



ANNUAL REPORT ON EXCEPTIONS TO THE MINIMUM ADMISSION STANDARDS AT STATE UNIVERSITIES

January 2022

From 1915 to 2001, Kansas had an open admission policy which guaranteed admission to anyone who graduated from an accredited high school in Kansas. In 1996, the Legislature passed K.S.A. 76-717, which established minimum admission standards for state universities. Those became effective in 2001. The statute requires the Board to annually submit to the Legislature information on undergraduate students admitted to state universities who did not meet minimum admission standards.

Minimum Admission Criteria for 2020-2021 Freshman Applicants

K.S.A.76-717 requires resident freshmen applicants under the age of 21 and non-resident freshman applicants to meet one of the following criteria in order to gain admittance to a state university:

- (1) graduate from an accredited high school and earn a minimum ACT score of 21; or
- (2) graduate from an accredited high school and rank in the top one-third of the class; or
- (3) graduate from a non-accredited private high school and earn a minimum ACT score of 21; or
- (4) earn a GED with the prescribed minimum scores (Kansas residents only).

In addition to the above criteria, state regulations K.A.R 88-29a-5 and K.A.R. 88-29a-7 required all freshman applicants under the age of 21 to complete the precollege curriculum with a grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.0 for residents and 2.5 for non-residents. (The precollege curriculum will no longer be required for applicants of the Summer 2021 semester and later.)

Any applicant 21 and older must meet one of the following criteria in order to gain admittance to a state university as a freshman:

- (1) graduate from an accredited high school; or
- (2) graduate from a non-accredited private high school (Kansas residents only); or
- (3) earn a high school equivalency credential with the prescribed minimum scores.

Exceptions to the Minimum Admission Standards

K.S.A. 76-717 requires that on or before January 31 of each year, the Board submit a report that includes the following information on the number and percentage of resident freshman class admissions permitted as exceptions to the minimum admissions standards, disaggregated by institution (Table 1). State universities may, at their discretion, admit applicants who do not meet the minimum freshmen admissions criteria, provided that the number of resident freshmen admitted as exceptions is limited to 10 percent of the university’s total freshmen admitted. No institution exceeded the 10 percent limit.

Table 1: Number of Resident Freshman Exceptions 2020-2021

	Exceptions	Admits	Percent
Emporia State University	123	1,376	8.9%
Fort Hays State University	106	1,664	6.4%
Kansas State University	418	6,413	6.5%
Pittsburg State University	66	1,839	3.6%
University of Kansas	487	14,398	3.4%
Wichita State University	267	6,069	4.4%
TOTAL	1,467	31,759	4.6%

Table 2 presents the number and percent of non-resident freshman students admitted as exceptions, disaggregated by institution. By regulation, the number of non-resident freshman exceptions is limited to either 10 percent of the total number of admitted non-resident freshmen, or 50 students, whichever is greater. Kansas State University exceeded the limit by 4.9%, or, by a total of 127 students. Per K.A.R. 88-29a-8c,

(c) If the state educational institution exceeds the allotted number of admissions using this exception window, the excess over the allowable total number of exceptions shall be subtracted from the subsequent year's allowable total number of exceptions for nonresident freshman class admissions.

Consequently, for the 2021-2022 Academic Year, Kansas State University has 127 fewer allowable exceptions (calculated as 10% of the total number) in the non-resident freshman category. (Please note that changes to Qualified Admissions were made to be effective beginning with the 2021-2022 Academic Year. For this year and moving forward, for non-resident freshman applicants graduating from an accredited high school, Kansas State University requires either a 21 or higher on the ACT exam, or at least a 3.25 overall high school GPA.) No other state university exceeded the limit of exceptions allowed in this category. Though Emporia State University exceeded 10 percent, they admitted only 16 of 50 allowable exceptions, which is well within the limit.

Each state university has a written policy to guide decisions about exceptions and per KBOR policy, every student admitted as an exception to the minimum qualified admission standards, resident or non-resident, shall receive a written individual plan for student success from the university prior to enrollment. The individual plan for success shall be reviewed by the student and the student's advisor at least once each semester in the first academic year immediately succeeding adoption of the plan.

Table 2: Number of Non-Resident Freshman Exceptions 2020-2021

	Exceptions	Admits	Percent
Emporia State University	16	156	10.3%
Fort Hays State University	18	327	5.5%
Kansas State University	346	2,320	14.9%
Pittsburg State University	39	758	5.1%
University of Kansas	650	8,675	7.5%
Wichita State University	122	2,471	4.9%
TOTAL	1,191	14,707	8.1%

Minimum Admission Criterion for 2020-2021 Transfer Applicants

State universities are required to admit resident transfer applicants who have earned at least 24 credit hours of transferable coursework with a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale. State universities may admit non-resident transfer applicants who have met this criterion, but they are not required to do so. State universities may adopt additional and/or more stringent standards to admit non-resident transfer applicants.

Exceptions to the Minimum Admission Standards

State universities may admit transfer applicants who have earned less than a 2.0 GPA on 24 or more transferable semester credit hours, but the number of these exceptions is limited by statute. The number of resident transfer exceptions is limited to 10 percent of the university’s resident transfer admissions. The number of non-resident transfer exceptions is limited to 10 percent of the university’s non-resident transfer admissions. Admitting applicants as exceptions is at the discretion of the state university and each student admitted by exception receives an individual success plan.

K.S.A. 76-717 requires the Board to report the following to the Legislature on or before January 31 of each year: (1) the number and percent of resident transfer students admitted as exceptions, and (2) the number and percent of non-resident transfer students admitted as exceptions. The statute specifies this information be disaggregated by institution.

Table 3 presents the number and percent of transfer students admitted by each state university under the 10 percent exception window. This information is disaggregated by institution and by residency status. No institution exceeded the 10 percent limit.

Table 3: Number of Transfer Students Admitted as Exceptions 2020-2021

	Resident Transfer			Non-Resident Transfer		
	Exceptions	Admits	Percent	Exceptions	Admits	Percent
Emporia State University	3	451	0.7%	0	38	0.0%
Fort Hays State University	59	1,316	4.5%	68	869	7.8%
Kansas State University	14	957	1.5%	4	510	0.8%
Pittsburg State University	8	447	1.8%	5	275	1.8%
University of Kansas	22	1,357	1.6%	16	706	2.3%
Wichita State University	42	1,775	2.4%	10	394	2.5%
TOTAL	148	6,303	2.3%	103	2,792	3.7%