learning Assessment

~~Institutions~~ UW institutions may award credit for educational accomplishments obtained through extra-institutional learning, such as from credit for prior learning and experience in the workplace or military, from community service, or through independent study. Institutions may assess extra-institutional learning for the award of credit through a variety of methods, including evaluating student portfolios, adopting credit recommendations published by national organizations for courses offered by extra-institutional organizations, and awarding credit based on acceptable scores on national or university-developed examinations ~~or challenge examinations developed by an institution.~~

Credit for Military Experience and Training

The Board ~~encourages~~ expects the UW System President and UW institutions to identify and promote efforts to award credit for military experience and training. In support of this goal and consistent with s. 36.31-(4), Wis. Stats., a UW institution shall upon receiving a student's official joint services transcript or Community College of the Air Force transcript from the Department of Defense:

- a. Accept all American Council on Education credit recommendations included in the official joint services transcript and award and apply academic credit to the student record in accordance with these recommendations ~~;~~ and
- b. Accept all credits included in the Community College of the Air Force transcript and award and apply academic credit to the student record accordingly.

~~Advanced Placement Programs and~~ Credit Earned by Examinations

UW System ~~policies, procedures, and~~ guidelines ~~and procedures~~ shall include the systemwide proficiency examination score standards adopted by the Board of Regents for examinations such as the College Board Advanced Placement Program, Project Lead the Way, College-Level Examination Program (CLEP), and the International Baccalaureate Program.

Upon approval by the UW System Board of Regents, the UW System President may modify existing proficiency examination score standards or adopt additional standards for awarding credit for completion of specific courses or credit by examination programs.

Transfer Agreements

ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS

An articulation agreement is a ~~written agreement between institutions~~ signed document that guarantees the transfer of credits ~~from one~~ following “the completion of requirements for a specified program of study at an educational institution to another typically for... toward completion of an academic of requirements for a specified program of study at another educational institution” as defined in Wis. Stat. § 36.31(2m)(a)(4).

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Subject to Board approval, the Board authorizes ~~UW System Administration’s Office~~ the UW Administration’s Division of Academic and Student Affairs to develop the agreement consistent with the provisions of s. 36.21-(2m)-(am), Wis. Stats. The Board further authorizes the ~~Office~~ Division of Academic and Student Affairs to implement and maintain the agreement as needed to comply with ~~the state~~ the state statutes and to ensure the agreement remains current with curricular and course offerings. Once the initial agreement is approved, the ~~Office~~ Division shall seek Board approval for any substantive change to the agreement.

UNIVERSAL CREDIT TRANSFER AGREEMENT

In accordance with s. 36.31 (2m), Wis. Stats., the UW System Board of Regents and the Wisconsin Technical College System are required to enter into an agreement identifying an array of not less than 72 credits of core general education courses that shall be transferable and satisfy general education requirements of the receiving institution. Wisconsin’s tribally controlled colleges and the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities acting on behalf of its membership of private nonprofit higher education institutions may also elect to enter into the Universal Credit Transfer Agreement.

The Board approved the initial Universal Credit Transfer Agreement with the Wisconsin Technical College System on June 6, 2014. The Board authorizes the ~~UW System Administration’s Office~~ Division of Academic and Student Affairs to implement and maintain the Universal Credit Transfer Agreement as needed to comply with the statutes and to ensure the agreement remains current with curriculum and course offerings. The ~~Office~~ Division shall seek Board approval for any substantive change to the Universal Credit Transfer Agreement.

Student Information

UW System and UW institutions shall publish clear, complete and accessible information about the policies and procedures for awarding credit for transfer and extra-institutional learning, consistent with procedures established by the UW System President. The information shall be

published on an electronic transfer information system administered by the UW System Administration, as well as in institutional printed and electronic resources.

Oversight, Roles, and Responsibilities

The Board of Regents delegates authority to the UW System President to establish a UW System transfer policy~~develop policies to further define and implement this policy. The policy shall comply, in compliance with all applicable accreditation standards, and federal and state laws, and this policy.~~ The UW ~~System's Office~~ Administration's Division of Academic and Student Affairs is charged with developing and ensuring compliance with systemwide transfer and award of credit policies, and with coordinating the UW System's electronic transfer information system, the Universal Credit Transfer Agreement and other articulation agreements between UW System and other institutions.

Related Regent Policy Documents and Applicable Laws

- Section 36.11-(3), Wis. Stats., "Admission of Applicants."
- Section 36.31-(2m), Wis. Stats., "Coordination with other educational agencies; credit for military education."
- ~~Section 38.04, Wis. Stats., "Teacher and course requirements."~~
- ~~Section 38.12 (8), Wis. Stats., "Cooperation with other state agencies."~~
- ~~Regent Policy Document 4-6, "Granting of Degrees, Honors and Awards"~~
- ~~Regent Policy Document 7-3, "The University of Wisconsin System Freshman Admissions Policy"~~
- Regent Policy Document 4-16, "Criteria for Approval of Wisconsin Technical College System Liberal Arts and Pre-Professional Collegiate Transfer Programs"
- Regent Policy Document 4-23, "Core General Education Requirements"

History: Res. 429, adopted 03/09/1973, created Regent Policy Document 73-5; Res. 942, adopted 02/07/1975, created Regent Policy Document 75-1; Res. 1205, adopted 04/09/1976, created Regent Policy Document 76-1. Res. 3045, adopted 05/11/1984, created Regent Policy Document 84-3 and replaced Regent Policy Documents 73-5, 75-1, and 76-1.

Res. 5383, adopted 12/08/1989, created Regent Policy Document 89-9 and amended Regent Policy Document 84-3. Res. 7076, adopted 12/08/1995; Res. 7718, adopted 06/05/1998; Res. 8276, adopted 12/08/2000; and Res. 8847, adopted 05/07/2004, amended Regent Policy Document 84-3. Regent Policy Document 84-3 was subsequently renumbered 7-1.

Res. 9960, adopted 07/15/2011, and Res. 10383, adopted 06/06/2014, amended Regent Policy Document 7-1. Res. 10835, adopted 03/09/2017, authorized technical corrections.

Res. 11404, adopted 04/02/2020, rescinded and recreated Regent Policy Document 7-1.

Res. 11405, adopted 04/02/2020, rescinded Regent Policy Document 4-4 and consolidated provisions with the recreated Regent Policy Document 7-1. (Res. 3850, adopted 07/10/1987, created Regent Policy Document 87-9, subsequently renumbered 4-4.)

Res. 11406, adopted 04/02/2020, removed Regent Policy Documents 4-11, 4-17, and 7-2, and consolidated provisions with the recreated Regent Policy Document 7-1. (Res. 5746, adopted 04/11/1991, created Regent Policy Document 91-3, subsequently renumbered 4-11. Res. 8128, adopted 05/05/2000, created Regent Policy Document 00-2, subsequently renumbered 7-2. Res. 9714, adopted 12/11/2009, created Regent Policy Document 4-17.)

SEE ALSO:

[SYS 110, Criteria for Approval of Wisconsin Technical College Liberal Arts and Pre-professional Transfer Programs \(formerly ACIS 1.2\)](#)

[SYS 135, UW System Undergraduate Transfer Policy](#) (formerly ACIS 6.0)

[SYS 138, Award of Credit by Prior Learning Assessment](#)

[SYS 140, UW System Templates for Articulation Agreements Between UW System Institutions and WTCS Districts](#) (formerly ACIS 6.2)

[SYS 185, Awarding of UW System Credit in Wisconsin Schools](#) (formerly G36)

[UW System Administrative policies are included for reference and are separate from Regent Policy Documents adopted by the Board.]

Regent Policy Document 7-1

Transfer and Award of Credit for Extra-Institutional Learning

Scope

UW institutions award transfer credits for educational experiences, courses, degrees, or credentials completed by students at other higher education institutions. UW institutions award credit for extra-institutional learning for knowledge and skills acquired through education and training received in a setting outside of a higher education institution and includes knowledge and skills acquired from life experience.

This policy applies to efforts at UW institutions to evaluate and award transfer credits and credits for extra-institutional learning, including statutorily mandated efforts to establish systemwide transfer agreements with other Wisconsin higher education systems and institutions as required under s. 36.31 (2m), Wis. Stats.

Purpose

The UW System Board of Regents has authority, under s. 36.11(3) (b), Wis. Stats., to establish policies for the transfer of credits between institutions within the UW System and, under s. 36.11 (3) (c), Wis. Stats., to establish transfer policies with other educational institutions outside the system.

This policy establishes guidelines for evaluating and awarding transfer credits and credits for extra-institutional learning within the UW System with the goal of fostering educational attainment and accommodating student mobility. Student-centered policies that give full consideration for prior education and experience are essential for reducing time-to-degree, improving graduation rates, and minimizing the cost of attendance. The policy also provides guidance regarding the implementation of systemwide transfer agreements with other educational agencies such as through the Universal Credit Transfer Agreement, which is required under s. 36.31 (2m) (b), Wis. Stats., and the agreement required under s. 36.31 (2m) (am), Wis. Stats., to promote and support program-to-program articulation agreements.

Policy Statement

The Board of Regents encourages UW System institutions to consider awarding credit to students for all learning, wherever and however attained. At the same time, the Board recognizes that there are legitimate differences between the missions and academic programs of UW System's educational institutions and acknowledges that institutional autonomy and program integrity must be considered in the awarding of transfer credit and credit for extra-institutional learning.

In awarding transfer credit and credit for extra-institutional learning, UW institutions shall consider the quality and comparability of the transfer student's coursework, and the applicability of that work to the receiving institution's degree requirements. UW institutions shall base transfer admission on comprehensive, individualized admission review, consistent with the process for freshman admission.

The UW System process for evaluating and awarding transfer credits and credits for extra-institutional learning shall be designed to provide equitable treatment of transfer and continuing students. UW institutions shall provide transfer students with the same opportunities as continuing students to demonstrate their competence through the use of internally and externally developed tests, portfolio assessment procedures, and other competency-based alternatives. These principles apply to all transfer students with coursework from within the UW System, from the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS), or from other accredited institutions.

UW System transfer and award of credit for extra-institutional learning policies shall, to the extent possible, align with the Joint Statement on the Transfer and Award of Credit developed by the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO), the American Council on Education (ACE), and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).

Articulation Agreements and Transfer Credits

The Board of Regents delegates authority to the System President to establish a UW System transfer policy. The policy shall comply with all applicable accreditation standards, federal and state laws, and this policy.

UNIVERSAL CREDIT TRANSFER AGREEMENT

In accordance with s. 36.31 (2m), Wis. Stats., the UW System Board of Regents and the Wisconsin Technical College System are required to enter into an agreement identifying an array of not less than 72 credits of core general education courses that shall be transferable and satisfy general education requirements of the receiving institution. Wisconsin's tribally controlled colleges and the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities acting on behalf of its membership of private nonprofit higher education institutions may also elect to enter into the Universal Credit Transfer Agreement.

The Board approved the initial Universal Credit Transfer Agreement with the Wisconsin Technical College System on June 6, 2014. The Board authorizes the UW System Administration's Office of Academic and Student Affairs to implement and maintain the Universal Credit Transfer Agreement as needed to comply with the statutes and to ensure the agreement remains current with curriculum and course offerings. The Office shall seek Board approval for any substantive change to the Universal Credit Transfer Agreement.

ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS

An articulation agreement is a written agreement between institutions that guarantees the transfer of credits from one institution to another typically for completion of an academic program.

Section 36.31 (2m) (am), Wis. Stats., requires the UW System and the Wisconsin Technical College System to enter into an agreement to promote and support program-to-program articulation agreements, as defined by s. 36.31 (2m) (a), Wis. Stats. Wisconsin's tribally controlled colleges and the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities acting on behalf of its membership of private nonprofit higher education institutions may also elect to enter into the agreement.

Subject to Board approval, the Board authorizes UW System Administration's Office of Academic and Student Affairs to develop the agreement consistent with the provisions of s. 36.21 (2m) (am), Wis. Stats. The Board further authorizes the Office of Academic and Student Affairs to implement and maintain the agreement as needed to comply with the statutes and to ensure the agreement remains current with curricular and course offerings. Once the initial agreement is approved, the Office shall seek Board approval for any substantive change to the agreement.

TRANSFER OF UW SYSTEM ASSOCIATE DEGREES

UW System institutions shall recognize an associate degree earned from a UW institution as having fulfilled the general education distribution or breadth requirements of the receiving institution. Associate degrees offered by the UW System shall meet minimum general education and breadth requirements as required by the System President. UW institutions shall establish an appeal process for students to resolve any disputes regarding the transfer process.

EXTRA-INSTITUTIONAL LEARNING

The System President shall establish a policy related to awarding credit for extra-institutional learning experiences. Among other provisions, the policy shall include guidance regarding the following:

Evaluation and Award of Credit for Extra-institutional Learning and Prior Learning Assessment

Institutions may award credit for educational accomplishments obtained through extra-institutional learning, such as from prior learning and experience in the workplace or military, from community service, or through independent study. Institutions may assess extra-institutional learning for the award of credit through a variety of methods, including evaluating student portfolios, adopting credit recommendations published by national organizations for courses offered by extra-institutional organizations, and awarding credit based on acceptable scores on national examinations or challenge examinations developed by an institution.

Credit for Military Experience and Training

The Board encourages the System President and UW institutions to identify and promote efforts to award credit for military experience and training. In support of this goal and consistent with s. 36.31 (4), Wis. Stats., a UW institution shall upon receiving a student's official joint services transcript or Community College of the Air Force transcript from the Department of Defense:

- a. Accept all American Council on Education credit recommendations included in the official joint services transcript and award academic credit to the student in accordance with these recommendations.
- b. Accept all credits included in the Community College of the Air Force transcript and award academic credit to the student accordingly.

Advanced Placement Programs and Examinations

UW System guidelines and procedures shall include the systemwide proficiency score standards adopted by the Board of Regents for the College Board Advanced Placement Program, Project Lead the Way, and the International Baccalaureate Program.

Upon approval by the UW System Board of Regents, the System President may modify existing proficiency score standards or adopt additional standards for awarding credit for completion of specific courses or credit by examination programs.

Student Information

UW System and UW institutions shall publish clear, complete and accessible information about the policies and procedures for awarding credit for transfer and extra-institutional learning, consistent with procedures established by the System President. The information shall be published on an electronic transfer information system administered by the UW System Administration, as well as in institutional printed and electronic resources.

Oversight, Roles, and Responsibilities

The UW System's Office of Academic and Student Affairs is charged with developing and ensuring compliance with systemwide transfer and award of credit policies, and with coordinating the UW System's electronic transfer information system, the Universal Credit Transfer Agreement and other articulation agreements between UW System and other institutions.

Related Regent Policy Documents and Applicable Laws

- Section 36.11 (3), Wis. Stats., "Admission of Applicants."

- Section 36.31 (2m), Wis. Stats., “Coordination with other educational agencies; credit for military education.”
- Section 38.04, Wis. Stats., “Teacher and course requirements.”
- Section 38.12 (8), Wis. Stats., “Cooperation with other state agencies.”
- Regent Policy Document 4-6, “Granting of Degrees, Honors and Awards”
- Regent Policy Document 7-3, “The University of Wisconsin System Freshman Admissions Policy”

History: Res. 429, adopted 03/09/1973, created Regent Policy Document 73-5; Res. 942, adopted 02/07/1975, created Regent Policy Document 75-1; Res. 1205, adopted 04/09/1976, created Regent Policy Document 76-1. Res. 3045, adopted 05/11/1984, created Regent Policy Document 84-3 and replaced Regent Policy Documents 73-5, 75-1, and 76-1.

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Res. 9960, adopted 07/15/2011, and Res. 10383, adopted 06/06/2014, amended Regent Policy Document 7-1. Res. 10835, adopted 03/09/2017, authorized technical corrections.

Res. 11404, adopted 04/02/2020, rescinded and recreated Regent Policy Document 7-1.

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Res. 11406, adopted 04/02/2020, removed Regent Policy Documents 4-11, 4-17, and 7-2, and consolidated provisions with the recreated Regent Policy Document 7-1. (Res. 5746, adopted 04/11/1991, created Regent Policy Document 91-3, subsequently renumbered 4-11. Res. 8128, adopted 05/05/2000, created Regent Policy Document 00-2, subsequently renumbered 7-2. Res. 9714, adopted 12/11/2009, created Regent Policy Document 4-17.)

SEE ALSO:

[SYS 110, Criteria for Approval of Wisconsin Technical College Liberal Arts and Pre-professional Transfer Programs](#) (formerly ACIS 1.2)

[SYS 135, UW System Undergraduate Transfer Policy](#) (formerly ACIS 6.0)

[SYS 140, UW System Templates for Articulation Agreements Between UW System Institutions and WTCS Districts](#) (formerly ACIS 6.2)

SYS 185, Awarding of UW System Credit in Wisconsin Schools (formerly G36)

[UW System Administrative policies are included for reference and are separate from Regent Policy Documents adopted by the Board.]

**REGENT POLICY DOCUMENT REVIEW:
PROPOSAL TO AMEND RPD 7-3, "UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
SYSTEM FRESHMAN ADMISSIONS POLICY"**

REQUESTED ACTION

First reading and discussion of proposed changes to Regent Policy Document 7-3, "University of Wisconsin System Freshman Admissions Policy."

SUMMARY

Regent Policy Document (RPD) 7-3, "University of Wisconsin System Freshman Admissions Policy," has not been updated since 2007 apart from including a reference to non-resident enrollment. However, since 2007, new practices, programs, statutory action, and Supreme Court rulings require an update to this policy. These necessary updates offer the opportunity for not only the creation of a unified and comprehensive undergraduate admission policy, but also other additions, clarifications and reorganization designed to make this policy more easily understood by a wide range of constituents.

This proposed policy is revised to:

- bring together both first-year student (freshman) and transfer student admission criteria and practices together into one new undergraduate admission policy;
- move reference to transfer admission from RPD 7-1, "Transfer and Award of Credit for Extra-Institutional Learning;"
- change the use of the term 'freshman' to the more widely used and accepted term 'first-year student' and update other admissions terminology;
- describe three pathways to first-year student admission by adding in descriptions of Direct Admit Wisconsin and The Wisconsin Guarantee;
- expand an existing transfer admission pathway;

- make permanent the temporary suspension of provisions requiring first-year student applicants to submit standardized test scores (ACT/SAT) with their admission application;
- add elements of the admission process not previously included to create a more comprehensive and easily understood undergraduate admission policy;
- clarify and reorganize language to make the policy more easily understood by a range of constituents.

Presenters

- Dr. Julie Amon, Associate Vice President for Enrollment & Student Success, Universities of Wisconsin Administration
- Dr. Shanna Nifoussi, Director of Academic Student Success Initiatives, Universities of Wisconsin Administration

BACKGROUND

Overall Approach and Goals

Taken as a whole, the proposed changes to RPD 7-3 are designed to improve clarity and update admissions information for prospective students and undergraduate applicants and those who support them through their admissions process. To achieve those goals, the policy was restructured in some places; a definitions section was added which references terms and definitions used by professional associations like AACRAO (American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers) where appropriate; clarifying information and updated terminology was added in some areas; and new admission pathways were described. The result is a single Regent policy focused on the essential information that prospective undergraduate students need to engage in the admissions process for the Universities of Wisconsin.

Creating a Comprehensive Undergraduate Admission Policy

At present, the Universities of Wisconsin do not have a singular Regent or System Administrative undergraduate admission policy. Currently, RPD 7-3, "University of Wisconsin System Freshman Admission Policy," created in 2007 describes first-year student (freshman) admissions criteria and processes. However, there is not a parallel transfer student admission policy. Instead, there is one sentence in RPD 7-1, "Transfer and Award of Credit for Extra-Institutional Learning," which references transfer student admission ("*UW institutions shall base transfer admission on comprehensive, individualized admission review, consistent with the process for freshman admission.*"). The rest of RPD 7-1 addresses the transfer and application of credit. The only other policy that references transfer admission criteria and practices is System Administrative Policy (SYS) 135, "UW System Undergraduate

Transfer Policy.” Both of these references are somewhat incomplete and lack the clarity and specificity found in the current freshman admission policy.

The proposed revisions add clarifying details to both first-year student and transfer student admission processes, including references to details important to applicants such as information about essays, official transcripts, and application options. The revisions are also designed to address elements that are common for both first-year and transfer students, then provide greater detail for each student applicant population. Having this information consolidated into one policy instead of spread across three will be much easier to navigate for students, their families, high school counselors, transfer counselors and other college access professionals.

Describing Admissions Pathways for Undergraduate Applicants

Existing RPD 7-3, “University of Wisconsin System Freshman Admission Policy,” and other policies that mention transfer student admission, refer only to the traditional admission process by which a prospective student would complete a UW-approved admission application and have their application and accompanying materials reviewed through a comprehensive, individualized review process to determine an admissions decision. However, since 2025, additional admission pathways have been created.

For first-year students planning to enroll at a UW institution beginning in fall 2025, two additional admission pathways were made available. [Direct Admit Wisconsin](#) offers early and proactive admission to participating UW institutions to high school juniors at participating Wisconsin high schools. Students who meet the admission criteria and are offered direct admission to one or more UW institutions do not have to complete a traditional admission application. Additionally, in February 2024, [2023 Wisconsin Act 95](#) created [The Wisconsin Guarantee](#) which offers guaranteed admission to all UW institutions for Wisconsin high school graduates who meet 11th grade class rank eligibility criteria.

Additionally, with references to transfer admissions currently in three separate Regent and System Administrative policies, the proposed policy revisions seek to clarify processes, options, and criteria for two different transfer admission pathways. Like first-year students, transfer students may complete the traditional admissions pathway using a UW-approved admission application and be considered for admission through the comprehensive, individualized review process. However, this RPD 7-3 policy revision also describes a new pathway—Guaranteed Transfer Admission.

Clarifying Transfer Admissions

As mentioned above, overall prospective transfer students have no detailed, single systemwide policy that describes all transfer admission processes or criteria. The overall policy revisions as well as those specifically developed or revised in the Transfer Admission section aim to rectify that, making a better and more clear transfer student admissions experience.

Currently, Guaranteed Transfer Admission policy exists within SYS 135, “UW System Undergraduate Transfer Policy,” and Interim Policy SYS 100-11, “Interim: UW System Transfer Policy-Guaranteed Transfer Amendments” and specifically refers to transfer from the UW Colleges to a main campus of a UW institution. As currently stated, it starts with a student matriculating as a first-year student at a UW institution who then subsequently applies to transfer to a different UW institution.

The proposed policy builds upon common existing transfer admission practices at UW institutions and the existing Guaranteed Transfer Admission Policy, but instead of focusing on transfer solely between UW institutions, expands to offer guaranteed transfer to any student graduating with an earned Associate of Arts, Associate of Science or an Associate of Arts and Science Degree from a Wisconsin higher education institution who meets specified grade point average criteria. It is important to note that while UW institutions want to offer this pathway for those with a completed, designated associate degree, it may be in a transfer student’s best interest to transfer prior to earning that degree. That decision is best made through informed conversations between prospective students and transfer admissions or advising professionals.

Approach to Standardized Test Requirement

Since initially implemented in 1989, the use of standardized test scores (ACT/SAT) in admission decisions was not substantively modified until the COVID-19 crisis in early 2020. The Universities of Wisconsin, like most higher education institutions still requiring test scores at that time, temporarily suspended their test score admission requirement and adopted a test optional approach. When the decision was made to temporarily suspend the test score requirement, Universities of Wisconsin Administration committed to study the impact of adopting this test optional approach and engaged UW-Madison’s SSTAR (Student Success Through Applied Research) Lab to conduct the research. The Board subsequently approved extensions on the test requirement waiver in 2024 and 2026 to conduct additional research on the UW undergraduate student population within the broader regional and national admissions context.

When UW Administration last visited the Board in April 2026 to request another one-year waiver on the test score requirement, SSTAR Lab had completed their study of UW undergraduates. At that meeting, they provided an overview of their findings:¹

“In 2024, the SSTAR Lab shared preliminary research results based on these objectives. Early analyses suggested that: 1) the first-year student GPA and test scores at UW universities have remained consistent since 2018—both during the period while the test was required and optional; 2) test scores were less reliable

¹ <https://www.wisconsin.edu/regents/meetingmaterials/#docaccess-c25e7192e436bb88f9292fdd74ef410b>

predictors of college completion than high school GPA, and did not add meaningful academic information beyond what is already collected in the admissions process; and, 3) in addition to GPA, other academic factors such as high school credits, curriculum, and course rigor, combined with non-academic factors such as leadership, work, time management, and co-curricular engagement may be more important predictors of academic achievement.

Since 2024, SSTAR Lab research has expanded to include an evaluation of the role that test scores play in predicting first-year grade point average, first-to-second year retention and four-year graduation rates. Initial results indicate that 1) academic outcomes have remained steady or improved across the system since 2020; 2) ACT scores do not appear to show a strong or consistent relationship with retention or graduation rates; and 3) high school grade point average shows a comparatively stronger association with key outcomes and explains more of the variation observed.”

UW Administration is confident in the research conducted by SSTAR Lab on UW undergraduate students, and these findings have been reviewed within the context of national, regional and Wisconsin enrollment trends. As was shared in the 2024 Board presentation, UW institutions indicated that test scores were not a predominant factor in their admissions decisions. Since that time, other UW enrollment factors have further diminished the degree to which test scores would potentially play a role in first-year student admission decisions. Importantly, neither Direct Admit Wisconsin nor The Wisconsin Guarantee use standardized test scores in their admission criteria. (NOTE: For the incoming first-year student class of 2027, approximately 40,000 Direct Admit Wisconsin offers of admission will be sent and approximately 90% of all Wisconsin high school juniors attend a high school participating in Direct Admit Wisconsin.) Additionally, UW institutions are competing for enrollment with other institutions regionally and nationally in an environment where more than 2000 institutions are still test optional or test blind (90% of higher education institutions), including most of the institutions in the region.

Given the above-described enrollment contexts, the research conducted by SSTAR Lab, implementation of strategies designed to mitigate admissions barriers for prospective students, and at the request of the 13 UW institutions, UW Administration has decided that it is in UW institutions’ best interest to become permanently test optional. This proposed change in policy empowers students who pursue the traditional admission pathway to a UW institution to make the best decision for themselves based on their own unique experiences, educational journeys and academic goals.

Previous Actions or Discussion

Regent Policy Document 7-3, “UW System Freshman Admissions Policy” was created by the Board on February 9, 2007, with the adoption of Resolution 9290.

Resolution 10142, adopted by the Board on December 7, 2012, amended Regent Policy Document 7-3, Section III, related to non-resident enrollment to address undergraduate non-resident enrollment caps, specifically stating that: “Based on a three-year average, the non-resident undergraduate enrollment shall not exceed 27.5% of the total undergraduate enrollment at any UW institution. This limitation does not include Minnesota reciprocity students.”

Resolution 11430, adopted by the Board on May 7, 2020, temporarily suspended provisions of Regent Policy Document 7-3 related to ACT/SAT testing requirements for all freshman applications to UW campuses, except UW-Madison, for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 academic years.

On July 27, 2020, the UW System President approved a temporary waiver to Regent Policy Document 7-3 suspending provisions related to ACT/SAT testing requirements for all freshman applications to UW-Madison, through December 31, 2020. The Board subsequently adopted Resolution 11489 on August 8, 2020, extending the suspension for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 academic years.

Resolution 11490, adopted by the Board on August 20, 2020, created Regent Policy Document 32-8 “Application Fees and Waiver” that identified the Board of Regent’s authority to set application fees for UW System institutions and to delegate authority to the UW System President to waive application fees via UW System policy.

Resolution 11591, adopted by the Board on February 5, 2021, extended the temporary suspension of ACT/SAT requirements for all institutions through the 2022-23 academic year (the suspension for UW-Madison having been previously approved in August 2020).

Resolution 11754, adopted by the Board on December 10, 2021, extended the temporary suspension of the ACT/SAT requirements in Regent Policy Document 7-3, for all institutions through the 2024-25 academic year.

In April 2022, the Vice President for Academic & Student Affairs presented preliminary findings from the STARR Lab study to the Education Committee of the Board of Regents.² The presentation of a final report and related policy recommendations was originally targeted for April 2024.

On June 29, 2023, Regent Policy Document 7-3, Section II.C. was superseded by U.S. Supreme Court Opinions No. 20-1199 and No. 21-707, and as a result the mention of underrepresented racial or ethnic groups was struck from the Policy.

² [www.wisconsin.edu/regents/download/meeting_materials/2022_meeting_materials/Meeting-Book-Education-Committee-\(April-7,-2022\).pdf#page=177](http://www.wisconsin.edu/regents/download/meeting_materials/2022_meeting_materials/Meeting-Book-Education-Committee-(April-7,-2022).pdf#page=177)

The Board approved additional extensions to the suspension of ACT/SAT testing requirements for all institutions through the 2026-27 academic year (Resolution 12172, adopted April 5, 2024) and 2027-28 academic year (Resolution 12464, adopted April 20, 2026) to allow more time to evaluate the impact on a full cohort of students who applied under the test-optional process and matriculated through to graduation; and to allow for a review of findings emerging from test optional research being conducted at other higher education institutions and systems.

Related Policies and Applicable Laws

- [2023 Wisconsin Act 95](#)
- Section 36.11(3), Wis. Stats., "Admission of Applicants."
- RPD 7-1, "Transfer and Award of Credit for Extra-institutional Learning."
- RPD 32-8, "Application Fees and Waivers."
- SYS 100-Interim 11, "Interim: UW System Transfer Policy-Guaranteed Transfer Amendments."
- SYS 135, "UW System Undergraduate Transfer Policy."

ATTACHMENTS

- A) RPD 7-3, "University of Wisconsin System Undergraduate Admission Policy." (Proposed)
- B) RPD 7-3, "University of Wisconsin System Undergraduate Admission Policy." (Tracked Changes)
- C) RPD 7-3, "University of Wisconsin System Freshman Admissions Policy." (Current)

Regent Policy Document 7-3 *(formerly 07-1)*

University of Wisconsin System Undergraduate Admission Policy

Scope

The Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin (UW) System has long recognized that higher education serves as a crucial pathway for advancing individual self-knowledge and knowledge of the world, fostering new knowledge and ideas, preparing individuals for future leadership positions, and for promoting the economic vitality of the entire state. To provide the highest quality educational opportunity for all students in a diverse learning environment, this policy allows each UW institution to admit students whose academic preparation, background and personal experience suggest that the student will succeed at the institution, benefit from that educational experience, and contribute to the educational environment.

Purpose

This policy provides descriptions about various pathways for first-year student and transfer student admission, minimum requirements for undergraduate admission, and descriptions of the broad criteria for evaluating qualified applicants through a comprehensive, individualized review process. In the implementation of this policy, individual UW institutions may establish more specific requirements, consistent with the principles and requirements of this systemwide policy.

Policy Statement

Definitions

Academic Unit: one unit equals one year of high school study or the equivalent.

Applicant: an individual seeking admission to an undergraduate degree program at a UW institution.

Common App: an online admission application platform that allows undergraduates to apply to more than 1,000 colleges and universities worldwide. Common App is a UW-approved admission application used by many UW institutions.

Competency-Based Admission: a Board-approved alternative method for evaluating undergraduate applicants who come from high schools using curricular models that depart from the traditional Carnegie unit structure.

Comprehensive/Individualized Review: a broad-based admissions application evaluation process that looks beyond traditional academic metrics to assess the whole student experience.

Direct Admit Wisconsin: the UW direct admission program that began in fall 2025 offering students attending an accredited (recognized) high school in Wisconsin, public or private, that has entered into a Direct Admit Wisconsin participation agreement with the UW System, who meet associated admission criteria, admission to at least one participating UW institution without completing a traditional UW-approved admission application.

Early Action Deadline: a non-binding admission process allowing a prospective first-year student to apply early and receive an admission decision sooner than a regular admission timeline.

First-year Student: a prospective student who is currently enrolled in high school or who has not taken college coursework since graduating from high school.

Guaranteed Transfer Admission: the transfer admission pathway for students who earn an approved associate degree from a Wisconsin higher education institution as established under this policy.

Official Transcript: an official record provided by an educational institution that documents a learner's academic performance and achievements. It typically includes a detailed list of courses taken, grades earned, degrees conferred, honors received, and other relevant academic information. As an official academic record, it is institutionally validated, tamper-resistant, and typically sent via secured electronic or postal transmission.

Recognized High School: a high school which either (a) is accredited by a regional accrediting association or state university, or (b) is recognized or accredited by a state department of public instruction or its equivalent.

Regular Admission: the standard, nonbinding final date set by a UW institution for submitting admission applications.

Traditional Admission Pathway: admission process described within this policy in which an undergraduate applicant uses a UW-approved admission application (e.g., Universities of Wisconsin Admission Application or Common App) to apply for admission and undergoes a comprehensive, individualized admission review process.

Transfer Student: a student who has attended another college or university after graduating from high school and wishes to enroll in an undergraduate degree program.

The Wisconsin Guarantee: the guaranteed admission program for first-year student applicants established under 2023 Wisconsin Act 95.

Universities of Wisconsin Admission Application: a UW-approved online admission application platform created by the UW System.

General Admission Principles

A. APPLICATION FEES

The establishment of application fees is referenced in RPD 32-8, "Application Fees and Waiver." Further application fee information can be found on UW institution websites.

B. ADMISSION ESSAYS

UW institutions may use admission essays as part of a comprehensive, individualized review process. Some UW institutions may require essays to be submitted as part of the application, while other UW institutions may offer the option of including an essay as part of the application.

C. ADMISSION TO ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

The minimum admission requirements outlined below refer to admission to a UW institution generally and not to any specific major or program within the UW institution. Admission requirements into schools/colleges, academic programs or majors may exceed those for admission to the UW institution. Such requirements for entry shall apply equally to new, continuing, and transfer students.

D. STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES

Students have the option of sending ACT or SAT scores as part of their admission application; however, they are not required to do so. For students who elect to supply standardized test scores, these will not be the sole criteria used by the UW institution to determine admission. UW institutions may, but are not required to, use ACT or SAT scores for course placement purposes, scholarships and other opportunities.

E. OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS

All undergraduate applicants will be required to submit official transcripts. An official transcript is sent directly from the sending to the receiving institution.

1. First-year student applications must submit their final official high school transcript.
2. Transfer student applicants may be asked to submit an official high school transcript.
3. All applicants must submit official transcripts from all colleges and universities they have attended, including dual enrollment coursework.

F. ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

For enrollment management and capacity purposes, the number of undergraduates admitted may be controlled and limited by the UW institution's enrollment target, as determined by the UW institution.

G. NON-RESIDENT ENROLLMENT

1. Each UW institution may limit the admission of non-resident students to ensure that the proportion of non-resident undergraduate to resident undergraduate enrollment does not exceed the limit set by the Board of Regents. Based on a three-year average, the non-resident undergraduate enrollment shall not exceed 27.5% of the total undergraduate enrollment at any UW institution. This limitation does not include Minnesota reciprocity students. This non-resident undergraduate enrollment limit does not apply to UW-Madison.
2. UW-Madison must enroll a minimum of 5,200 new in-state undergraduate students each calendar year, based on a three-year rolling average. The Board of Regents expects UW-Madison to continue to honor its commitment to enroll 3,600 Wisconsin freshmen within this broader policy but recognizes UW-Madison's commitment to in-state students is best measured by more than just incoming first-year students (freshmen) and should include reciprocity and transfer students alike.
3. If the number of qualified non-resident transfer students exceeds the ability of the UW institution to accommodate them, or if the UW institution needs to ensure that priority is granted to students transferring from UW institutions, the UW institution shall determine the criteria for selection from among qualified applicants.

H. ADMISSION APPEALS

Applicants who are not accepted for admission may appeal for special consideration through a process defined by the institution. UW institutions should publish appeal procedures online in the catalog or another official UW institution publication.

First-Year Student Admission Policy

The UW System offers first-year students three pathways to admission: the Traditional Admission Pathway, Direct Admit Wisconsin, and The Wisconsin Guarantee. Not all UW institutions offer each pathway to admission. Each pathway requires students to meet the minimum admission criteria outlined below. For all pathways, academic performance is the most important consideration in admission decisions. All offers of admission are conditional

based on completion of the requirements below and submission of final high school transcripts.

A. TRADITIONAL ADMISSION PATHWAY

The Traditional Admission Pathway provides every applicant the opportunity to have their application reviewed through a comprehensive, individualized review process established by each UW institution.

I. Admissions Requirements

First-year student applicants, both resident and non-resident, must satisfy the following minimum requirements to be eligible for consideration for admission:

- A. Graduation from a recognized high school or the equivalent.
 - 1. A recognized high school is one which either (a) is accredited by a regional accrediting association or state university or (b) is recognized or accredited by a state department of public instruction or its equivalent.
 - 2. A first-year student applicant who has not graduated from a recognized high school must provide evidence of satisfactory completion of the requirements for a high school equivalency certificate or a diploma from a recognized high school, school system, or state department of public instruction based on the GED examination, the Wisconsin High School Equivalency Examination, or other established criteria. First-year applicants from alternative educational backgrounds, including home-schooled students, should contact the Admissions Office at the UW institution of interest for admission information. Additional documents, testing, and a personal interview may be required.
- B. Completion of the UW-approved admission application (e.g., Universities of Wisconsin Admission Application or the Common App) and submission to the UW institution(s) by the required deadline.
- C. Satisfaction of academic unit requirements. First-year students must satisfy either (1) or (2).
 - 1. A minimum of 17 academic (high school) units is required for consideration for admission. One unit equals one year of high school study or the equivalent. Thirteen of the 17 units must be distributed as follows:

English	4 units
Social Science	3 units
Mathematics	3 units
Natural Science	3 units
The remaining four units will be:	
From the above areas, world language, fine arts, computer science, and other academic areas	4 units
TOTAL	17 units

Each UW institution may specify additional unit requirements for the remaining four units and may specify required content for all 17 units. First-year student applicants graduating from high school prior to spring 1995 should consult with the Admissions Office at the UW institution(s) for the appropriate academic unit requirements.

2. In recognition of curricular models that depart from a traditional Carnegie unit structure, the UW System Board of Regents has approved an alternative method for evaluating undergraduate applicants. This method, referred to as Competency-Based Admission, allows for a comprehensive, individualized assessment of student applicants whose educational experiences may not be adequately represented by standard high school transcripts.
 - i. Eligibility of Competency-Based Admission:
 - a) High schools may choose to submit a UW System Competency-Based Admission profile in addition to, or in lieu of, the traditional transcript when the student's academic preparation is not accurately reflected through Carnegie units.
 - b) The profile must provide sufficient documentation of the student's academic competencies, particularly in the core areas of English, social sciences, mathematics, and natural science

- c) It is recommended that the Competency-Based Admission profile submitted by the high school also include a robust school profile to provide an accurate picture of the student learning environment.
 - ii. Equivalency of Admission Standards:
 - a) Students applying under the Competency-Based Admission process must demonstrate preparation equivalent to that required under the traditional Carnegie unit.
 - iii. Each UW institution shall apply the same admissions criteria, rigor, and academic achievement standards to Competency-Based Admission applicants as it does for those submitting traditional transcripts using Carnegie units. Institutional Review and Acceptance:
 - a) UW institutions shall have established internal review procedures to evaluate Competency-Based Admission materials and determine admissibility.
 - b) UW institutions retain the authority to request additional information or documentation to assess a student's readiness for collegiate-level work.
- D. UW institutions have the discretion to waive one or more of the minimum requirements for particular student applicants, where appropriate, based on the UW institution's sound educational judgment that the student will succeed at the institution, benefit from that educational experience, and contribute to the educational environment.

II. Admissions Criteria

First-year student applicants applying for admission to UW institutions through the Traditional Admissions Pathway will be given a comprehensive, individualized review including the following components:

A. Academics

Academic information considered will include the student's postsecondary academic records including, but not limited to, the quality and rigor of the applicant's college-preparatory coursework, grade point average and trend in grades, and may also include standardized test scores, class rank, and/or other relevant academic information.

B. Standardized Test Scores

If submitted, ACT or SAT scores may be used to provide additional academic information about the quality of the applicant's qualifications, but will not be the sole criteria for admission.

C. Other factors

Other factors may be considered. These factors include, but are not limited to, student experiences, work experience, leadership qualities, motivation, community service, special talents, status as a non-traditional or returning adult, status as a veteran of the U.S. military, and whether the applicant is socio-economically disadvantaged.

B. DIRECT ADMIT WISCONSIN

Beginning in fall 2025, students attending an accredited high school in Wisconsin, public or private, that has entered into a Direct Admit Wisconsin participation agreement with the Universities of Wisconsin, may be notified of their admission to a participating UW institution through the Direct Admit Wisconsin program. Students admitted through Direct Admit Wisconsin do not complete a traditional UW-approved admission application. Direct Admit Wisconsin admission offers are based on the following criteria:

- i. Graduation from a public or private Wisconsin high school.
- ii. Completion of the academic unit requirements as outlined in the traditional admission pathway.
- iii. Completion of 3 units of college preparatory math as approved by the UW System.
- iv. Cumulative, unweighted grade point average at the end of junior year (11th grade) based on a 4.0 scale.

C. THE WISCONSIN GUARANTEE

2023 Wisconsin Act 95, also known as The Wisconsin Guarantee, offers guaranteed admission to all UW institutions, except UW-Madison, to first-year applicants from Wisconsin high schools who are in the top 10% of their class at the end of 11th grade, or Wisconsin residents who are homeschooled and receive an ACT score in the national 90th percentile ranking or higher or are a National Merit Scholarship finalist. First-year applicants from Wisconsin high schools who are in the top 5% of their class at the end of 11th grade, or Wisconsin residents who are homeschooled and receive an ACT score in the national 98th percentile ranking or higher or are a National Merit Scholarship finalist will be guaranteed admission to UW-Madison through The Wisconsin Guarantee.

Students must complete an admission application including a transcript indicating their class rank through the UW-approved admission application (e.g., Universities of Wisconsin Admission Application or the Common App) to access The Wisconsin Guarantee. Applicants pursuing guaranteed admission to UW-Madison must submit their application by the Early Action admission deadline. Applications to all other UW institutions must be submitted by individual UW institution Regular Admission application deadlines.

Transfer Student Admission Policy

A transfer student is a student who has attended college or university after graduating from high school and wishes to enroll in an undergraduate degree program. UW institutions offer two admission pathways to transfer students. Both pathways require applicants to submit a UW-approved admission application (e.g., Universities of Wisconsin Admission Application or the Common App). Each UW institution will establish application deadlines. Students transfer with the same rights and privileges as those who begin their education pursuing a degree at the receiving UW institution.

A. TRADITIONAL ADMISSION PATHWAY

Transfer applicants must demonstrate that they are prepared to do satisfactory academic work at the UW institution to which they are applying, and that, as members of the UW institution's community, they will benefit from and enrich the educational environment and enhance the quality of the UW institution.

I. Admissions Criteria

- A. Each applicant's file will be given a comprehensive, individualized review. Academic information considered will include, but not be limited to, the student's postsecondary academic records, and may also include high school records, standardized test scores (if available), and/or other relevant academic information.
- B. While academic factors are the most important consideration, other factors may also be considered. These factors include, but are not limited to, student experiences, work experience, leadership qualities, motivation, community service, special talents, status as a non-traditional or returning adult student, status as a veteran of the U.S. military, and whether the applicant is socioeconomically disadvantaged.
- C. Admission requirements for non-resident transfer students will be the same as those for resident transfer students except that a UW institution may adopt special requirements for international transfer students. For purposes of this policy, Minnesota students eligible for reciprocity are considered as residents.
- D. For enrollment management purposes, the number of transfer students admitted may be controlled. In such cases, UW institutional procedures will determine the criteria by which limitations of access shall be applied, but preference for admission of transfer students shall be given to students transferring from other UW institutions, subject to the limits of a UW institution's enrollment target.

B. GUARANTEED TRANSFER ADMISSION PATHWAY

Effective fall 2028, domestic (U.S.) transfer students who have an earned Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, or Associate of Arts and Science Degree from a Wisconsin higher education institution shall receive guaranteed admission to any UW institution provided they meet the admission requirements described below. Transfer student

applicants not eligible for guaranteed admission may pursue admission through the traditional transfer admission pathway. A UW institution may recommend a transfer application prior to earning an associate degree for specified academic programs.

I. Admissions Requirements

- A. Students must have an earned Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, or Associate of Arts and Science Degree from a Wisconsin higher education institution at the time of enrollment. Transfer applications shall be submitted through the UW-approved admission application (e.g., Universities of Wisconsin Admission Application or the Common App).
- B. Students must complete the above described Associate Degree with a minimum grade point average of 2.25 as calculated by the UW institution, with the exception of UW-Madison which requires a 3.0 grade point average.
- C. Each UW institution has unique application deadlines, admission criteria, and admission procedures to which all transfer students must adhere. Students must apply to the intended UW institution and must meet the same criteria (e.g., GPA, course requirements, etc.) for admission to specific majors/programs as continuing students. The Guaranteed Transfer Admission Program guarantees admission to the UW institution only and not to the specific program or major.

Admissions Policy Review

The Board of Regents shall review this policy periodically.

Oversight, Roles, and Responsibilities

The Board delegates to the UW System President the authority to develop policies to further define and implement this policy.

Related Regent Policy Documents and Applicable Laws

- Section 36.11(3), Wis. Stats., "Admission of Applicants"
- Section 36.11(3m), Wis. Stats., "Guaranteed Admission Program"
- Regent Policy Document 32-8, "Application Fees and Waivers"

History: Res. 9290, adopted 02/09/2007, created Regent Policy Document 07-1; subsequently renumbered 7-3. Res. 10142, adopted 12/07/2012, amended Regent Policy Document 7-3. Res. 11346, adopted 12/06/2019, amended Regent Policy Document 7-3.

Res. 11430, adopted 05/07/2020, Res. 11489, adopted 08/20/2020, Res. 11591, adopted 02/05/2021, Res. 11754, adopted 12/10/2021, Res. 12172, adopted 04/05/2024, and Res. 12464, adopted 04/20/2026, approved the temporary suspension of provisions of Regent Policy Document 7-3 related to ACT/SAT testing requirements.

Regent Policy Document 7-3 (formerly 07-1)

University of Wisconsin System

~~Freshman~~ Undergraduate Admissions Policy

That, upon recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents adopts the attached UW System Freshman Admissions Policy as amended, replacing and hereby superseding Regent Policies 72-5 on Nonresident Undergraduate Quotas, 72-11 on the Freshman Admissions Policy, 86-5 on the Use of the American College Test, 87-8 on Traditional and Nontraditional Freshman Admissions Policy, and 97-4 on Competency Based Admissions.

Scope ~~UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM FRESHMAN ADMISSIONS POLICY~~

The Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin (UW) System has long recognized that higher education serves as a crucial pathway for advancing individual self-knowledge and knowledge of the world, fostering new knowledge and ideas, preparing individuals for future leadership positions, and for promoting the economic vitality of the entire state. To provide the highest quality educational opportunity for all students in a diverse learning environment, this policy allows each UW institution to admit students whose academic preparation, background and personal experience suggest that the student will succeed at the institution, benefit from that educational experience, and contribute to the educational environment.

Purpose

This policy provides descriptions about various pathways for first-year student and transfer student admission, minimum requirements for freshman-undergraduate admissions, and descriptions of the broad criteria for evaluating qualified applicants through a comprehensive, individualized review process. In the implementation of this policy, individual UW institutions may establish more specific requirements, consistent with the principles and requirements of this systemwide policy.

Policy Statement

Definitions

Academic Unit: one unit equals one year of high school study or the equivalent.

Applicant: an individual seeking admission to an undergraduate degree program at a UW institution.

Common App: an online admission application platform that allows undergraduates to apply to more than 1,000 colleges and universities worldwide. Common App is a UW-approved admission application used by many UW institutions.

Competency-Based Admission: a Board-approved alternative method for evaluating undergraduate applicants who come from high schools using curricular models that depart from the traditional Carnegie unit structure.

Comprehensive/Individualized Review: a broad-based admissions application evaluation process that looks beyond traditional academic metrics to assess the whole student experience.

Direct Admit Wisconsin: the UW direct admission program that began in fall 2025 offering students attending an accredited (recognized) high school in Wisconsin, public or private, that has entered into a Direct Admit Wisconsin participation agreement with the UW System, who meet associated admission criteria, admission to at least one participating UW institution without completing a traditional UW-approved admission application.

Early Action Deadline: a non-binding admission process allowing a prospective first-year student to apply early and receive an admission decision sooner than a regular admission timeline.

First-year Student: a prospective student who is currently enrolled in high school or who has not taken college coursework since graduating from high school.

Guaranteed Transfer Admission: the transfer admission pathway for students who earn an approved associate degree from a Wisconsin higher education institution as established under this policy.

Official Transcript: an official record provided by an educational institution that documents a learner's academic performance and achievements. It typically includes a detailed list of courses taken, grades earned, degrees conferred, honors received, and other relevant academic information. As an official academic record, it is institutionally validated, tamper-resistant, and typically sent via secured electronic or postal transmission.

Recognized High School: a high school which either (a) is accredited by a regional accrediting association or state university, or (b) is recognized or accredited by a state department of public instruction or its equivalent.

Regular Admission: the standard, nonbinding final date set by a UW institution for submitting admission applications.

Traditional Admission Pathway: admission process described within this policy in which an undergraduate applicant uses a UW-approved admission application (e.g., Universities of Wisconsin Admission Application or Common App) to apply for admission and undergoes a comprehensive, individualized admission review process.

Transfer Student: a student who has attended another college or university after graduating from high school and wishes to enroll in an undergraduate degree program.

The Wisconsin Guarantee: the guaranteed admission program for first-year student applicants established under 2023 Wisconsin Act 95.

Universities of Wisconsin Admission Application: a UW-approved online admission application platform created by the UW System.

General Admission Principles

A. APPLICATION FEES

The establishment of application fees is referenced in RPD 32-8, "Application Fees and Waiver." Further application fee information can be found on UW institution websites.

B. ADMISSION ESSAYS

UW institutions may use admission essays as part of a comprehensive, individualized review process. Some UW institutions may require essays to be submitted as part of the application, while other UW institutions may offer the option of including an essay as part of the application.

C. ADMISSION TO ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

The minimum admission requirements outlined below refer to admission to a UW institution generally and not to any specific major or program within the UW institution. Admission requirements into schools/colleges, academic programs or majors may exceed those for admission to the UW institution. Such requirements for entry shall apply equally to new, continuing, and transfer students.

D. STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES

Students have the option of sending ACT or SAT scores as part of their admission application; however, they are not required to do so. For students who elect to supply standardized test scores, these will not be the sole criteria used by the UW institution to determine admission. UW institutions may, but are not required to, use ACT or SAT scores for course placement purposes, scholarships and other opportunities.

E. OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS

All undergraduate applicants will be required to submit official transcripts. An official transcript is sent directly from the sending to the receiving institution.

1. First-year student applications must submit their final official high school transcript.
2. Transfer student applicants may be asked to submit an official high school transcript.
3. All applicants must submit official transcripts from all colleges and universities they have attended, including dual enrollment coursework.

A.F. ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

For enrollment management and capacity purposes, the number of undergraduates admitted may be controlled and limited by the UW institution's enrollment target, as determined by the UW institution.

G. NON-RESIDENT ENROLLMENT

1. Each UW institution may limit the admission of non-resident students to ensure that the proportion of non-resident undergraduate to resident undergraduate enrollment does not exceed the limit set by the Board of Regents. Based on a three-year average, the non-resident undergraduate enrollment shall not exceed 27.5% of the total undergraduate enrollment at any UW institution. This limitation does not include Minnesota reciprocity students. This non-resident undergraduate enrollment limit does not apply to UW-Madison.
2. UW-Madison must enroll a minimum of 5,200 new in-state undergraduate students each calendar year, based on a three-year rolling average. The Board of Regents expects UW-Madison to continue to honor its commitment to enroll 3,600 Wisconsin freshmen within this broader policy but recognizes UW-Madison's commitment to in-state students is best measured by more than just incoming first-year students (freshmen) and should include reciprocity and transfer students alike.
3. If the number of qualified non-resident transfer students exceeds the ability of the UW institution to accommodate them, or if the UW institution needs to ensure that priority is granted to students transferring from UW institutions, the UW institution shall determine the criteria for selection from among qualified applicants.

H. ADMISSION APPEALS

Applicants who are not accepted for admission may appeal for special consideration through a process defined by the institution. UW institutions should publish appeal procedures online in the catalog or another official UW institution publication.

First-Year Student Admission Policy

The UW System offers first-year students three pathways to admission: the Traditional Admission Pathway, Direct Admit Wisconsin, and The Wisconsin Guarantee. Not all UW institutions offer each pathway to admission. Each pathway requires students to meet the minimum admission criteria outlined below. For all pathways, academic performance is the most important consideration in admission decisions. All offers of admission are conditional based on completion of the requirements below and submission of final high school transcripts.

A. TRADITIONAL ADMISSION PATHWAY

The Traditional Admission Pathway provides every applicant the opportunity to have their application reviewed through a comprehensive, individualized review process established by each UW institution.

I. Admissions Requirements

Freshman-First-year student applicants, both resident and non-resident, must satisfy the following minimum requirements to be eligible for consideration for admission:

- A. Graduation from a recognized high school or the equivalent.
 1. A recognized high school is one which either (a) is accredited by a regional accrediting association or state university or (b) is recognized or accredited by a state department of public instruction or its equivalent.
 2. ~~An~~ A first-year student applicant who has not graduated from a recognized high school must provide evidence of satisfactory completion of the requirements for a high school equivalency certificate or a diploma from a recognized high school, school system, or state department of public instruction based on the GED examination, the Wisconsin High School Equivalency Examination, or other established criteria. Applicants First-year applicants from alternative educational backgrounds, including home-schooled students, should contact the Admissions Office at the ~~campus~~ UW institution of interest for admissions information. Additional documents, testing, and a personal interview may be required.
- B. Completion of the UW -approved admission application ~~for admission~~ (e.g., Universities of Wisconsin Admission Application or the Common App) and submission to the UW institution(s) by the required deadline.

~~C. Submission of ACT or SAT scores to the institution.[†]~~

~~D.C.~~ Satisfaction of academic unit requirements. ~~Students~~ First-year students must satisfy either (1) or (2).

- ~~1. For students graduating from high school in spring, 1995 and thereafter,~~ a minimum of 17 academic (high school) units is required for consideration for admission. ~~(One unit equals one year of high school study or the equivalent.)~~ Thirteen of the 17 units must be distributed as follows:

English	4 units
Social Science	3 units
Mathematics	3 units
Natural Science	3 units
The remaining four units will be:	
From the above areas, foreign-world language, fine arts, computer science, and other academic areas	4 units
TOTAL	17 units

Each UW institution may specify additional unit requirements for the remaining four units and may specify required content for all 17 units. ~~S~~First-year student applicants graduating from high school prior to spring, 1995, should consult with the Admissions Office at the UW institution(s) for the appropriate academic unit requirements.

[†]-TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF ACT/SAT REQUIREMENTS

UW System Board of Regents Resolution 12464 (adopted April 20, 2026):-

“That, upon the recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents extends the temporary suspension of the requirement for freshman applicants to provide an ACT or SAT score as part of their application referenced in Regent Policy Document 7-3, Sections I. C. and II. B. This action extends the suspension through the 2027-28 academic year for all of the Universities of Wisconsin.”

2. In recognition of curricular ~~initiatives occurring in many high schools models~~ that depart from a traditional Carnegie unit structure, the UW System Board of Regents has approved an alternative method ~~by which an~~ for evaluating undergraduate applicants may demonstrate that he or she has satisfied the academic unit requirement. This ~~is method,~~ referred to as Competency-Based Admission, allows for a comprehensive, individualized assessment of student applicants whose educational experiences may not be adequately represented by standard high school transcripts.

i. Eligibility of Competency-Based Admission:

- a) ~~High school officials may elect to prepares may choose to submit~~ a UW System Competency-Based Admission profile in addition to, or in lieu of, the traditional ~~high school transcript for those students whose high school curriculum is not well described by the traditional Carnegie unit structure when the student's academic preparation is not accurately reflected through Carnegie units.~~
- b) ~~The combination of the student's credentials must indicate evidence of preparation in~~ The profile must provide sufficient documentation of the student's academic competencies, particularly in the core areas of English, social sciences, mathematics, and natural science at a level comparable to that assumed by the traditional academic unit requirements.
- c) It is recommended that the Competency-Based Admission profile submitted by the high school also include a robust school profile to provide an accurate picture of the student learning environment.

ii. Equivalency of Admission Standards:

- a) ~~The admission requirements at each institution for students who apply using Competency-Based Admission will be equivalent to the admission requirements for students who apply under the Carnegie unit system. Students applying under the Competency-Based Admission process must demonstrate preparation equivalent to that required under the traditional Carnegie unit.~~
- a) Each UW institution shall apply the same admissions criteria, rigor, and academic achievement standards to Competency-Based Admission applicants as it does for those submitting traditional transcripts using Carnegie units.

iii. Institutional Review and Acceptance:

- a) UW institutions shall have established internal review procedures to evaluate Competency-Based Admission materials and determine admissibility.
- b) UW institutions retain the authority to request additional information or documentation to assess a student's readiness for collegiate-level work.

~~E.D.~~ An UW institutions ~~has~~have the discretion to waive one or more of the minimum requirements for particular student applicants, where appropriate, based on the UW institution's sound educational judgment that the student will succeed at the institution, benefit from that educational experience, and contribute to the educational environment.

II. Admissions Criteria

~~Freshman-First-year student~~ applicants ~~must demonstrate that they are prepared to do satisfactory academic work at the institution to which they are applying, and that, as members of the campus community, they will benefit from and enrich the educational environment and enhance the quality of the institution. In making this determination, applicants applying for admission to UW institutions through the Traditional Admissions Pathway will be given a comprehensive, individualized review based upon including the following criteria components:~~

A. Academics.

Academic ~~factors are the most important consideration in making admissions decisions. Factors that will be~~information considered will include the student's postsecondary academic records including, but ~~are~~ not limited to, the quality and rigor of the applicant's college-preparatory coursework, grade point average, ~~class rank~~ and trend in grades, and may also include standardized test scores, class rank, and/or other relevant academic information.

B. Standardized Test Scores.

If submitted, ACT or SAT scores ~~are~~may be used to provide additional academic information about the quality of the applicant's qualifications, but ~~cannot~~will not be the sole criteria for admission. ~~An institution may require additional test scores of some or all applicants as supplemental information.~~

C. Other factors.

Other ~~considerations~~factors may be considered. These factors include, but are not limited to, student experiences, work experience, leadership qualities, motivation, community service, special talents, status as a non-traditional or returning adult, status as a veteran of the U.S. military, and whether the applicant is socio-economically disadvantaged, ~~and whether the~~

~~applicant is a member of an historically underrepresented racial or ethnic group.²~~

B. DIRECT ADMIT WISCONSIN

Beginning in fall 2025, students attending an accredited high school in Wisconsin, public or private, that has entered into a Direct Admit Wisconsin participation agreement with the Universities of Wisconsin, may be notified of their admission to a participating UW institution through the Direct Admit Wisconsin program. Students admitted through Direct Admit Wisconsin do not complete a traditional UW-approved admission application. Direct Admit Wisconsin admission offers are based on the following criteria:

- i. Graduation from a public or private Wisconsin high school.
- ii. Completion of the academic unit requirements as outlined in the traditional admission pathway.
- iii. Completion of 3 units of college preparatory math as approved by the UW System.
- iv. Cumulative, unweighted grade point average at the end of junior year (11th grade) based on a 4.0 scale.

C. THE WISCONSIN GUARANTEE

2023 Wisconsin Act 95, also known as The Wisconsin Guarantee, offers guaranteed admission to all UW institutions, except UW-Madison, to first-year applicants from Wisconsin high schools who are in the top 10% of their class at the end of 11th grade, or Wisconsin residents who are homeschooled and receive an ACT score in the national 90th percentile ranking or higher or are a National Merit Scholarship finalist. First-year applicants from Wisconsin high schools who are in the top 5% of their class at the end of 11th grade, or Wisconsin residents who are homeschooled and receive an ACT score in the national 98th percentile ranking or higher or are a National Merit Scholarship finalist will be guaranteed admission to UW-Madison through The Wisconsin Guarantee.

Students must complete an admission application including a transcript indicating their class rank through the UW-approved admission application (e.g., Universities of Wisconsin Admission Application or the Common App) to access The Wisconsin Guarantee. Applicants pursuing guaranteed admission to UW-Madison must submit their application by the Early Action admission deadline. Applications to all other UW institutions must be submitted by individual UW institution Regular Admission application deadlines.

Transfer Student Admission Policy

²Effective June 29, 2023, Regent Policy Document 7-3, Section II.C. is superseded by U.S. Supreme Court Opinions No. 20-1199 and No. 21-707, and as a result the mention of underrepresented racial or ethnic groups has been struck from the Policy.

A transfer student is a student who has attended college or university after graduating from high school and wishes to enroll in an undergraduate degree program. UW institutions offer two admission pathways to transfer students. Both pathways require applicants to submit a UW-approved admission application (e.g., Universities of Wisconsin Admission Application or the Common App). Each UW institution will establish application deadlines. Students transfer with the same rights and privileges as those who begin their education pursuing a degree at the receiving UW institution.

A. TRADITIONAL ADMISSION PATHWAY

Transfer applicants must demonstrate that they are prepared to do satisfactory academic work at the UW institution to which they are applying, and that, as members of the UW institution's community, they will benefit from and enrich the educational environment and enhance the quality of the UW institution.

I. Admissions Criteria

- A. Each applicant's file will be given a comprehensive, individualized review. Academic information considered will include, but not be limited to, the student's postsecondary academic records, and may also include high school records, standardized test scores (if available), and/or other relevant academic information.
- B. While academic factors are the most important consideration, other factors may also be considered. These factors include, but are not limited to, student experiences, work experience, leadership qualities, motivation, community service, special talents, status as a non-traditional or returning adult student, status as a veteran of the U.S. military, and whether the applicant is socioeconomically disadvantaged.
- C. Admission requirements for non-resident transfer students will be the same as those for resident transfer students except that a UW institution may adopt special requirements for international transfer students. For purposes of this policy, Minnesota students eligible for reciprocity are considered as residents.
- D. For enrollment management purposes, the number of transfer students admitted may be controlled. In such cases, UW institutional procedures will determine the criteria by which limitations of access shall be applied, but preference for admission of transfer students shall be given to students transferring from other UW institutions, subject to the limits of a UW institution's enrollment target.

B. GUARANTEED TRANSFER ADMISSION PATHWAY

Effective fall 2028, domestic (U.S.) transfer students who have an earned Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, or Associate of Arts and Science Degree from a Wisconsin higher education institution shall receive guaranteed admission to any UW institution provided they meet the admission requirements described below. Transfer student applicants not eligible for guaranteed admission may pursue admission through the

traditional transfer admission pathway. A UW institution may recommend a transfer application prior to earning an associate degree for specified academic programs.

I. Admissions Requirements

- A. Students must have an earned Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, or Associate of Arts and Science Degree from a Wisconsin higher education institution at the time of enrollment. Transfer applications shall be submitted through the UW-approved admission application (e.g., Universities of Wisconsin Admission Application or the Common App).
- B. Students must complete the above described Associate Degree with a minimum grade point average of 2.25 as calculated by the UW institution, with the exception of UW-Madison which requires a 3.0 grade point average.
- A.C. Each UW institution has unique application deadlines, admission criteria, and admission procedures to which all transfer students must adhere. Students must apply to the intended UW institution and must meet the same criteria (e.g., GPA, course requirements, etc.) for admission to specific majors/programs as continuing students. The Guaranteed Transfer Admission Program guarantees admission to the UW institution only and not to the specific program or major.

III. Non-resident Enrollment

~~Based on a three-year average, the non-resident undergraduate enrollment shall not exceed 27.5% of the total undergraduate enrollment at any UW institution. This limitation does not include Minnesota reciprocity students. This non-resident undergraduate enrollment limit does not apply to UW-Madison.~~

~~UW-Madison must enroll a minimum of 5,200 new in-state undergraduate students each calendar year, based on a three-year rolling average. The Board of Regents expects UW-Madison to continue to honor its commitment to enroll 3,600 Wisconsin freshmen within this broader policy but recognizes UW-Madison's commitment to in-state students is best measured by more than just incoming freshmen and should include reciprocity and transfer students alike.~~

IV. Admissions Appeals

~~Applicants who are not accepted for admission may appeal for special consideration through a process defined by the institution.~~

V. Admissions Policy Review

The Board of Regents shall review this policy ~~every five years~~periodically.

Oversight, Roles, and Responsibilities

The Board delegates to the UW System President the authority to develop policies to further define and implement this policy.

Related Regent Policy Documents and Applicable Laws

- Section 36.11(3), Wis. Stats., "Admission of Applicants"
- Section 36.11(3m), Wis. Stats., "Guaranteed Admission Program"
- Regent Policy Document 32-8, "Application Fees and Waivers"

History: Res. 9290, adopted 02/09/2007, created Regent Policy Document 07-1; subsequently renumbered 7-3. Res. 10142, adopted 12/07/2012, amended Regent Policy Document 7-3. Res. 11346, adopted 12/06/2019, amended Regent Policy Document 7-3.

Res. 11430, adopted 05/07/2020, Res. 11489, adopted 08/20/2020, Res. 11591, adopted 02/05/2021, ~~and~~ Res. 11754, adopted 12/10/2021, Res. 12172, adopted 04/05/2024, and Res. 12464, adopted 04/20/2026, approved the temporary suspension of provisions of Regent Policy Document 7-3 related to ACT/SAT testing requirements. ~~Res. 12172, adopted 04/05/2024, approved the extension of the temporary suspension of provisions of Regent Policy Document 7-3 related to ACT/SAT testing requirements. Res. 12464, adopted 04/20/2026, approved the extension of the temporary suspension of provisions of Regent Policy Document 7-3 related to ACT/SAT testing requirements.~~

Regent Policy Document 7-3 *(formerly 07-1)*

University of Wisconsin System

Freshman Admissions Policy

That, upon recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents adopts the attached UW System Freshman Admissions Policy as amended, replacing and hereby superseding Regent Policies 72-5 on Nonresident Undergraduate Quotas, 72-11 on the Freshman Admissions Policy, 86-5 on the Use of the American College Test, 87-8 on Traditional and Nontraditional Freshman Admissions Policy, and 97-4 on Competency Based Admissions.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM FRESHMAN ADMISSIONS POLICY

The University of Wisconsin System has long recognized that higher education serves as a crucial pathway for advancing individual self-knowledge and knowledge of the world, fostering new knowledge and ideas, preparing individuals for future leadership positions, and for promoting the economic vitality of the entire state. To provide the highest quality educational opportunity for all students in a diverse learning environment, this policy allows each institution to admit students whose academic preparation, background and personal experience suggest that the student will succeed at the institution, benefit from that educational experience, and contribute to the educational environment.

This policy provides minimum requirements for freshman admissions, and broad criteria for evaluating qualified applicants through a comprehensive, individualized review process. In the implementation of this policy, individual UW institutions may establish more specific requirements, consistent with the principles and requirements of this systemwide policy.

I. Admissions Requirements

Freshman applicants, both resident and non-resident, must satisfy the following minimum requirements to be eligible for consideration for admission:

- A. Graduation from a recognized high school or the equivalent.
 1. A recognized high school is one which either (a) is accredited by a regional accrediting association or state university or (b) is recognized or accredited by a state department of public instruction or its equivalent.
 2. An applicant who has not graduated from a recognized high school must provide evidence of satisfactory completion of the requirements for a high school equivalency certificate or a diploma from a recognized high school, school

system, or state department of public instruction based on the GED examination, the Wisconsin High School Equivalency Examination, or other established criteria. Applicants from alternative educational backgrounds, including home-schooled students, should contact the Admissions Office at the campus of interest for admissions information. Additional documents, testing, and a personal interview may be required.

- B. Completion of the UW application for admission and submission to the institution(s) by the required deadline.
- C. Submission of ACT or SAT scores to the institution.¹
- D. Satisfaction of academic unit requirements. Students must satisfy either (1) or (2).
 - 1. For students graduating from high school in spring, 1995 and thereafter, a minimum of 17 high school units is required. (One unit equals one year of high school study or the equivalent.) Thirteen of the 17 units must be distributed as follows:

English	4 units
Social Science	3 units
Mathematics	3 units
Natural Science	3 units
The remaining four units will be:	
From the above areas, foreign language, fine arts, computer science, and other academic areas	4 units
TOTAL	17 units

¹ TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF ACT/SAT REQUIREMENTS

UW System Board of Regents Resolution 12464 (*adopted April 20, 2026*):

“That, upon the recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents extends the temporary suspension of the requirement for freshman applicants to provide an ACT or SAT score as part of their application referenced in Regent Policy Document 7-3, Sections I. C. and II. B. This action extends the suspension through the 2027-28 academic year for all of the Universities of Wisconsin.”

Each institution may specify additional unit requirements for the remaining four units and may specify required content for all 17 units. Students graduating from high school prior to spring, 1995, should consult with the Admissions Office at the UW institution(s) for the appropriate academic unit requirements.

2. In recognition of curricular initiatives occurring in many high schools that depart from a traditional Carnegie unit structure, the UW System Board of Regents has approved an alternative method by which an applicant may demonstrate that he or she has satisfied the academic unit requirement. This is referred to as Competency-Based Admission.

High school officials may elect to prepare a UW System Competency-Based Admission profile in addition to, or in lieu of, the traditional high-school transcript for those students whose high school curriculum is not well described by the traditional Carnegie unit structure. The combination of the student's credentials must indicate evidence of preparation in English, social sciences, mathematics, and natural science at a level comparable to that assumed by the traditional academic unit requirements. The admission requirements at each institution for students who apply using Competency-Based Admission will be equivalent to the admission requirements for students who apply under the Carnegie unit system.

- E. An institution has the discretion to waive one or more of the minimum requirements for particular applicants where appropriate, based on the sound educational judgment that the student will succeed at the institution, benefit from that educational experience, and contribute to the educational environment.

II. Admissions Criteria

Freshman applicants must demonstrate that they are prepared to do satisfactory academic work at the institution to which they are applying, and that, as members of the campus community, they will benefit from and enrich the educational environment and enhance the quality of the institution. In making this determination, applicants will be given a comprehensive review based upon the following criteria:

A. ACADEMICS.

Academic factors are the most important consideration in making admissions decisions. Factors that will be considered include, but are not limited to, the quality and rigor of the applicant's college-preparatory coursework, grade point average, class rank and trend in grades.

B. STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES.

ACT or SAT scores are used to provide additional academic information about the quality of the applicant's qualifications, but cannot be the sole criteria for admission. An

institution may require additional test scores of some or all applicants as supplemental information.

C. OTHER FACTORS.

Other considerations include, but are not limited to, student experiences, work experience, leadership qualities, motivation, community service, special talents, status as a non-traditional or returning adult, status as a veteran of the U.S. military, whether the applicant is socio-economically disadvantaged, ~~and whether the applicant is a member of an historically underrepresented racial or ethnic group.~~²

III. Non-resident Enrollment

Based on a three-year average, the non-resident undergraduate enrollment shall not exceed 27.5% of the total undergraduate enrollment at any UW institution. This limitation does not include Minnesota reciprocity students. This non-resident undergraduate enrollment limit does not apply to UW-Madison.

UW-Madison must enroll a minimum of 5,200 new in-state undergraduate students each calendar year, based on a three-year rolling average. The Board of Regents expects UW-Madison to continue to honor its commitment to enroll 3,600 Wisconsin freshmen within this broader policy but recognizes UW-Madison's commitment to in-state students is best measured by more than just incoming freshmen and should include reciprocity and transfer students alike.

IV. Admissions Appeals

Applicants who are not accepted for admission may appeal for special consideration through a process defined by the institution.

V. Admissions Policy Review

The Board of Regents shall review this policy every five years.

History: Res. 9290, adopted 02/09/2007, created Regent Policy Document 07-1; subsequently renumbered 7-3. Res. 10142, adopted 12/07/2012, amended Regent Policy Document 7-3. Res. 11346, adopted 12/06/2019, amended Regent Policy Document 7-3. Res. 11430, adopted 05/07/2020, Res. 11489, adopted 08/20/2020, Res. 11591, adopted 02/05/2021, and Res. 11754, adopted 12/10/2021, approved the temporary suspension of provisions of Regent Policy Document 7-3 related to ACT/SAT testing requirements. Res. 12172, adopted 04/05/2024, approved the extension of the temporary suspension of provisions of Regent Policy Document 7-3 related to ACT/SAT testing

² Effective June 29, 2023, Regent Policy Document 7-3, Section II.C. is superseded by U.S. Supreme Court Opinions No. 20-1199 and No. 21-707, and as a result the mention of underrepresented racial or ethnic groups has been struck from the Policy.

requirements. Res. 12464, adopted 04/20/2026, approved the extension of the temporary suspension of provisions of Regent Policy Document 7-3 related to ACT/SAT testing requirements.