

# Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) Minimum Freshman Admission Requirements to Public Baccalaureate Institutions

[www.hecb.wa.gov/research/issues/admissions.asp](http://www.hecb.wa.gov/research/issues/admissions.asp)

**Goals of the minimum freshman admission requirements are to ensure that:**

- Freshmen selected to enroll at the state’s public baccalaureate institutions are ready to succeed academically and earn baccalaureate degrees
- The amount of remedial instruction required for recent high school graduates is minimized
- Institutions recognize that experiences and activities beyond academic achievement can contribute to a successful college application
- Students and families understand that completion of a rigorous curriculum in high school is critically important to prepare for success in college

|   | Interim Standards 2008 - 2011                                     | Revised Minimum Admission Standards 2012   |
|---|---|--|
| <b>Implementation Date</b>                |   | <i>Phased implementation plan to be developed.</i> Standards would be fully implemented for all freshmen seeking admission to the state’s public baccalaureate institutions during and after summer 2012 academic term.  |
| <b>Academic Distribution Requirements</b> | <b>15 total credits</b> of “core” coursework                      | <b>15 total credits</b> of College Academic Distribution Requirements (CADR) coursework.<br>Students must take a minimum of 3 credits <sup>1</sup> of CADR courses each year of high school, including the senior year.  |
| <b>English</b>                            | <b>4 years</b> , including 3 years of literature and composition. | <b>4 credits</b> of English, including 3 credits of literature and composition; may include 1 credit of elective English, such as creative writing, journalistic writing and English as a Second Language.<br><br><i>Note: Passage of the WASL-R is equivalent to the first 2 years of English.</i>  |
| <b>Mathematics</b>                        | <b>3 years</b> , including algebra, geometry and advanced math.   | <b>3 credits</b> of math with at least 1 credit completed in the senior year, including 1 credit each of algebra, geometry, and intermediate algebra or 3 credits of Integrated Math through Integrated Math III. The senior year requirement may be met by courses such as a math elective, statistics, applied math or certain career and technical courses, or an algebra-based science course.<br><br><b>or</b><br>Successful completion of math through pre-calculus meets both the course and senior year requirement in math.<br><br><i>Note: Passage of the WASL-M is equivalent to the first 2 years of math (algebra &amp; geometry or Integrated Math I and II)</i> |

## Minimum Freshman Admission Requirements to Public Baccalaureate Institutions cont.

|                                     | Interim Standards 2008 - 2011  | Revised Minimum Admission Standards 2012  |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Science</b>                      | <p><b>2 years</b>, including 1 year of lab science (equivalent of biology, chemistry, physics, or principles of technology).</p> <p><i>Note: Students applying for college freshman admission beginning in fall 2010 must have completed 2 years of lab science, including 1 year of algebra-based biology, chemistry, or physics.</i></p> | <p><b>2 credits</b> of lab science, including 1 credit of algebra-based biology, chemistry, or physics.</p> <p><i>Note: The requirement for 2 years of lab science, including 1 year of algebra-based biology, chemistry, or physics would take effect in 2010.</i></p> |
| <b>World Languages</b>              | <b>2 years</b> of the same foreign language, Native American language, or American Sign language   | <b>2 credits</b> of the same foreign language, Native American language, or American Sign language.   |
| <b>Social Science</b>               | <b>3 years</b> of social science   | <b>3 credits</b> of social science  |
| <b>Arts</b>                         | <b>1 year</b> of fine, visual, or performing arts, or electives from any of the other required subjects.   | <b>1 credit</b> of fine, visual, or performing arts, or 1 additional credit in math, English, social science, lab science, or world languages.  |
| <b>Minimum Grade Point Average</b>  | Minimum unweighted cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.   | Minimum unweighted cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.  |
| <b>Admissions Index<sup>2</sup></b> | Achieve a minimum score of at least 13 at Central, Eastern and Western Washington universities and The Evergreen State College; and at least 28 at Washington State University and the University of Washington.   | Eliminate Admissions Index requirement  |

1. The current standard refers to “year long courses.” In the proposed revisions to the standards the wording was changed to “credits” in recognition of schools that schedule an equivalent course in a shorter time period (block scheduling by many high schools results in year-long courses being offered in one term, or half-year). The term, credits, would be retained in the Board’s policies.

2. Each student receives a score based on grade point average and college admission test scores.