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MEMORANDUM

To: Chair Terrye Seckinger, and Members, Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

From: John Lane, Director of Academic Affairs and Licensing

Annual Report on Admission Standards for First-Time Entering Freshmen, Fall 2014

Background

In April 1988, the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs adopted a procedure for each institution to report annually on applications, acceptances, and enrollment and to specify the minimum approximate SAT score (combined math and verbal) required of most applicants for admission as freshmen. Act 629 of 1988, *The Cutting Edge*, requires that with respect to admission standards at the public colleges and universities:

- In consultation and coordination with the public institutions of higher learning in this state, the State Commission on Higher Education shall ensure that minimal admission standards are maintained by the institutions.
- The Commission, with the institutions, shall monitor the effect of compliance with admission prerequisites that are effective in fall, 1988 (Section 59-104-10(A)).

Additionally, in Act 359 of 1996, the General Assembly reiterated the importance of reporting admission standards. Section 59-103-45(3) again directed the Commission to review minimum undergraduate admission standards.

Findings

The following findings can be concluded from the data in the attached *Annual Report on Admissions Standards for First-Time Entering Freshman, FY 2014-15*. In Fall 2014, 85.4% of applicable first-time freshmen met all the prerequisites compared to 85.3% in 2013, 91.7% in 2012 and 87.8% in 2011. Data

indicates that among the four-year institutions from Fall 2013 to Fall 2014, the percentage of freshmen meeting high school course prerequisites has slightly decreased. Eight of 12 institutions (66.6%) demonstrated increases in freshmen meeting high school course prerequisites, while four institutions (33.3%) demonstrated decreases in freshmen meeting high school course prerequisites.

Retention rates among students who did not meet the high school course prerequisites are lower for the majority of the institutions. Three institutions showed an increase in freshmen-to-sophomore retention rates for students who did not meet the high school course prerequisites, while nine institutions showed a decrease in retention rates for the same category of students.

Institutions continue to adjust admission requirements for first-time entering freshmen. The required minimum SAT/ACT scores are lower for students with a higher GPA and high school class rank at most institutions.

Finally, six institutions (USC Columbia, Coastal Carolina, College of Charleston, Francis Marion, USC Upstate, and Winthrop) require the new writing component of the SAT. Four institutions continue to analyze the data to determine whether the writing component should become part of the admission requirements and/or be used for supplemental information as part of a holistic review of the student's application.

Attachments

Attached is the annual report on 2014 admission standards compliance for first-time entering freshmen at South Carolina public senior colleges and universities. The Report is presented in five parts:

- [Part I: Fall 2014 Applications, Acceptances, and Enrollments](#)
- [Part II: Fall 2014 Data Related to High School Course Prerequisites](#)
- [Part III: Fall 2014 SAT and ACT Scores](#)
- [Part IV: Fall 2014 Provisionally Admitted Students](#)
- [Part V: Fall 2015 Minimum Admission Standards](#)

The data for Parts II-IV and the enrollment data included in Part I were electronically supplied by the institutions via the Commission on Higher Education Management Information System (CHEMIS).

Recommendation

The staff recommends that the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing commend the Commission endorse this report for transmittal to the South Carolina Department of Education and the chairs of the House and Senate Education Committees.

**ANNUAL REPORT ON ADMISSION STANDARDS FOR
FIRST-TIME ENTERING FRESHMEN, FALL 2014
SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SENIOR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

- [Part I: Fall 2014 Applications, Acceptances, and Enrollments](#)
- [Part II: Fall 2014 Data Related to High School Course Prerequisites](#)
- [Part III: Fall 2014 SAT and ACT Scores](#)
- [Part IV: Fall 2014 Provisionally Admitted Students](#)
- [Part V: Fall 2015 Minimum Admission Standards](#)

Part I: Applications, Acceptances, and Enrollments

In Fall 2014, the state's public senior colleges and universities received 94,735 applications from applicants seeking admissions as first-time freshmen. Of these, 60,373 (63.7%) met the minimum admission standards at one or more of the public senior institutions and were offered admission. Of those who were offered admission, 18,432 (30.5%) applicants enrolled.

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

| Table 1 Applications, Acceptances, and Enrollments S.C. Public Senior Institutions, Fall 2014 | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|---|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Institutions | Number of Applications ¹ | Number of Applicants Offered Admission ¹ | Percent of Applicants Offered Admission | Number Accepted and Enrolled | Percent Accepted and Enrolled |
| Research Institutions | | | | | |
| Clemson | 20,757 | 10,692 | 51.5% | 3,475 | 32.5% |
| USC Columbia | 23,341 | 15,455 | 66.2% | 4,980 | 32.2% |
| Total | 44,098 | 26,147 | 59.3% | 8,455 | 32.3% |
| Comprehensive Teaching Colleges & Universities | | | | | |
| The Citadel | 2,625 | 1,983 | 75.5% | 618 | 31.2% |
| Coastal Carolina | 14,799 | 9,412 | 63.6% | 2,375 | 25.2% |
| College Of Charleston | 11,179 | 8,722 | 78.0% | 2,166 | 24.8% |
| Francis Marion | 3,759 | 2,222 | 59.1% | 758 | 34.1% |
| Lander | 2,963 | 1,712 | 57.8% | 554 | 32.4% |
| S.C. State | 2,911 | 2,461 | 84.5% | 641 | 26.0% |
| USC Aiken | 2,101 | 1,463 | 69.6% | 643 | 44.0% |
| USC Beaufort | 1,685 | 1,110 | 65.9% | 402 | 36.2% |
| USC Upstate | 4,069 | 1,905 | 46.8% | 801 | 42.0% |
| Winthrop | 4,546 | 3,236 | 71.2% | 1,019 | 31.5% |
| Total | 50,637 | 34,226 | 67.6% | 9,977 | 29.2% |
| Grand Total Senior Institutions | 94,735 | 60,373 | 63.7% | 18,432 | 30.5% |

¹ Reported by the institutions.

As shown in **Table 1**, South Carolina State University offered admission to the largest percentage (84.5%) of students who applied, but only enrolled 26% of students offered admission. Three institutions, The Citadel, College of Charleston, and Winthrop, offered admission to 70-80% of applicants. Four institutions, USC Columbia, Coastal Carolina, USC Aiken, and USC Beaufort, offered admission to 60-69% of applicants. Three institutions, Clemson, Francis Marion, and Lander, offered admission to 50-59% of applicants. USC Upstate offered admission to the lowest percentage of applicants (42%). USC Aiken enrolled the largest percentage (44%) of students offered admission.

A comparison of data from Fall 2013 to Fall 2014 shows the percentage of students accepted and enrolled decreased for seven institutions: USC Columbia, College of Charleston, Lander, South Carolina State, USC Aiken, USC Beaufort, and Winthrop. Lander University experienced the largest decrease in the percent accepted and enrolled (-4.8%).

Table 2 provides a five-year overview of applications, acceptances, and enrollments. The number of applicants has increased by 14,446 over the last five years, and the number enrolled has increased by 1,150 students. However, the percentage of applicants who were accepted and enrolled **has decreased** by 1.87% from 2010-2014.

| TABLE 2 Applications, Acceptances, and Enrollments S.C. Public Senior Institutions Five Year Comparison | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|---|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Year | Number of Applications | Number of Applicants Offered Admission | Percent of Applicants Offered Admission | Number Accepted and Enrolled | Percent Accepted and Enrolled |
| 2010 | 80,289 | 53,333 | 66.4% | 17,282 | 32.4% |
| 2011 | 84,366 | 55,419 | 65.7% | 17,671 | 31.9% |
| 2012 | 88,322 | 57,118 | 64.7% | 18,040 | 31.6% |
| 2013 | 87,745 | 57,492 | 65.5% | 17,938 | 31.2% |
| 2014 | 94,735 | 60,373 | 63.7% | 18,432 | 30.5% |

Part II: Data Related to High School Course Prerequisites

Since Fall 1988, public four-year colleges and universities in South Carolina require that applicants have completed certain high school courses before being admitted. The table below shows the high school course prerequisites that were implemented in 2011.

| <i>High School Course Prerequisites 2011</i> |
|---|
| Four units of English: At least two units must have strong grammar and composition components, at least one must be in English literature, and at least one must be in American literature. Completion of College Preparatory English I, II, III, and IV will meet this criterion. |
| Four units of Mathematics: These include Algebra I (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 higher-level mathematics course should be selected from among Algebra III/trigonometry, pre-calculus, calculus, statistics, discrete mathematics, or a capstone mathematics course and should be taken during the senior year. |
| Three units of Laboratory Science: Two units must be taken in two different fields of the physical or life sciences and selected from among biology, chemistry, or physics. The third unit may be from the same field as one of the first two units (biology, chemistry, or physics) or from any laboratory science for which biology and/or chemistry is a prerequisite. Courses in earth science, general physical science, or introductory or general environmental science for which biology and/or chemistry is not a prerequisite will not meet this requirement. It is strongly recommended that students take physical science (taught as a laboratory science) as a prerequisite to the three required units of laboratory science outlined in this section. It is also strongly recommended that students desiring to pursue careers in science, mathematics, engineering or technology take one course in all three fields. |
| Two units of the same Foreign Language. |
| Three units of Social Science: One unit of U.S. History is required; a half unit of Economics and a half unit in Government are strongly recommended. |
| One unit of Elective: One unit must be taken as an elective. A college preparatory course in Computer Science (i.e., one involving significant programming content, not simply keyboarding) is strongly recommended for this elective. Other acceptable electives include college preparatory courses in English; fine arts; foreign languages; social science; humanities; laboratory science (excluding earth science, general physical science, general environmental science, and other introductory science courses for which biology and/or chemistry is not a prerequisite); or mathematics above the level of Algebra II. |
| One unit of Physical Education or ROTC. |
| One unit of Fine Arts: One unit in Appreciation of, History of, or Performance in one of the fine arts. |

Each institution may make admissions exceptions to include the following: 1) students who do not meet all of the prerequisites in cases where 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 Tech Prep (Applied Academics) courses rather than the required college preparatory curriculum described above and who meet all other institutional admission criteria.

Table 3 shows the number and percentage of applicable first-time freshmen meeting all of the high school course prerequisites. As shown in **Table 3, Grand Total**, the proportion of all applicable first-time freshmen meeting all of the prerequisites **increased** from 87.8% in 2011 to 91.7% in 2012. There was a **decrease** from 91.7% in 2012 to 85.3% in 2013 while there was a slight **increase** from 85.3% in 2013 to 87.4% in 2014. The percentage of students meeting all of the prerequisites continues to be below the 1999 average of 98.15%. Of the four-year institutions, there were no institutions in Fall 2014 that met or exceeded the 1999 average.

Table 3
Percent of Applicable¹ First-Time Freshmen Meeting High School Course Prerequisites

| | 2011 | | | 2012 | | | 2013 | | | 2014 | | | Percentage Change from 2011 to 2014 |
|---|---------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | Applicable Freshman | Number Meeting Prerequisites | Percent Meeting Prerequisites | Applicable Freshman | Number Meeting Prerequisites | Percent Meeting Prerequisites | Applicable Freshman | Number Meeting Prerequisites | Percent Meeting Prerequisites | Applicable Freshman | Number Meeting Prerequisites | Percent Meeting Prerequisites | |
| Institutions | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Research Institutions | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Clemson | 2932 | 2457 | 83.8% | 3463 | 3,396 | 98.1% | 3289 | 2,786 | 84.7% | 3475 | 2,966 | 85.4% | 1.6% |
| USC Columbia | 4542 | 3782 | 83.3% | 4549 | 3,861 | 84.9% | 5009 | 4,076 | 81.4% | 4927 | 3,963 | 80.4% | -2.9% |
| Total | 7,475 | 6,239 | 83.5% | 8,012 | 7,257 | 90.6% | 8,298 | 6,862 | 82.7% | 8,402 | 6,929 | 82.5% | -1.0% |
| Comprehensive Teaching Colleges & Universities | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0.0% |
| The Citadel | 630 | 559 | 88.7% | 676 | 615 | 91.0% | 645 | 568 | 88.1% | 539 | 479 | 88.9% | 0.2% |
| Coastal Carolina | 2128 | 1966 | 92.3% | 2176 | 2,039 | 93.7% | 2064 | 2,014 | 97.6% | 2348 | 2,280 | 97.1% | 4.8% |
| College of Charleston | 2330 | 2309 | 99.0% | 2135 | 2,097 | 98.2% | 2107 | 2,072 | 98.3% | 2164 | 2,120 | 98.0% | -1.0% |
| Francis Marion | 743 | 667 | 89.8% | 814 | 732 | 89.9% | 744 | 682 | 91.7% | 758 | 723 | 95.4% | 5.6% |
| Lander | 588 | 520 | 88.4% | 559 | 495 | 88.6% | 505 | 449 | 88.9% | 533 | 497 | 93.2% | 4.8% |
| SC State | 829 | 809 | 97.6% | 664 | 622 | 93.7% | 566 | 526 | 92.9% | 641 | 570 | 88.9% | -8.7% |
| USC Aiken | 593 | 481 | 81.1% | 512 | 453 | 88.5% | 634 | 532 | 83.9% | 605 | 528 | 87.3% | 6.2% |
| USC Beaufort | 416 | 305 | 73.3% | 399 | 329 | 82.5% | 397 | 288 | 72.5% | 388 | 275 | 70.9% | -2.4% |
| USC Upstate | 785 | 646 | 82.3% | 767 | 699 | 91.1% | 766 | 640 | 83.6% | 784 | 655 | 83.5% | 1.2% |
| Winthrop | 963 | 872 | 90.6% | 1120 | 1,023 | 91.3% | 1077 | 1,010 | 93.8% | 1011 | 955 | 94.5% | 3.9% |
| Total | 10,007 | 9,134 | 91.3% | 9,822 | 9,104 | 92.7% | 9,505 | 8,781 | 92.4% | 9,771 | 9,082 | 92.9% | 1.6% |
| Total Senior Institutions | 17,482 | 15,371 | 87.9% | 17,834 | 16,361 | 91.7% | 17,803 | 15,643 | 87.9% | 18,173 | 16,011 | 88.1% | 0.2% |
| Two-Year Regional Campuses of USC² | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0.0% |
| USC Lancaster | 105 | 89 | 84.8% | 98 | 83 | 84.7% | 363 | 188 | 51.8% | 319 | 145 | 45.5% | -39.3% |
| USC Salkehatchie | 17 | 1 | 5.9% | 20 | 17 | 85.0% | 287 | 13 | 4.5% | 256 | 3 | 1.2% | -4.7% |
| USC Sumter | 94 | 93 | 98.9% | 82 | 81 | 98.8% | 226 | 169 | 74.8% | 216 | 151 | 69.9% | -29.0% |
| USC-Union | 14 | 3 | 21.4% | 4 | 4 | 100.0% | 100 | 3 | 3.0% | 134 | 0 | 0.0% | -21.4% |
| Total USC Two-Year | 230 | 186 | 80.9% | 204 | 185 | 90.7% | 976 | 373 | 38.2% | 925 | 299 | 32.3% | -48.6% |
| Grand Total | 17,712 | 15,559 | 87.8% | 18,038 | 16,546 | 91.7% | 18,779 | 16,016 | 85.3% | 19,098 | 16,310 | 85.4% | -2.4% |

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

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

Institutional Findings

As shown in **Table 3**, for Fall 2014, five senior institutions, Coastal Carolina, College of Charleston, Francis Marion, Lander, and Winthrop show a compliance rate between 90%-100%; five senior institutions, Clemson, South Carolina State, The Citadel, USC Columbia, USC Aiken, and USC Upstate, show a compliance rate between 80%-90%; and one senior institution, USC Beaufort, shows a compliance rate of less than 80%. Five four-year institutions, The Citadel, Coastal Carolina, College of Charleston, South Carolina State, and USC Columbia, showed a decrease in compliance rates from Fall 2013 to Fall 2014. All five of these institutions reported Foreign Language and Fine Arts as areas where prerequisites were not met. In addition, two institutions, The Citadel and USC Beaufort, indicated Lab Science as an area in which prerequisites are not met.

Staff has begun to ask institutions if new admissions requirements or other developments in institutional mission or student recruiting can help explain the most recent trends in increases or decreases in compliance rates. For example, in 2006, institutional representatives communicated to CHE staff that a reason for a lower compliance rate was because of “out-of-state” students. As a result, the percent of applicable first-time freshmen meeting high school course prerequisites was divided into “In-State Only” (**Table 3A**) and “Out-of-State Only” (**Table 3B**) to determine if admission of out-of-state students produced a decrease in the percentage of first-time freshmen meeting the high school course prerequisites. A comparison between the last column of both **Table 3A** and **Table 3B** indicates that in Fall 2014 the percentage of first-time in-state freshmen meeting high school course prerequisites was higher for all but one of the institutions than for out-of-state freshmen, South Carolina State University. Eleven institutions (Clemson, USC Columbia, The Citadel, Coastal Carolina, College of Charleston, Francis Marion, Lander, USC Aiken, USC Beaufort, USC Upstate, and Winthrop) show a decrease of 2.5% - 42% between in-state, first-time freshmen meeting high school course prerequisites, compared to out-of-state, first-time freshmen. Therefore, the decrease in compliance reported in **Table 3** may be attributed to out-of-state students because of a larger percentage decrease from the previous years as compared to “In-State Only” students.

As **Table 3A** and **Table 3B** show, the decrease in compliance reported in **Table 3** for four of the institutions, USC Columbia, College of Charleston, South Carolina State University, and USC Beaufort can be attributed to admission of out-of-state students.

As **Table 3B** shows, five institutions, The Citadel, Francis Marion, Lander, USC Aiken, and USC Upstate, improved their compliance rate for out-of-state students in 2014. However, six senior institutions report a compliance rate for out-of-state students below the average of 82.7% for all institutions, ranging from 36.1% to 79.8%.

USC Beaufort’s compliance rate increased since becoming a four-year institution in Fall 2004. While there was a 3.2% decrease in compliance from Fall 2009 to Fall 2010, and a 10.6% decrease from Fall 2010 to Fall 2011, the institution experienced an increase of 9.2% from Fall 2011 to Fall 2012 with the revised requirements. However, USC Beaufort demonstrates the lowest compliance for the last four years. The 9.2% increase in compliance rate between 2011 and 2012 (73.3%-82.5%) was followed by a 10% decrease in compliance rate between 2012 and 2013 (82.5%-72.5%), then a 1.7% decrease in compliance rate between 2013 and 2014 (72.5%-70.9%), resulting in an overall 2.4% decrease in compliance from Fall 2011 to Fall 2014. The data received from USC Beaufort indicated freshmen did not meet the prerequisites in English (5.4%), Mathematics (6.4%), Lab Science (12.2%), and Fine Arts (5.4%).

Table 3A
Percent of Applicable¹ First-Time Freshmen Meeting High School Course Prerequisites
In-State Only

| Institutions | 2011 | | | 2012 | | | 2013 | | | 2014 | | | Percentage Change from 2011 to 2014 |
|---|---------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | Applicable Freshman | Number Meeting Prerequisites | Percent Meeting Prerequisites | Applicable Freshman | Number Meeting Prerequisites | Percent Meeting Prerequisites | Applicable Freshman | Number Meeting Prerequisites | Percent Meeting Prerequisites | Applicable Freshman | Number Meeting Prerequisites | Percent Meeting Prerequisites | |
| Research Institutions | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Clemson | 1,841 | 1,585 | 86.1% | 2,114 | 2,073 | 98.1% | 2,000 | 1,756 | 87.8% | 2,104 | 1,895 | 90.1% | 4.0% |
| USC Columbia | 2,598 | 2,300 | 88.5% | 2,458 | 2,255 | 91.7% | 2,569 | 2,289 | 89.1% | 2,460 | 2,165 | 88.0% | -0.5% |
| Total | 4,439 | 3,885 | 87.5% | 4,572 | 4,328 | 94.7% | 4,569 | 4,045 | 88.5% | 4,564 | 4,060 | 89.0% | 1.5% |
| Comprehensive Teaching Colleges & Universities | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0.0% |
| The Citadel | 283 | 265 | 93.6% | 347 | 337 | 97.1% | 339 | 316 | 93.2% | 275 | 259 | 94.2% | 0.6% |
| Coastal Carolina | 967 | 920 | 95.1% | 1,015 | 983 | 96.8% | 952 | 936 | 98.3% | 966 | 952 | 98.6% | 3.5% |
| College of Charleston | 1,166 | 1,158 | 99.3% | 1,068 | 1,059 | 99.2% | 1,113 | 1,104 | 99.2% | 1,195 | 1,185 | 99.2% | -0.1% |
| Francis Marion | 702 | 632 | 90.0% | 782 | 705 | 90.2% | 710 | 658 | 92.7% | 715 | 683 | 95.5% | 5.5% |
| Lander | 563 | 498 | 88.5% | 522 | 467 | 89.5% | 473 | 429 | 90.7% | 508 | 476 | 93.7% | 5.2% |
| SC State | 566 | 551 | 97.3% | 509 | 483 | 94.9% | 439 | 405 | 92.3% | 445 | 388 | 87.2% | -10.1% |
| USC Aiken | 522 | 443 | 84.9% | 470 | 423 | 90.0% | 549 | 478 | 87.1% | 537 | 481 | 89.6% | 4.7% |
| USC Beaufort | 332 | 250 | 75.3% | 322 | 281 | 87.3% | 313 | 251 | 80.2% | 324 | 253 | 78.1% | 2.8% |
| USC Upstate | 729 | 609 | 83.5% | 703 | 653 | 92.9% | 697 | 601 | 86.2% | 712 | 610 | 85.7% | 2.2% |
| Winthrop | 863 | 791 | 91.7% | 1,014 | 940 | 92.7% | 1,002 | 949 | 94.7% | 917 | 880 | 96.0% | 4.3% |
| Total | 6,693 | 6,117 | 91.4% | 6,752 | 6,331 | 93.8% | 6,587 | 6,127 | 93.0% | 6,594 | 6,167 | 93.5% | 2.1% |
| Total Senior Institutions | 11,132 | 10,002 | 89.8% | 11,324 | 10,659 | 94.1% | 11,156 | 10,172 | 91.2% | 11,158 | 10,227 | 91.7% | 1.9% |
| Two-Year Regional Campuses of USC² | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0.0% |
| USC Lancaster | 103 | 88 | 85.4% | 97 | 83 | 85.6% | 340 | 181 | 53.2% | 308 | 143 | 46.4% | -39.0% |
| USC Salkehatchie | 17 | 1 | 5.9% | 20 | 17 | 85.0% | 37 | 13 | 35.1% | 4 | 3 | 75.0% | 69.1% |
| USC Sumter | 92 | 91 | 98.9% | 81 | 80 | 98.8% | 214 | 166 | 77.6% | 198 | 149 | 75.3% | -23.6% |
| USC-Union | 13 | 3 | 23.1% | 4 | 4 | 100.0% | 13 | 3 | 23.1% | 0 | | | -23.1% |
| Total USC Two-Year | 225 | 183 | 81.3% | 202 | 184 | 91.1% | 604 | 363 | 60.1% | 510 | 295 | 57.8% | -23.5% |
| Grand Total | 11,357 | 10,185 | 89.7% | 11,526 | 10,843 | 94.1% | 11,760 | 10,535 | 89.6% | 11,668 | 10,522 | 90.2% | 0.5% |

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

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

Table 3B
Percent of Applicable¹ First-Time Freshmen Meeting High School Course Prerequisites
Out-of-State Only

| Institutions | 2011 | | | 2012 | | | 2013 | | | 2014 | | | Percentage Change from 2011 to 2014 |
|---|---------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | Applicable Freshman | Number Meeting Prerequisites | Percent Meeting Prerequisites | Applicable Freshman | Number Meeting Prerequisites | Percent Meeting Prerequisites | Applicable Freshman | Number Meeting Prerequisites | Percent Meeting Prerequisites | Applicable Freshman | Number Meeting Prerequisites | Percent Meeting Prerequisites | |
| Research Institutions | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Clemson | 1,091 | 872 | 79.9% | 1349 | 1323 | 98.1% | 1289 | 1030 | 79.9% | 1371 | 1071 | 78.1% | -1.8% |
| USC Columbia | 1,944 | 1,482 | 76.2% | 2091 | 1606 | 76.8% | 2388 | 1787 | 74.8% | 2455 | 1798 | 73.2% | -3.0% |
| Total | 3,036 | 2,354 | 77.5% | 3,440 | 2,929 | 85.1% | 3,677 | 2,817 | 76.6% | 3,826 | 2,869 | 75.0% | -2.5% |
| Comprehensive Teaching Colleges & Universities | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0.0% |
| The Citadel | 347 | 294 | 84.7% | 329 | 278 | 84.5% | 306 | 252 | 82.4% | 264 | 220 | 83.3% | -1.4% |
| Coastal Carolina | 1,161 | 1,046 | 90.1% | 1161 | 1056 | 91.0% | 1112 | 1078 | 96.9% | 1382 | 1328 | 96.1% | 6.0% |
| College of Charleston | 1,166 | 1,151 | 98.7% | 1067 | 1038 | 97.3% | 994 | 968 | 97.4% | 969 | 935 | 96.5% | -2.2% |
| Francis Marion | 41 | 35 | 85.4% | 32 | 27 | 84.4% | 34 | 24 | 70.6% | 43 | 40 | 93.0% | 7.6% |
| Lander | 25 | 22 | 88.0% | 37 | 28 | 75.7% | 32 | 20 | 62.5% | 25 | 21 | 84.0% | -4.0% |
| SC State | 263 | 258 | 98.1% | 155 | 139 | 89.7% | 127 | 121 | 95.3% | 196 | 182 | 92.9% | -5.2% |
| USC Aiken | 71 | 38 | 53.5% | 42 | 30 | 71.4% | 82 | 54 | 65.9% | 66 | 47 | 71.2% | 17.7% |
| USC Beaufort | 84 | 55 | 65.5% | 77 | 48 | 62.3% | 79 | 37 | 46.8% | 61 | 22 | 36.1% | -29.4% |
| USC Upstate | 56 | 37 | 66.1% | 64 | 46 | 71.9% | 58 | 39 | 67.2% | 62 | 45 | 72.6% | 6.5% |
| Winthrop | 100 | 81 | 81.0% | 106 | 83 | 78.3% | 75 | 61 | 81.3% | 94 | 75 | 79.8% | -1.2% |
| Total | 3,314 | 3,017 | 91.0% | 3,070 | 2,773 | 90.3% | 2,899 | 2,654 | 91.5% | 3,162 | 2,915 | 92.2% | 1.2% |
| Total Senior Institutions | 6,350 | 5,371 | 84.6% | 6,510 | 5,702 | 87.6% | 6,576 | 5,471 | 83.2% | 6,988 | 5,784 | 82.8% | -1.8% |
| Two-Year Regional Campuses of USC² | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0.0% |
| USC Lancaster | 2 | 1 | 50.0% | 1 | 0 | 0.0% | 13 | 7 | 53.8% | 6 | 2 | 33.3% | -16.7% |
| USC Salkehatchie | 0 | | | 0 | | | 1 | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | | | 0.0% |
| USC Sumter | 2 | 2 | 100.0% | 1 | 1 | 100.0% | 6 | 3 | 50.0% | 5 | 2 | 40.0% | -60.0% |
| USC-Union | 1 | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | | | 0 | | | 0 | | | 0.0% |
| Total USC Two-Year | 5 | 3 | 60.0% | 2 | 1 | 50.0% | 20 | 10 | 50.0% | 11 | 4 | 36.4% | -23.6% |
| Grand Total | 6,355 | 5,374 | 84.6% | 6,512 | 5,703 | 87.6% | 6,596 | 5,481 | 83.1% | 6,999 | 5,788 | 82.7% | -1.9% |

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

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

For the fourth time, this report examines the freshman-to-sophomore retention rate of first-time freshmen in relationship to the prerequisite compliance data. **Table 3C** shows the retention rate of first-time freshmen who did not meet the recommended high school course prerequisites. Nine of the 12 senior institutions showed a **lower** retention rate for students who did not meet the high school course requirements (Clemson, USC Columbia, Coastal Carolina, Francis Marion, Lander, South Carolina State, USC Beaufort, USC Upstate, and Winthrop), while three of the senior institutions showed a **higher** retention rate for students who did not meet the high school course requirements (The Citadel, College of Charleston, and USC Aiken). These three institutions will be asked to suggest reasons for this development with the anticipation of inviting them to describe this success to the other institutions. Francis Marion, USC Beaufort, and USC Upstate showed the largest differences in retention rates between students who met the requirements compared to those who did not meet them, with USC Aiken showing the smallest difference.

| Table 3C Fall 2013 First-Time Freshmen Not Meeting High School Prerequisites Retained at Same Institution in Fall 2014 S.C. Public Senior Institutions | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------|---|----------|------------|---|----------|------------|
| Institution | | Applicable Freshmen Meeting Prerequisites | | | Applicable Freshmen Not Meeting Prerequisites | | |
| Research Institutions | Applicable Freshmen | Number | Retained | Percentage | Number | Retained | Percentage |
| Clemson | 3,289 | 2,786 | 2,595 | 93.10% | 503 | 439 | 87.30% |
| USC Columbia | 5,009 | 4,076 | 3,580 | 87.80% | 933 | 803 | 86.10% |
| Comprehensive Teaching Colleges & Universities | | | | | | | |
| The Citadel | 645 | 568 | 480 | 84.50% | 77 | 71 | 92.20% |
| Coastal Carolina | 2,064 | 2,014 | 1,346 | 66.80% | 50 | 30 | 60.00% |
| College of Charleston | 2,107 | 2,072 | 1,631 | 78.70% | 35 | 28 | 80.00% |
| Francis Marion | 744 | 682 | 474 | 69.50% | 62 | 34 | 54.80% |
| Lander University | 505 | 449 | 310 | 69.00% | 56 | 36 | 64.30% |
| South Carolina State | 566 | 526 | 329 | 62.50% | 40 | 23 | 57.50% |
| USC Aiken | 634 | 532 | 336 | 63.20% | 102 | 65 | 63.70% |
| USC Beaufort | 397 | 288 | 148 | 51.40% | 109 | 42 | 38.50% |
| USC Upstate | 766 | 640 | 471 | 73.60% | 126 | 78 | 61.90% |
| Winthrop | 1,077 | 1,010 | 777 | 76.90% | 67 | 49 | 73.10% |

On average, there was a 4.8% decrease in retention rates for students who did not meet the prerequisites compared to those who did. Based on the data, students who met the high school course prerequisites were more likely to remain in college and transition to their sophomore year.

Part III: SAT and ACT Scores as Indicators of Academic Preparation, Fall 2014

This report includes the average SAT/ACT scores for all first-time entering freshmen. As of this report, the majority of students attending South Carolina institutions took the SAT rather than the ACT as a college entrance examination. The 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 are 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 slightly lower than the SAT combined mean excluding ACT scores (except for the research institutions). In general, this lowered mean is because 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), they could either increase or decrease the combined mean at that institution. **Table 4** shows the following: 1) institutions by sector; 2) the SAT/ACT combined mean; 3) the combined mean for SAT scores only; and 4) the percentage of students reporting ACT scores only.

Table 5 compares the SAT/ACT combined mean for each institution for the most recent five years. Eight senior institutions (Clemson, USC Columbia, The Citadel, Francis Marion, Lander, South Carolina State, USC Aiken, and Winthrop) showed an **increase** in the average combined SAT/ACT mean between 2013 and 2014 while four

Table 4
SAT/ACT Scores of First-Time Entering Freshmen, Fall 2014
(Including Foreign and Provisional Students and Students Age 22 and Above)
S.C. Public Senior Institutions

| Institutions | SAT & ACT Combined Mean ¹ | SAT (Only) Combined Mean | % Reporting ACT Score |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Research Institutions | | | |
| Clemson | 1264 | 1252 | 45.1% |
| USC Columbia | 1218 | 1210 | 41.3% |
| Average Research Institutions | 1237 | 1227 | 42.9% |
| Comprehensive Teaching Colleges & Universities | | | |
| The Citadel | 1083 | 1091 | 42.2% |
| Coastal Carolina | 1001 | 1001 | 36.3% |
| College of Charleston | 1141 | 1130 | 45.5% |
| Francis Marion | 942 | 960 | 49.5% |
| Lander | 985 | 982 | 42.1% |
| S.C. State | 828 | 826 | 62.3% |
| USC Aiken | 988 | 986 | 34.1% |
| USC Beaufort | 948 | 947 | 39.3% |
| USC Upstate | 971 | 959 | 38.6% |
| Winthrop | 1056 | 1055 | 41.7% |
| Average Comprehensive Teaching Institutions | 1021 | 1017 | 42.4% |
| Average Senior Institutions | 1120 | 1111 | 42.6% |
| Two-Year Regional Campuses of USC | | | |
| USC Lancaster | 882 | 899 | 41.7% |
| USC Salkehatchie | 802 | 836 | 53.9% |
| USC Sumter | 944 | 951 | 49.1% |
| USC Union | 799 | 814 | 35.5% |
| Average Two-Year Regional Campuses of USC | 863 | 823 | 45.8% |

¹ ACT scores converted to SAT equivalencies using the ACT/SAT Concordance Tables.

senior institutions (Coastal Carolina, College of Charleston, USC Beaufort, and USC Upstate) showed a **decrease**. The College of Charleston showed the largest decrease (-12 points). When comparing the change in combined mean for 2010-2014, seven senior institutions showed an **increase** in the average combined SAT/ACT mean while

five institutions showed a **decrease**. Also, while both Coastal Carolina and USC Beaufort showed decreases from 2013-2014, the combined mean increased from 2010-2014 whereas South Carolina State showed an increase from 2013-2014, but a decrease from 2010-2014. Francis Marion, which showed no change from 2013-2014, also showed a decrease from 2010-2014. Despite these decreases, the average combined SAT/ACT mean for the senior institutions increased from 2010-2014. At present, reasons for the decreases shown in **Table 5** are unknown.

Table 5
SAT/ACT Scores of First-Time Entering Freshmen¹
(Including Foreign, Provisional, and Students Age 22 and Above)

| Institutions | 2010 SAT/ACT Combined Mean | 2011 SAT/ACT Combined Mean | 2012 SAT/ACT Combined Mean | 2013 SAT/ACT Combined Mean | 2014 SAT/ACT Combined Mean | 2013-2014 Change Combined Mean | 2011-2014 Change Combined Mean |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Research Institutions | | | | | | | |
| Clemson | 1236 | 1236 | 1253 | 1254 | 1264 | 10 | 28 |
| USC Columbia | 1190 | 1200 | 1202 | 1212 | 1218 | 6 | 28 |
| Average Research Institutions | 1209 | 1214 | 1224 | 1229 | 1237 | 8 | 28 |
| Comprehensive Teaching Colleges & Universities | | | | | | | |
| The Citadel | 1059 | 1085 | 1083 | 1079 | 1083 | 4 | 24 |
| Coastal Carolina | 991 | 999 | 998 | 1004 | 1001 | -3 | 10 |
| College of Charleston | 1160 | 1147 | 1159 | 1153 | 1141 | -12 | -19 |
| Francis Marion | 973 | 945 | 944 | 942 | 942 | 0 | -31 |
| Lander | 981 | 966 | 976 | 979 | 985 | 6 | 4 |
| S.C. State | 879 | 866 | 835 | 799 | 828 | 29 | -51 |
| USC Aiken | 991 | 988 | 982 | 986 | 988 | 2 | -3 |
| USC Beaufort | 940 | 943 | 942 | 951 | 948 | -3 | 8 |
| USC Upstate | 983 | 984 | 984 | 972 | 971 | -1 | -12 |
| Winthrop | 1054 | 1059 | 1049 | 1037 | 1056 | 19 | 2 |
| Average Comprehensive Teaching Institutions | 1022 | 1023 | 1023 | 1021 | 1021 | 0 | -1 |
| Average Senior Institutions | 1103 | 1105 | 1113 | 1118 | 1120 | 2 | 17 |
| Two-Year Regional Campuses of USC | | | | | | | |
| USC Lancaster | 870 | 870 | 870 | 873 | 882 | 9 | 12 |
| USC Salkehatchie | 805 | 807 | 798 | 798 | 802 | 4 | -3 |
| USC Sumter | 931 | 934 | 931 | 931 | 944 | 13 | 13 |
| USC Union | 802 | 820 | 834 | 834 | 799 | -35 | -3 |
| Average Two-Year Regional Campuses of USC | 866 | 866 | 859 | 859 | 863 | 4 | -3 |

¹ ACT scores converted to SAT equivalencies using the ACT/SAT Concordance Tables.

Part IV: Provisionally Admitted Students

An institution may offer two types of admission to a degree-seeking student. 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 2014 for each institution and overall. South Carolina State University admitted the largest percentage of provisional freshmen (11.1%).

| Table 6 Provisional Freshmen as a Percent of Total First-Time Freshmen Fall 2014 | | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Institutions | Total First-Time Freshmen | Provisional Freshmen | Percent Provisional |
| Research Institutions | | | |
| Clemson | 3475 | 0 | 0.0% |
| USC Columbia | 4981 | 0 | 0.0% |
| Total | 8,456 | 0 | 0.0% |
| Comprehensive Teaching Colleges & Universities | | | |
| The Citadel | 618 | 0 | 0.0% |
| Coastal Carolina | 2,375 | 0 | 0.0% |
| College of Charleston | 2,166 | 225 | 10.4% |
| Francis Marion | 758 | 1 | 0.1% |
| Lander | 554 | 30 | 5.4% |
| S.C. State | 641 | 71 | 11.1% |
| USC Aiken | 643 | 0 | 0.0% |
| USC Beaufort | 402 | 10 | 2.5% |
| USC Upstate | 801 | 47 | 5.9% |
| Winthrop | 1,019 | 93 | 9.1% |
| Total Comprehensive Teaching Institutions | 9,977 | 477 | 4.8% |
| Total | 18,433 | 477 | 2.6% |
| Two-Year Regional Campuses of USC | | | |
| USC Lancaster | 336 | 0 | 0.0% |
| USC Salkehatchie | 269 | 0 | 0.0% |
| USC Sumter | 216 | 0 | 0.0% |
| USC Union | 141 | 0 | 0.0% |
| Total | 962 | 0 | 0.0% |
| Grand Total | 19,395 | 477 | 2.5% |

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

- Research universities should limit provisional admissions to no more than 10% of the first-time entering freshman class.
- Four-year teaching universities should limit provisional admissions to no more than 15% of the first-time entering freshman class.

As evident by reviewing the data presented in **Table 6**, in 2014, all four-year institutions were in compliance with the recommendations. Trend data for provisional admissions for the last five years for the four-year comprehensive teaching institutions are shown in **Table 7** below:

| Research Institutions | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| Clemson | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| USC Columbia | 0.0% | 3.7% | 16.0% | 13.8% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Comprehensive Teaching Colleges & Universities | | | | | | |
| The Citadel | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Coastal Carolina | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| College of Charleston | 11.6% | 13.8% | 12.1% | 9.5% | 10.1% | 10.4% |
| Francis Marion | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.8% | 0.1% | 0.3% | 0.1% |
| Lander | 0.0% | 0.0% | 4.5% | 4.0% | 3.5% | 5.4% |
| S.C. State | 0.0% | 8.1% | 2.4% | 7.4% | 7.1% | 11.1% |
| USC Aiken | 7.0% | 7.3% | 4.8% | 6.5% | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| USC Beaufort* | 2.9% | 2.9% | 6.7% | 3.4% | 2.0% | 2.5% |
| USC Upstate | 7.3% | 7.8% | 9.0% | 6.5% | 0.0% | 5.9% |
| Winthrop | 7.2% | 9.6% | 10.0% | 12.0% | 12.2% | 9.1% |

These data indicate that the percentage of provisional students admitted to the four-year comprehensive institutions has fluctuated at several institutions over the last five years. As of this report College of Charleston has had a higher percentage of provisional students, but remains below the recommended 15%. South Carolina State University admitted a larger number of provisional students in 2014 compared to the previous five years.

It is important to note that USC applies the same admissions standards used at its main campus to students who apply to a USC regional campus (two-year) and who are classified by the institution as baccalaureate-ready students. When students apply to a Regional Campus, their application is compared to USC Columbia’s admission standards. If the student could have been admitted to Columbia but desires admission to the local Regional Campus, that student is classified as a Columbia admit, using long-established USC-specific (that is, not state-wide, common) criteria. If the student does not meet Columbia criteria (which could be any combination of high school prerequisites, standardized test scores or predicted GPA), the student is classified as a branch campus admit (i.e., the original designation of all campuses outside of Columbia). These branch admit students must earn a minimum 2.0 GPA and at least 30 hours in order to be able to change campuses to Columbia. No remediation is offered at the Regional Campuses. Information in the chart below indicates that the USC two-year campuses have reduced the number of first time entering freshmen who are classified as provisional students over the past two years.

| USC Two-Year Campuses Annual Percentage | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 65.0% | 63.8% | 64.5% | 68.8% | 0.1% | 0.0% |

Part V: Fall 2015 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. The publication and dissemination of minimal admission standards was recommended by external consultants who argued that unless students had a clear sense of what institutional expectations are, they could not rise to meet these expectations. In 1988, each institution was required to specify annually the minimum approximate SAT score (combined math and verbal) required of most applicants for admission as freshmen. In 1993, the Commission approved the collection of additional data to include minimum ACT scores if these were submitted in lieu of SAT scores.

It is important to note these minimum admissions standards are approximate. Some institutions use a predictive equation 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 admissions formula. For this reason, the minimum SAT and ACT scores reported by the institutions as required for admission are to be used as guideposts for students aspiring to admission to any given institution.

Many institutions have reported that they no longer use class rank to set the approximate minimum SAT/ACT score, but instead use the Grade Point Average (GPA) of the core high school college prep curriculum. In order to report more accurately the approximate minimum SAT/ACT score for the institutions, the Commission requested information on which method an institution used to set the minimum score and to present this information in this report. These data are separated into two tables indicating institutions that use class rank (**Table 8**) and those that use core GPA (**Table 9**) to set the approximate minimum SAT/ACT score. Seven institutions, Clemson University, College of Charleston, Lander University, South Carolina State University, USC Aiken, USC Beaufort, and USC Upstate, report using both methods.

Table 8 shows the approximate SAT and ACT score requirements reported by each institution **using class rank for Fall 2015**.

| Table 8 Admission Requirements Approximate Minimum SAT Score (Combined) and Minimum ACT Score Requirements for First-Time Entering Freshmen 2015 | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------------------|-----|------------------|-----|------------------|-----|---------------------|-----|
| Institutions | High School Class Rank | | | | | | Predictive Equation | |
| | Top 20% of Class | | Top 50% of Class | | Top 80% of Class | | Yes | No |
| | SAT | ACT | SAT | ACT | SAT | ACT | | |
| Research Institutions | | | | | | | | |
| Clemson | 1060 | 23 | 1300 | 30 | 1580 | 36 | X | |
| USC Columbia | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | | |
| Comprehensive Teaching Colleges & Universities | | | | | | | | |
| The Citadel | 950 | 20 | 950 | 20 | 950 | 20 | | X |
| Coastal Carolina | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | | X |
| College of Charleston | 1095 | 24 | 1104 | 24 | N/A | N/A | | X |
| Francis Marion | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Lander | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | | X |
| S.C. State | 830 | 17 | 830 | 17 | 830 | 17 | | X |
| USC Aiken | 800 | 17 | 800 | 17 | N/A | N/A | X | |
| USC Beaufort | 800 | 17 | 800 | 17 | 800 | 17 | | X |
| USC Upstate | 850 | 18 | 900 | 19 | 900 | 19 | X | |
| Winthrop | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | | X |
| Two-Year Regional Campuses of USC | | | | | | | | |
| USC Lancaster | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | | |
| USC Salkehatchie | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | | |
| USC Sumter | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | | |
| USC Union | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | | |

¹Some institutions use predictive equations, a formula combining high school class rank, high school grade point ratio, and SAT or ACT score, to determine which students to admit. At these institutions, the minimum required score will vary depending on the value and weight of the other elements in the formula.

Table 9 shows the approximate SAT and ACT score requirements reported by each institution **using core GPA for Fall 2015**.

| Table 9 Admission Requirements Approximate Minimum SAT Score (Combined) and Minimum ACT Score Requirements for First-Time Entering Freshmen 2015 | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|-----|-----------------|-----|-----------------|-----|--|----|
| Institutions | High School Core GPA and Minimum SAT/ACT score | | | | | | Use Predictive Equation ¹ | |
| | Core GPA 2.0 | | Core GPA 3.0 | | Core GPA 4.0 | | Yes | No |
| | SAT | ACT | SAT | ACT | SAT | ACT | | |
| Research Institutions | | | | | | | | |
| Clemson | 1580 | 36 | 1280 | 29 | 970 | 22 | X | |
| USC Columbia | 1250 | 28 | 950 | 20 | 700 | 15 | X | |
| Comprehensive Teaching Colleges & Universities | | | | | | | | |
| The Citadel | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | | X |
| Coastal Carolina | 960 | 20 | 900 | 19 | 860 | 18 | | X |
| College of Charleston | N/A | N/A | 1154 | 25 | 1097 | 24 | | X |
| Francis Marion ² | * | * | 780 | 16 | 780 | 16 | | X |
| Lander | 1050 | 23 | 900 | 19 | 820 | 17 | | X |
| S.C. State | 830 | 17 | 830 | 17 | 830 | 17 | | X |
| USC Aiken | 910 | 19 | 800 | 17 | 800 | 17 | X | |
| USC Beaufort | 800 | 17 | 800 | 17 | 800 | 17 | | X |
| USC Upstate | 900 | 19 | 900 | 19 | 850 | 18 | X | |
| Winthrop University | N/A | N/A | 900 | 19 | 850 | 18 | | X |
| Two-Year Regional Campuses of USC | | | | | | | | |
| USC Lancaster | 1250 | 28 | 950 | 20 | 700 | 15 | X | |
| USC Salkehatchie | 1250 | 28 | 950 | 20 | 700 | 15 | X | |
| USC Sumter | 1250 | 28 | 950 | 20 | 700 | 15 | X | |
| USC Union | 1250 | 28 | 950 | 20 | 700 | 15 | X | |

¹ Some institutions use predictive equations, a formula combining high school class rank, high school grade point ratio, and SAT or ACT score, to determine which students to admit. At these institutions, the minimum required score will vary depending on the value and weight of the other elements in the formula.

² At Francis Marion, a new freshman applicant who has a high school GPA 2.3 or below may be presented to the Admissions, Advising, and Retention Committee for possible admittance if they have an SAT of at least 1000 or an ACT of at least 22.

In 2005, the SAT added a mandatory writing section. **Table 10** shows that USC Columbia, Coastal Carolina, College of Charleston, Francis Marion, USC Upstate, and Winthrop began to require the writing section for admission. Clemson and Francis Marion use the writing section for research or for planning services and placements.

| Table 10 | | |
|---|---------------|--|
| Requirement of SAT Writing Component for Admissions in Fall 2015 | | |
| Institutions | Yes/No | Additional Information |
| Research Institutions | | |
| Clemson | No | Supplemental information in a student's application. They are not part of the predictive formula. |
| USC Columbia | Yes | Currently required for study & possible use in holistic review. |
| Comprehensive Teaching Colleges & Universities | | |
| The Citadel | No | |
| Coastal Carolina | Yes | Assessment of new student success. |
| College of Charleston | Yes | Requires the freshmen to submit the writing section of either the SAT or ACT. Using it separately from the Critical Reasoning and Math sections. The writing score is considered as another source of information in evaluating the academic readiness of the student. It is considered in the admissions decision in combination with other qualitative and quantitative factors. |
| Francis Marion | Yes | Students who score 500+ on it are exempt from taking in house English Placement Test. |
| Lander | No | |
| S.C. State | No | |
| USC Aiken | No | |
| USC Beaufort | No | |
| USC Upstate | Yes | Uses for appropriate placement in freshman English courses. |
| Winthrop | Yes | Not used for an admission decision. The scores are being reviewed for a possible correlation between our freshmen students' performance in their first writing course. |

Table 11 shows the number of first-time freshmen aged 25 or older in the South Carolina public colleges and universities for the past five years. In Fall 2014, there was a decrease in first-time entering freshmen aged 25 and older from 2013 (105 to 64). This decrease appears to be due largely to the Two-Year Regional Campuses of USC.

| Table 11 | | | | | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| Number of First-time Freshmen Aged 25 and Older by Year | | | | | | |
| South Carolina Public Colleges and Universities | | | | | | |
| Five-Year Comparison | | | | | | |
| Institutions | Fall 2010 | Fall 2011 | Fall 2012 | Fall 2013 | Fall 2014 | Grand Total |
| Research Institutions | | | | | | |
| Clemson | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| USC Columbia | 5 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 14 |
| Medical Univ. of S.C. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 5 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 16 |
| Comprehensive Teaching Colleges & Universities | | | | | | |
| The Citadel | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Coastal Carolina | 4 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 16 |
| College of Charleston | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| Francis Marion | 5 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 12 |
| Lander | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| South Carolina State | 6 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 17 |
| USC Aiken | 2 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 7 |
| USC Beaufort | 5 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 17 |
| USC Upstate | 4 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 18 |
| Winthrop | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Total Comprehensive Teaching Institutions | 28 | 23 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 99 |
| Total Senior Institutions | 33 | 27 | 21 | 18 | 16 | 115 |
| Two-Year Regional Campuses of USC | | | | | | |
| USC Lancaster | 26 | 16 | 17 | 19 | 11 | 89 |
| USC Salkehatchie | 59 | 81 | 52 | 45 | 10 | 247 |
| USC Sumter | 8 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 11 | 29 |
| USC Union | 13 | 15 | 15 | 20 | 16 | 79 |
| Total | 106 | 115 | 88 | 87 | 48 | 444 |
| Grand Total | 139 | 142 | 109 | 105 | 64 | 559 |

Conclusion

In Fall 2014, more applicable first-time freshmen met all the high school course prerequisites compared to Fall 2013 (85.4% to 85.3%) but less than the 91.7% in 2012 and 87.8% in 2011. Data indicates that among the four-year institutions from Fall 2013 to Fall 2014, the percentage of freshmen meeting high school course prerequisites has improved. Eight institutions demonstrated increases in freshmen meeting high school course prerequisites while four institutions demonstrated decreases in freshmen meeting high school course prerequisites.

Retention rates among students who did not meet the high school course prerequisites are lower for the majority of the institutions. Three institutions showed an increase in freshmen-to-sophomore retention rates for students who did not meet the high school course prerequisites, while nine institutions showed a decrease in retention rates for the same category of students.

Institutions continue to adjust admission requirements for first-time entering freshmen and the required minimum SAT/ACT scores are lower for students with a higher GPA and high school class rank at most institutions. Finally, six institutions now require the new writing component of the SAT. Four institutions continue to analyze the data to determine whether the writing component should become part of the admission requirements and/or be used for supplemental information as part of a holistic review of the student's application.