

**ANNUAL REPORT ON ADMISSION STANDARDS FOR
FIRST-TIME ENTERING FRESHMEN, FALL 2000
SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SENIOR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

This document reviews the results of five different reports related to admission standards and measures of achievement for first-time entering freshmen. The results are presented in five parts:

- **Part I:** Applications, Acceptances, and Actual Enrollments
- **Part II:** Fall 2000 data related to high school course prerequisites;
- **Part III:** Fall 2000 SAT and ACT scores;
- **Part IV:** Fall 2000 data related to provisional students; and
- **Part V:** Fall 2001 minimum admission standards.

Part I: Applications, Acceptances, and Actual Enrollments

In Fall 2000, a total of 45,160 applications were received for admission as first-time freshmen at the public senior colleges and universities. Of these, 29,922 or 66.3 percent, met the minimum admission standards at one or more of the public senior institutions; and were offered admission to the institution. Of those who were offered admission, 12,634 applicants actually enrolled.

Table 1 shows the number and percent of students who applied, students who were accepted, and students who actually enrolled at each public senior institution.

TABLE 1 APPLICATIONS, ACCEPTANCES, AND ACTUAL ENROLLMENTS S.C. PUBLIC SENIOR INSTITUTIONS, FALL 2000					
	Number of Applications ¹	Number of Applicants Offered Admission ¹	Percent of Applicants Offered Admission	Number who Actually Enrolled ²	Percent Accepted and Enrolled
Clemson	10,472	6,685	63.8%	3,034	45.4%
USC-Columbia	9,959	6,902	69.3%	2,542	36.8%
The Citadel	1,804	1,449	80.3%	553	38.2%
Coastal Carolina	2,533	1,813	71.6%	792	43.7%
College of Charleston	7,953	5,321	66.9	2,001	37.6%
Francis Marion	1,632	1,257	77.0%	609	48.4%
Lander	1,441	1,165	80.8%	515	44.2%
S.C. State	3,720	1,487	40.0%	569	38.3%
USC-Aiken	1,321	846	64.0%	543	64.2%
USC-Spartanburg	1,356	834	61.5%	569	68.2%
Winthrop	2969	2163	72.9%	907	41.9%
Total	45,160	29,922	66.3%	12,634	42.2%

¹Reported manually by the institutions.

²Reported electronically through the Commission on Higher Education Management Information system (CHEMIS).

Lander and The Citadel offered admission to the largest percentage of applicants. Lander and The Citadel offered admission to approximately 80 percent of those students who applied. Francis Marion, Winthrop, and Coastal Carolina offered admission to approximately 71 percent. USC-Aiken and USC-Spartanburg enrolled the largest percentage of students who were offered admission. At USC-Aiken, 64 percent of the applicants who were offered admission enrolled. At USC-Spartanburg, approximately 68 percent of those offered admission enrolled. The remaining institutions had percentages that ranged between 36 and 48 percent.

Part II: Extent to Which 2000 Freshmen Met the High School Course Prerequisites

Since Fall 1988, public senior colleges and universities in South Carolina have required that applicants for freshmen admission (who graduated from high school in 1988 or subsequent years) must have completed certain high school courses before being admitted. The required courses include the following:

1. **Four units of English.** At least two must have strong grammar and composition components, and at least one must be in **English literature** and at least one must be in **American literature**.
2. **Three units of mathematics.** These include **algebra 1** (for which applied mathematics I and II may count together as a substitute, if a student successfully completes algebra II); **algebra II**, and **geometry**. A fourth mathematics course is strongly recommended. This fourth course should be selected from among **precalculus, calculus, statistics, or discrete mathematics**.
3. **Two units of laboratory science.** At least one unit each of two laboratory sciences should be chosen from **biology, chemistry, or physics**. Two units of the same science will not meet this requirement, but taking one from all three will be helpful. Courses in earth science or physical science will not meet this requirement.
4. **Two units of the same foreign language.**
5. **One unit of advanced math or computer science or a combination of these; or one unit of world history, world geography, or western civilization.**
6. **One unit of U.S. history.**
7. **Two units of additional social studies.** A **half unit** in **economics** and a **half unit** in **government** are **strongly recommended**.
8. **One unit of physical education or ROTC.**

Effective academic year 2001-02 the public senior colleges and universities will require that applicants for freshmen admission must have completed 20 college preparatory courses consistent with the new high school graduation requirements of 24 Carnegie units. These will include:

- four units of English
- three units of mathematics
- three units of laboratory science
- two units of the same foreign language
- three units of social science
- four units of electives (from at least three different fields)
- one unit of physical education for ROTC

Specific details about the new requirements can be found on the Commission's web site located at <http://www.che400.state.sc.us> (under Academic Affairs).

Each institution may make exceptions in admitting 1) students who do not meet all of the prerequisites, limited to those individual cases in which the failure to meet one or more prerequisites is due to circumstances beyond the reasonable control of the student or 2) students who have taken the applied academics (Tech Prep) courses rather than the required college preparatory curriculum and who meet all other institutional admissions criteria. The prerequisites are not applicable to foreign students, students who receive the high school General Equivalency Diploma (GED), or students who do not enroll in baccalaureate degree programs.

The proportion of applicable first-time freshmen meeting all of the prerequisites decreased from 98.15 percent in 1999 to 96.11 percent in 2000. Analysis of the CHEMIS data for the four-year institutions indicates that the majority of students not meeting one or more pre-requisites failed to do so in, foreign languages, advanced mathematics/computer science, mathematics , or laboratory science (in descending order of not meeting the pre-requisite). These are all areas in which we have critical teaching shortages and there is a possibility that students are no able to access required courses. With the new pre-requisites being implemented this past fall (academic year 2001-02) it is very possible to see another decrease in the number of students meeting the requirements.

TABLE 2
Percent of Applicable¹ First-Time Freshmen Meeting High School Course Prerequisites

Senior Institutions	1998 Applicable Freshmen	1998 Percent Meeting Prerequisites	1999 Applicable Freshmen	1999 Percent Meeting Prerequisites	2000 Applicable Freshmen	2000 Percent Meeting Prerequisites
The Citadel	484	98.76%	517	96.90%	553	98.19%
Clemson	2709	97.15%	2891	99.48%	3034	99.70%
Coastal Carolina	835	99.40%	726	98.48%	763	97.11%
College of Charleston	1908	99.37%	2042	99.36%	1961	99.33%
Francis Marion	657	97.10%	571	96.49%	609	99.17%
Lander	491	95.92%	497	95.37%	515	95.72%
SC State	739	96.48%	680	95.73%	569	100%
USC-Columbia	2738	98.50%	2571	98.52%	2450	98.04%
USC-Aiken	513	91.81%	467	92.71%	521	91.36%
USC-Spartanburg	553	90.95%	565	96.28%	531	95.85%
Winthrop	817	97.06%	949	98.73%	881	97.61%
Total Sr. Institutions	12,444	97.41%	12,476	98.14%	12,387	98.25%
USC-Beaufort ²	68	94.11%	93	95.69%	49	85.71%
USC-Lancaster ²	56	100.00%	61	100.00%	45	97.77%
USC-Salkehatchie ²	9	88.88%	19	100.00%	17	100.00%
USC-Sumter ²	59	100.00%	78	100.00%	64	100.00%
USC-Union ²	20	100.00%	17	100.00%	14	100.00%
Total USC Two-Year	212	97.64%	268	98.51%	189	95.77%
Grand Total	12,656	97.42%	12,744	98.15%	12,576	96.11%

¹Not applicable to foreign students, GED students, and students who graduated prior to 1988.

²At the USC two-year campuses, the prerequisites are applicable only to those students classified by the institution as baccalaureate-ready and accepted as such.

Part III: Indicators of Academic Preparation, Fall 1999

Act 629 of 1988, *The Cutting Edge*, requires public senior colleges and universities in South Carolina to report annually to the Commission on the admissions standards for first-time entering freshmen students. Act 359 also requires that the Commission review admissions standards. This report includes the average scores for all first-time entering freshmen, including those admitted under the regular admission policies of the institution and those who are admitted on a provisional basis (admitted under exceptions to the regular admission policies), foreign students, and students age 22 and above. Scores are submitted separately for each category of in-state students, out-of-state students, and in-state and out-of-state students combined. However, for this report, only the combined data are displayed. Separate data tables for in-state and out-of-

state students in all categories are available upon request or can be found on our web site at <http://www.che400.state.sc.us/web/stats.htm>.

Beginning in 1995, the Commission began using a more inclusive standard of comparison for indicators of academic preparation for entering students. The combined mean for college entrance examinations has been calculated based on the scores of the entire entering freshman class including foreign students, provisional students, students age 22 and above, and students taking the ACT.

Most students attending South Carolina institutions take the SAT rather than the ACT as a college entrance examination. However, South Carolina institutions are beginning to accept more students who have taken only the ACT. In 1994 and prior years this report has included both ACT and SAT scores, with the SAT combined mean and the ACT combined mean listed separately. The combined means reported separately do not give a true picture of the academic preparation of the total freshman class at each institution.

Because the Commission believes it is important to look at the indicators of academic preparation for the first-time entering freshman class without exclusions, an ACT/SAT combined mean is now calculated for the entire entering freshman class. Scores of students who report only ACT scores have been converted to SAT equivalencies using the ACT-SAT concordance tables developed by the Educational Testing Service (ETS). The converted scores were then averaged with the SAT scores to arrive at an SAT/ACT combined mean.

When ACT scores are converted into SAT equivalents and combined into the mean, the SAT/ACT combined mean is in general slightly lower than the SAT combined mean excluding ACT scores. For 2000 combined scores for four-year institutions, eight are higher (9 to 20 points) and three are lower (-2). For the two-year campuses of USC, the 2000 combined mean scores indicate that one is higher (+2) and four are lower (-2 to -8). The SAT/ACT combined mean for South Carolina institutions will be lower, in most cases, than the SAT combined mean, depending on the percentage of students who report only ACT scores at a particular institution. This is because, in general, more than one SAT combined score (verbal and math) converts into the same ACT score, whereas only one ACT composite score converts to an SAT combined score except at the lowest end of the range. Depending on where students' scores fall within a range, including ACT/SAT equivalencies in the calculation of the mean could increase or decrease the combined mean at that institution.

Table 3 ranks institutions by institution type and SAT/ACT combined mean. The combined mean including only SAT scores and the percentage of students reporting ACT scores only is also shown on **Table 3**.

TABLE 3			
SAT/ACT SCORES OF FIRST-TIME ENTERING FRESHMEN, FALL 2000			
(INCLUDING Foreign and Provisional Students and Students Age 22 and Above)			
SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SENIOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITIES			
INSTITUTION	SAT & ACT Combined Mean ¹ Including Foreign, Prov. & Age 22 & Above	SAT (Only) Combined Mean Including Foreign, Prov. & Age 22 & Above	% First-Time Freshmen Including Foreign, Prov. & Age 22 & Above Reporting ACT Only
Research Institutions:			
1. Clemson	1168	1172	12.16%
2. USC-Columbia	1112	1115	13.73%
Average Research Institutions:	1140	1144	12.95%
Comprehensive Teaching Institutions:			
1. College of Charleston	1126	1145	31.08%
2. The Citadel	1071	1066	16.64%
3. Winthrop	1052	1055	14.90%
4. Coastal Carolina	1020	1025	19.57%
5. USC-Aiken	978	981	17.13%
6. Lander University	986	996	24.27%
7. Francis Marion University	957	956	0.00%
8. USC-Spartanburg	959	961	18.10%
9. S.C. State	867	876	19.68%
Average Four-Year Comprehensive Institutions:	1002	1006	17.93%
USC Two-Year Regional Campuses			
1. USC-Sumter	936	956	31.08%
2. USC-Beaufort	927	935	11.46%
3. USC-Lancaster	888	892	9.34%
4. USC-Union	878	907	22.00%
5. USC-Salkehatchie	840	848	14.62%
Average USC Two-Year Regional Campuses	894	908	17.70%
¹ ACT scores converted to SAT equivalencies using the ACT/SAT Concordance Tables.			

Table 4 presents a comparison of the number of students reporting ACT scores only for 1997 and 1998.

Table 4 Comparison of the Percent of Students Reporting ACT Scores Only Academic Years 1999 and 2000		
INSTITUTION	% First-Time Freshmen Including Foreign, Prov. & Age 22 & Above Reporting ACT Only in 1999	% First-Time Freshmen Including Foreign, Prov. & Age 22 & Above Reporting ACT Only in 2000
Research Institutions:		
1. Clemson	9.02%	12.06%
2. USC-Columbia	11.09%	13.73%
Average Research Institutions:	10.01%	12.95%
Comprehensive Teaching Institutions:		
1. College of Charleston	12.68%	31.08%
2. The Citadel	16.24%	16.64%
3. Winthrop University	14.21%	14.90%
4. Coastal Carolina University	21.41%	19.57%
5. USC-Aiken	10.14%	17.13%
6. Lander University	14.88%	24.27%
7. Francis Marion University	0.00%	0.00%
8. USC-Spartanburg	12.64%	18.10%
9. S.C. State University	12.20%	19.68%
Average Four-Year Comprehensive Institutions	7.62%	17.93%
State Average, Four-Year Research and Comprehensive Institutions	8.68%	17.02%
USC Two-Year Regional Campuses		
1. USC-Sumter	26.66%	31.08%
2. USC-Beaufort	9.23%	11.46%
3. USC-Lancaster	3.38%	9.34%
4. USC-Union	12.82%	22.00%
5. USC-Salkehatchie	6.59%	14.62%
Average USC-Two Year Regional Campuses	11.84%	17.70%

When compared to data for 1999, **Table 4** data indicate an increase in the percentage of students who are taking the ACT for all three sectors. In 1999, 10.01% of the students entering the research institutions took the ACT compared to 12.95% in 2000. The 2000 percentage exceeds the high level of 12.33% of 1997 for this sector. For the comprehensive teaching institutions, 7.62% took the ACT in 1999 while only 17.93% did so in 2000. USC's two-year regional campuses saw another increase in students reporting only ACT scores: 8.63% in 1998; 11.84% in 1999; and 17.7% in 2000. The increase in the number of students taking the ACT may be the result of several factors: Students, parents, and guidance counselors are more aware of the alternative to the SAT; ACT is now offering the PLAN test (ACT's version of the PSAT) and has distributed school support materials; the General Assembly has instituted the policy that public school students in the tenth grade may take the PSAT or PLAN tests and the state will pay the test fee; institutional admissions staff informing applicants that the ACT is accepted by

institutions in South Carolina; and an increase at some institutions of out-of-state applicants from ACT states (i.e., Florida, Ohio, Tennessee, etc.).

Table 5 compares the SAT/ACT combined mean for each institution for 1998, 1999, and 2000. **Table 5** indicates an increase in the average combined SAT/ACT mean for the two research institutions. The four-year comprehensive teaching institution sector indicated a mixture of results. Six of the institutions had increases over 1999 scores and three had decreases. The two-year campuses of USC had an average decrease of two points in 1999 but the average is still greater than that of 1997 when the SAT/ACT combined mean was 891.

TABLE 5				
SAT/ACT Scores of First-Time Entering Freshmen				
(Including Foreign, Provisional, and Students Age 22 and Above)				
	1998 SAT/ACT Combined Mean	1999 SAT/ACT Combined Mean	2000 SAT/ACT Combined Mean	Change from 1999 SAT/ACT
Senior Institutions				
The Citadel	1069	1063	1071	+8
Clemson	1145	1156	1168	+12
Coastal Carolina	995	1022	1020	-2
College of Charleston	1109	1106	1126	+20
Francis Marion	961	959	957	-2
Lander	967	968	986	+17
S.C. State	872	857	867	+10
USC-Columbia	1092	1096	1112	+16
USC-Aiken	976	980	978	-2
USC-Spartanburg	940	939	959	+20
Winthrop	1038	1043	1052	+9
USC Two-Year	1998	1999	2000	Change
USC-Beaufort	920	925	927	+2
USC-Lancaster	899	892	888	-4
USC-Salkehatchie	855	848	840	-8
USC-Sumter	939	938	936	-2
USC-Union	878	883	878	-5

Part IV: Provisionally Admitted Students

Two types of admission may be offered to a degree-seeking student upon admission to an institution. Applicants who meet the institution's minimum admission criteria and who are offered admission are classified as regular students. Applicants who do not meet the institution's regular admission requirements but who are offered admission using alternative criteria are classified as provisional students.

Table 6 shows provisional freshmen as a percent of total first-time entering freshmen for Fall 2000 for each institution and overall.

TABLE 6 Provisional Freshmen as a Percent of Total First-Time Freshmen Fall 2000			
Senior Institutions	Total First-Time Freshmen	Provisional Freshmen	Percent Provisional
Clemson	3034	1	.033%
USC-Columbia	2542	246	9.68%
Total Research Institutions	5576	247	4.43%
The Citadel	553	30	5.43%
Coastal Carolina	792	143	18.06%
Coll. of Charleston	2001	143	7.15%
Francis Marion	609	54	8.87%
Lander	515	58	11.26%
S.C. State	569	0	0%
USC-Aiken	543	0	0%
USC-Spartanburg	569	9	1.58%
Winthrop	907	70	7.73%
Total Four-Year Comprehensive	7057	507	7.18%
Total Senior Institutions	12633	754	5.97%
USC-Beaufort	192	129	67.19%
USC-Lancaster	182	111	60.99%
USC-Salkehatchie	171	120	70.18%
USC-Sumter	222	140	63.06%
USC-Union	50	25	50.00%
Total USC Two-Year	817	525	64.26%
Grand Total	13450	1279	9.51%

Of the public senior institutions, Coastal Carolina and Lander University enrolled the largest proportion of freshmen admitted on a provisional basis: 18.06 and 11.26 percent, respectively. USC-Columbia, Francis Marion, Winthrop, College of Charleston, and the Citadel follow in that order. Of those institutions reporting provisional enrollments, Clemson (0.033%) and USC-Spartanburg (1.58%) reported the smallest number of provisional students. USC-Aiken and SC State University enrolled no provisional students in 2000.

At its meeting on August 25, 1997, the Commission approved several recommendations for the institutions to take under consideration regarding provisional students. Among these were two which relate to the data presented in **Table 6**:

- Research universities should limit provisional admissions to no more than 10 percent of the first-time entering freshman class.

- Four-year teaching universities should limit provisional admission to no more than 15 percent of the first-time entering freshman class.

As can be seen from the data presented in **Table 6**, the research universities are now in compliance with the recommended 10% cap. Trend data for the last three years for the four-year comprehensive institutions are shown below in:

	1998	1999	2000
College of Charleston	16.9%	13.4%	7.2%
The Citadel	7.2%	0.0%	5.4%
Winthrop University	12.9%	9.1%	7.7%
Coastal Carolina	18.7%	19.1%	18.1%
USC-Aiken	7.8%	0.4%	0.0%
Lander University	14.1%	12.1%	11.3%
Francis Marion	8.9%	11.6%	8.9%
USC-Spartanburg	4.6%	1.8%	1.6%
S.C. State University	1.6%	3.4%	0.0%

Coastal Carolina was the only four-year comprehensive institution admitting more than the recommended 15% cap on provisional student admissions.

USC applies the same admissions standards used at its main campus to students who apply to a USC two-year campus and who are classified by the institution as baccalaureate-ready students. Because these admissions standards are applicable only to those baccalaureate-ready freshmen, more than one-half of the entering freshmen at the USC two-year campuses are classified as provisional students with the percentage increasing from 56.15 percent in 1998; decreasing in 1999 to 54.12 percent and increasing more than 10 percentage points in 2000 to 64.26 percent.

Part V: Fall 1999 Minimum Admission Standards

A component of Act 629 of 1988 requires the Commission to work with public institutions of higher learning in the State to ensure that minimal admission standards are maintained by the institutions. In 1988 each institution was required to specify annually the minimum approximate SAT score (combined math and verbal) that is required of most applicants for admission as freshmen. In 1993 the Commission approved the collection of additional data to include minimum ACT scores when these were submitted in lieu of SAT scores.

Some institutions use a predictive equation¹ to determine which students to admit. At these institutions, the minimum required scores will vary somewhat depending on the value and

¹ A predictive equation is a formula combining several elements such as high school class rank and/or high school grade point ratio, and SAT or ACT scores, to determine which students to admit. It predicts who should be successful based on prior year's experience.

weight of the other elements in the formula. For this reason, the minimum SAT and ACT scores reported by the institutions as required for admission are approximate. The approximate SAT and ACT score requirements reported by each institution for Fall 2001 are shown on **Table 7**.

TABLE 7								
1.ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS								
APPROXIMATE* MINIMUM SAT SCORE (COMBINED) AND MINIMUM ACT SCORE REQUIREMENTS FOR FIRST-TIME ENTERING FRESHMEN								
	High School Class Rank						Predictive Equation*	
	Top 20%		Between Top 20% & Top 50%		Between Top 50% & Top 80%			
	SAT	ACT	SAT	ACT	SAT	ACT	Yes	No
The Citadel	920	20	920	20	920	20		X
Clemson	910	19	1250	28	1580	36	X	
Coastal Carolina	960	20	960	20	960	20		X
College of Charleston	1020	22	1140	25	1310	28	X	
Francis Marion	800	16	850	18	950	20	X	
Lander	900	18	1000	21	1100	24	X	
S.C. State	830	17	830	17	830	17	X	
USC-Columbia	1000	24	1200	29	1400	33	X	
USC-Aiken***	1000	21	1000	21	1000	21	X	
USC-Spartanburg	850	18	850	18	850	18	X	
Winthrop	900	19	1000	22	1150	25		X
USC-Beaufort**	1000	24	1200	29	1400	33	X	
USC-Lancaster**	1000	24	1200	29	1400	33	X	
USC-Salkehatchie**	1000	24	1200	29	1400	33	X	
USC-Sumter**	1000	24	1200	29	1400	33	X	
USC-Union**	1000	24	1200	29	1400	33	X	

* Some institutions use predictive equations, formulas which combine elements such as high school class rank and/or high school grade point ratios and/or SAT or ACT scores, to determine which students to admit. At these institutions, the minimum required scores will vary somewhat depending on the value and weight of the other elements in the formula.

**Minimum scores reflect requirements for those qualified by the institution to access baccalaureate programs at USC-Columbia. Students with lower SAT scores and high school rank may qualify for other non-baccalaureate admission categories. Regardless of admission category, all students must meet system four-year campus progression requirements in order to change campuses.

***USC-Aiken has identified two significant variables that are utilized in a regression formula which establishes a Predicted Grade Point Average (PGPA), for entering freshmen. These variables are SAT scores and the high school GPA of college prep courses. Of these two variables, the high school GPA of college prep courses is the most important and has more weight in the formula. A student who scores as high as 1100 on the SAT may not be admitted if his/her high school GPA on college prep courses is very low. However, all students who score at least 1000 on the SAT or 21 on the ACT and have a C average on the required college prep courses would be admitted.

Only one institution reported a change in its admissions standards from Fall 2000 to Fall 2001. USC-Spartanburg lowered its minimum SAT score from 900 to 850 for students falling between the top 20 percent and the top 50 percent. For students between the top 50 percent and the top 80 percent, the minimum SAT scores were lowered from 950 to 850. The ACT scores for these two categories were changed as follows from 19 to 18 and from 20 to 18. USC-Spartanburg also indicated that the institution now uses a predictive equation to determine admission. South Carolina State University also indicated that it is now using a predictive equation for admission.