

**Report from Academic Standards Committee
March 26, 2007**

The Academic Standards Committee makes the following motions to the Faculty Senate:

1. That UTC change its admission standards to the following:

All first-time freshmen applying for admission to the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga must meet one of the following high school grade point average and ACT/SAT combinations:

- 2.75 high school GPA (on a 4.0 scale) and a minimum 18 ACT composite (810 composite)
- or**
- 21 ACT composite (980 SAT composite) and a minimum 2.0 high school GPA (on a 4.0 scale)

In addition to meeting the GPA and ACT/SAT requirements, a first-time freshman must have the following minimum unit requirements:

- 4 units of English
- 2 units of laboratory science
- 1 unit of European history, world history, or world geography
- 3 units of math (algebra I, algebra II, and geometry)
- 1 unit of American history
- 2 units of same foreign language
- 1 unit of visual or performing arts

The motion passed 5-3.

2. That UTC change its policy on “conditional admissions” to the following:

Exceptions to Regular Admission Requirements

A limited number of students who do not meet the regular admission standards may be admitted to UTC by petition to the Admissions Office. The deadlines for submission of petitions will be August 1 and December 1, respectively.

For exceptions to regular admission, the admissions committee may recommend one or all of the following conditions:

- reduced course load
- specific academic advisor
- specific course requirements
- specific program of developmental studies

The motion passed 6-1-1.

Current catalog language

1. The current catalog language is the same as the above except that the ACT score has been changed to 18 from 17.

2. Conditional Admission

Students whose grade point average and ACT/SAT scores fall below those listed above, but who have a high school GPA of at least a 2.0 (on a 4.0 scale) and a minimum ACT composite of 17 (810 on the SAT) will be considered for conditional admission, provided they meet the high school unit requirements listed above.

Exceptions

Only under special circumstances are exceptions to the minimum high school GPA test scores, or unit requirements made by the admissions committee. Students granted exceptional admission must maintain at least a 1.0 GPA during their first semester.

For conditional and exceptional admission, the admissions committee may recommend one or all of the following conditions:

- reduced course load
- specific academic advisor
- specific course requirements
- specific program of developmental studies

Rationale

1. Although the data show that raising the ACT score from 17 to 18 does not necessarily impact student retention/success at UTC, some committee members believe that raising the score at this time is a step in the right direction of improving standards at UTC. Further, the majority of the committee thinks that UTC should begin to send a message to high school students and their college/guidance counselors that higher standards are to be expected of entering freshmen. If UTC demands more of its applicants, then perhaps the overall student quality will improve. Further, the committee views this change as one step with others to follow as the UTC faculty may desire to raise incrementally its ACT scores over a period of years.

2. The change in “conditional admissions process” should be changed to allow all students who do not meet the regular admissions criteria be evaluated “holistically” based on a number of factors that demonstrate their ability to succeed at UTC. These students will no longer be automatically admitted to UTC without the consideration of the Admissions Office and/or the Admissions Committee.

The committee would like for the Faculty Senate to consider these motions separately. One motion is to change the ACT score while the other is related to exceptions to regular admission requirements.