

Undergraduate Admission Standards¹

- I. **Introduction:** The following provides background information regarding the impact of admission standards on undergraduate student recruiting, extent of student remediation, retention rates, graduation rates, and institutional reputation and ranking. Additionally, it offers a brief history of recent changes to undergraduate admission standards (both unconditional and conditional). Finally, it proposes an increase in undergraduate admission standards for fall 2013 and 2014 along with the expected impact of such increases on enrollment.
- II. **General Considerations of Undergraduate Admission Standards**
- A. The single most important factor in improving undergraduate student retention rates and graduation rates is the quality of the academic preparation of students at the time that they enter the university.
 - B. Primary factors in raising ASU's profile in *America's Best Colleges* published by the editors of *US News & World Report* are related directly to the ACT/SAT score as well as associated impacts on student retention and graduation rates (If ASUJ wants to move from a tier 3 rated institution to a top 100 institution in the south, it must raise the minimum ACT score for entry into undergraduate programs).
 - C. ACT/SAT scores are predictors of academic success, which are more reliable than high school GPA because of significant variability of grading by different high schools.
 - D. Undergraduate admission standards at ASUJ have been fairly minimal (nearly "open" admission) and for many years at ASUJ and there has been a reluctance to raise them over concerns that by doing so tuition and fee revenue (needed to meet operational expenses and debt service) would decline and ASUJ would not be serving adequately students in the Delta region.
 - E. Least well prepared students at ASUJ (despite efforts to help them succeed) tend to drop-out, cost more to educate, fail to graduate (or graduate as a small percentage of those who enroll), and tend get in more trouble than better prepared students.
 - F. Changing landscape
 - 1. Community Colleges (e.g., ASUMH, ASUB, and ASUN) provide access to educational opportunity for students who may not qualify to enter ASUJ if/when undergraduate admission standards are raised
 - 2. Growth of the international student population at ASUJ has created revenue necessary to offset the revenue that would be lost from students who would no longer qualify to attend ASUJ if undergraduate admission standards are increased.
 - 3. ASUJ is now designated as a Research university by the State of Arkansas and undergraduate admission standards are Research universities are higher than at Master's Comprehensive universities (e.g., students diagnosed with remedial/developmental needs are often not admissible or admissible only on a conditional basis).
- III. **Undergraduate Admission Standards at ASUJ (Recent History)**
- A. Fall 2009 Undergraduate Admission Standards (tantamount to "open" enrollment)
 - 1. A minimum ACT composite score of 15 or a minimum final high school GPA of 2.25.
 - 2. Comparable scores on the SAT, ASSET or COMPASS may be submitted for consideration.
 - B. Fall 2010 Undergraduate Admission Standards (Approved)
 - 1. Students may be admitted on an unconditional basis with minimum high school cumulative grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale and a minimum composite ACT score of 17.
 - 2. Students may be admitted on a conditional basis with a minimum high school cumulative grade point average of 2.2 on a 4.0 scale and a minimum composite ACT score of 14. Students admitted on a conditional basis must enter the Academic Success Institute and receive passing grades before they may progress into regular academic programs at ASUJ.
 - C. Fall 2011 Undergraduate Admission Standards (Approved)
 - 1. Students may be admitted unconditionally with a high school GPA ≥ 2.5 on a 4.0 scale and a combined ACT score ≥ 19 to qualify for admission to ASU.

¹ N.B.: Prepared by Dr. G. Daniel Howard, CGFM, CFRE, Interim Chancellor

2. Students may be admitted on a conditional basis with a high school GPA ≥ 2.3 and a combined ACT score ≥ 16 . Students admitted on a conditional basis must enter the Academic Success Institute and receive passing grades before they may progress into regular academic programs at ASUJ.
- D. Fall 2012 Undergraduate Admission Standards (Approved)
1. Students may be admitted unconditionally with a high school GPA ≥ 2.5 on a 4.0 scale and a combined ACT score ≥ 21 to qualify for admission to ASU.
 2. Students may be admitted on a conditional basis with a high school GPA ≥ 2.3 and a combined ACT score ≥ 18 . Students admitted on a conditional basis must enter the Academic Success Institute and receive passing grades before they may progress into regular academic programs at ASUJ.

IV. Proposed Undergraduate Admission Standards at ASUJ

A. **Fall 2013 Undergraduate Admission Standards (Proposed)**

1. *Students may be admitted unconditionally with a high school GPA ≥ 2.75 (up from 2.5) on a 4.0 scale and a combined ACT score ≥ 21 to qualify for admission to ASU.*
2. *Students may be admitted on a conditional basis with a high school GPA ≥ 2.3 and a combined ACT score ≥ 18 . Students admitted on a conditional basis must enter the Academic Success Institute and receive passing grades before they may progress into regular academic programs at ASUJ.*
3. *Anticipated Impact: 102 students will move from unconditional to conditional admission status.*

B. **Fall 2014 Undergraduate Admission Standards (Proposed)**

1. *Students may be admitted unconditionally with a high school GPA ≥ 2.75 on a 4.0 scale and a combined ACT score ≥ 21 to qualify for admission to ASU.*
2. *Students may be admitted on a conditional basis with a high school GPA ≥ 2.3 and a combined ACT score ≥ 19 (up from 18). Students admitted on a conditional basis must enter the Academic Success Institute and receive passing grades before they may progress into regular academic programs at ASUJ.*
3. *Anticipated Impact: 94 students will not be admissible at ASUJ.*