



South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

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MEMORANDUM

To: Chairman John L. Finan and Members, S.C. Commission on Higher Education

From: Dr. Bettie Rose Horne, Chair, and Members, Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

Annual Report on Admission Standards for First-Time Entering Freshmen, FY 2012-13

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)).

In April 1988, the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs adopted a procedure that requires each institution to report annually on applications, acceptances, and enrollment and to specify the minimum approximate SAT score (combined math and verbal) that is required of most applicants for admission as freshmen.

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.

Attached is the annual report on 2012 admission standards compliance for first-time entering freshmen (**Attachment**) at South Carolina public senior colleges and universities. The Report is presented in four parts:

- [Part I: Fall 2012 Applications, acceptances, and enrollments](#)
- [Part II: Fall 2012 Data related to high school course prerequisites](#)
- [Part III: Fall 2012 SAT and ACT scores](#)
- [Part IV: Fall 2013-14 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's Management Information System (CHEMIS).

Recommendation

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

Attachment

ANNUAL REPORT ON ADMISSION STANDARDS FOR FIRST-TIME ENTERING FRESHMEN, FALL 2012 SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SENIOR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

- [Part I: Fall 2012 Applications, acceptances, and enrollments](#)
- [Part II: Fall 2012 Data related to high school course prerequisites](#)
- [Part III: Fall 2012 SAT and ACT scores](#)
- [Part IV: Fall 2013 Minimum admission standards](#)

Part I: Applications, Acceptances, and Enrollments

In Fall 2012, 88,322 applications were received for admission as first-time freshmen at the state's public senior colleges and universities. Of these, 57,118 (64.7%) met the minimum admission standards at one or more of the public senior institutions and were offered admission. Of those who were offered admission, 18,040 (31.6%) applicants enrolled.

Table 1 provides a five-year overview of applications, acceptances, and enrollments. The number of applicants has increased by 17,005 over the last five years, and the number enrolled has increased by 2,138 students. The percentage of applicants who were accepted and enrolled **has decreased** by approximately 0.5%.

| TABLE 1 Applications, Acceptances, and Actual Enrollments S.C. Public Senior Institutions Five Year Comparison | | | | | |
|---|------------------------|--|---|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Year | Number of Applications | Number of Applicants Offered Admission | Percent of Applicants Offered Admission | Number who Actually Enrolled | Percent Accepted and Enrolled |
| 2008 | 71,317 | 43,817 | 61.4% | 15,902 | 36.3% |
| 2009 | 77,053 | 51,543 | 66.9% | 16,861 | 32.7% |
| 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% |

Table 2 on shows the number and percent of students who applied, were accepted, and enrolled at each public senior institution.

| TABLE 2 APPLICATIONS, ACCEPTANCES, AND ACTUAL ENROLLMENTS S.C. PUBLIC SENIOR INSTITUTIONS, FALL 2012 | | | | | |
|---|------------------------|--|---|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Institutions | Number of Applications | Number of Applicants Offered Admission | Percent of Applicants Offered Admission | Number who Actually Enrolled | Percent Accepted and Enrolled |
| Research Institutions | | | | | |
| Clemson | 18,500 | 10,706 | 57.9% | 3,463 | 32.3% |
| USC-Columbia | 23,429 | 14,199 | 60.6% | 4,625 | 32.6% |
| Sub Total | 41,929 | 24,905 | 59.4% | 8,088 | 32.5% |
| Comprehensive Teaching Institutions | | | | | |
| The Citadel | 2,557 | 2,056 | 80.4% | 676 | 32.9% |
| Coastal Carolina | 10,190 | 8,019 | 78.7% | 2,206 | 27.5% |
| Coll. Of Charleston | 11,962 | 8,092 | 67.6% | 2,138 | 26.4% |
| Francis Marion | 3,908 | 2,300 | 58.9% | 814 | 35.4% |
| Lander | 3,348 | 1,419 | 42.4% | 569 | 40.1% |
| SC State | 3,039 | 2,952 | 97.1% | 664 | 22.5% |
| USC-Aiken | 2,620 | 1,342 | 51.2% | 526 | 39.2% |
| USC-Beaufort | 1,387 | 1,013 | 73.0% | 410 | 40.5% |
| USC-Upstate | 3,066 | 1,969 | 64.2% | 806 | 40.9% |
| Winthrop | 4,316 | 3,051 | 70.7% | 1,143 | 37.5% |
| Sub Total | 46,393 | 32,213 | 69.4% | 9,952 | 30.9% |
| Total Senior Institutions | 88,322 | 57,118 | 64.7% | 18,040 | 31.6% |

Part II: Data Related to High School Course Prerequisites

Since Fall 1988, public senior 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> | |
|---|---|
| 1. 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. |
| 2. Four units of Mathematics: | 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, precalculus, calculus, statistics, discrete mathematics, or a capstone mathematics course and should be taken during the senior year. |
| 3. 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. |
| 4. Two units of the same foreign language. | American Sign Language does not meet the college prerequisite requirements. (Annotated from ACAP March 2006) |
| 5. 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. |
| 6. 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, or other introductory science courses for which biology and/or chemistry is not a prerequisite); or mathematics above the level of Algebra II. |
| 7. One unit of physical education or ROTC. | |
| 8. ONE UNIT OF FINE ARTS: | One unit in appreciation of, history of, or performance in one of the fine arts (art, music, theatre). |

NOTE: Each institution may make exceptions in admitting 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.

As shown in **Table 3**, the proportion of all applicable first-time freshmen meeting all of the prerequisites decreased from 96.0% in 2010 to 87.8% in 2011, which is expected because of the new high school course prerequisites that went into effect Fall 2011. There was an increase from 87.7% in 2011 to 91.7% in 2012 after a year with the revised high school course prerequisites. The percentage of students meeting all of the prerequisites continues to be below the 1999 average of 98.15%. Of the four year institutions, in Fall 2012 only Clemson University and College of Charleston meets or exceeds the 1999 average.

| TABLE 3 Percent of Applicable ¹ First-Time Freshmen Meeting High School Course Prerequisites | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Institutions | 2010 | | 2011 | | 2012 | | | Percent Change from 2011 to 2012 |
| | Applicable Freshmen | Percent Meeting Prerequisites | Applicable Freshmen | Percent Meeting Prerequisites | Applicable Freshmen | Number Meeting Prerequisites | Percent Meeting Prerequisites | |
| Research Institutions | | | | | | | | |
| Clemson | 3016 | 99.0% | 2932 | 83.8% | 3463 | 3,396 | 98.07% | 14.3% |
| USC-Columbia | 4368 | 96.3% | 4542 | 83.3% | 4549 | 3,861 | 84.88% | 1.6% |
| Sub Total | 7,384 | 97.4% | 7,475 | 83.5% | 8,012 | 7,257 | 90.58% | 7.1% |
| Comprehensive Teaching Institutions | | | | | | | | 0.0% |
| The Citadel | 623 | 91.5% | 630 | 88.7% | 676 | 615 | 90.98% | 2.2% |
| Coastal Carolina | 1987 | 96.5% | 2128 | 92.3% | 2176 | 2,039 | 93.70% | 1.4% |
| College of Charleston | 2006 | 99.1% | 2332 | 99.0% | 2135 | 2,097 | 98.22% | -0.8% |
| Francis Marion | 738 | 91.5% | 743 | 89.8% | 814 | 732 | 89.93% | 0.2% |
| Lander | 676 | 91.1% | 588 | 88.4% | 559 | 495 | 88.55% | 0.1% |
| SC State | 826 | 97.3% | 829 | 97.6% | 664 | 622 | 93.67% | -3.9% |
| USC-Aiken | 618 | 94.8% | 593 | 81.1% | 512 | 453 | 88.48% | 7.4% |
| USC-Beaufort | 410 | 83.9% | 416 | 73.3% | 399 | 329 | 82.46% | 9.1% |
| USC-Upstate | 856 | 91.4% | 785 | 82.3% | 767 | 699 | 91.13% | 8.8% |
| Winthrop | 946 | 95.3% | 963 | 90.6% | 1120 | 1,023 | 91.34% | 0.8% |
| Sub Total | 9,688 | 94.8% | 10,007 | 91.3% | 9,822 | 9,104 | 92.69% | 1.4% |
| Total Sr. | 17,072 | 95.9% | 17,482 | 87.9% | 17,834 | 16,361 | 91.74% | 3.8% |
| USC Two-Year | | | | | | | | 0.0% |
| USC-Lancaster ² | 116 | 94.8% | 105 | 84.8% | 98 | 83 | 84.69% | -0.1% |
| USC-Salkehatchie ² | 10 | 100.0% | 17 | 5.9% | 20 | 17 | 85.00% | 79.1% |
| USC-Sumter ² | 110 | 99.1% | 94 | 98.9% | 82 | 81 | 98.78% | -0.2% |
| USC-Union ² | 9 | 100.0% | 14 | 21.4% | 4 | 4 | 100.00% | 78.6% |
| Sub Total USC Two-Year | 245 | 97.1% | 230 | 80.9% | 204 | 185 | 90.69% | 9.8% |
| Grand Total | 17,317 | 96.0% | 17,712 | 87.8% | 18,038 | 16,546 | 91.73% | 3.9% |

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

²At the USC two-year campuses, the prerequisites apply only to those students classified as baccalaureate-ready and accepted.

Institutional Issues

The institutions indicated that lab science and foreign language continue to be the areas where prerequisites were not met as well as the addition in 2011 of fine arts recommendation. Even though there was an additional math credit recommended for Fall 2011, only one of the twelve senior institutions identified this as an area of concern.

The percent of applicable first-time freshmen meeting high school course prerequisites is broken down further into “In-State Only” (**Table 3A**) and “Out-of-State Only” (**Table 3B**). The decrease in compliance reported in **Table 3** for all but three of the institutions (Clemson, Coastal Carolina, and College of Charleston) can be attributed to its out-of-state students.

| TABLE 3A | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Percent of Applicable ¹ First-Time Freshmen Meeting High School Course Prerequisites | | | | | | | | |
| In-State Only (GEO-Origin = SC) | | | | | | | | |
| Institutions | 2010 | | 2011 | | 2012 | | | Change in Percent from 2011 to 2012 |
| | Applicable Freshmen | Percent Meeting Prerequisites | Applicable Freshmen | Percent Meeting Prerequisites | Applicable Freshmen | Number Meeting Prerequisites | Percent Meeting Prerequisites | |
| Research Institutions | | | | | | | | |
| Clemson | 1,797 | 99.5% | 1,841 | 86.1% | 2,114 | 2,073 | 98.1% | 12.0% |
| USC-Columbia | 2,508 | 98.6% | 2,598 | 88.5% | 2,458 | 2,255 | 91.7% | 3.2% |
| Sub Total | 4,305 | 99.0% | 4,439 | 87.5% | 4,572 | 4,328 | 94.7% | 7.1% |
| Comprehensive | | | | | | | | |
| The Citadel | 326 | 96.4% | 283 | 93.6% | 347 | 337 | 97.1% | 3.5% |
| Coastal Carolina | 927 | 96.7% | 967 | 95.1% | 1,015 | 983 | 96.8% | 1.7% |
| College of Charleston | 996 | 99.5% | 1,166 | 99.3% | 1,068 | 1,059 | 99.2% | -0.2% |
| Francis Marion | 696 | 91.4% | 702 | 90.0% | 782 | 705 | 90.2% | 0.1% |
| Lander | 638 | 91.2% | 563 | 88.5% | 522 | 467 | 89.5% | 1.0% |
| SC State | 577 | 96.7% | 566 | 97.3% | 509 | 483 | 94.9% | -2.5% |
| USC-Aiken | 556 | 96.8% | 522 | 84.9% | 470 | 423 | 90.0% | 5.1% |
| USC-Beaufort | 355 | 85.1% | 332 | 75.3% | 322 | 281 | 87.3% | 12.0% |
| USC-Upstate | 800 | 91.8% | 729 | 83.5% | 703 | 653 | 92.9% | 9.3% |
| Winthrop | 869 | 96.2% | 863 | 91.7% | 1,014 | 940 | 92.7% | 1.0% |
| Sub Total | 6,743 | 94.8% | 6,693 | 91.4% | 6,752 | 6,331 | 93.8% | 2.4% |
| Total Sr. Institutions | 11,048 | 96.4% | 11,132 | 89.8% | 11,324 | 10,659 | 94.1% | 4.3% |
| USC Regionals² | | | | | | | | |
| USC-Lancaster | 113 | 95.6% | 103 | 85.4% | 97 | 83 | 85.6% | 0.1% |
| USC-Salkehatchie | 10 | 100.0% | 17 | 5.9% | 20 | 17 | 85.0% | 79.1% |
| USC-Sumter | 109 | 100.0% | 92 | 98.9% | 81 | 80 | 98.8% | -0.1% |
| USC-Union | 9 | 100.0% | 13 | 23.1% | 4 | 4 | 100.0% | 76.9% |
| Sub Total USC Regionals | 241 | 97.9% | 225 | 81.3% | 202 | 184 | 91.1% | 9.8% |
| Grand Total | 11,288 | 96.4% | 11,357 | 89.7% | 11,526 | 10,843 | 94.1% | 4.4% |

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

² At the USC two-year campuses, prerequisites apply only to those students as baccalaureate-ready and accepted as such.

TABLE 3B
Percent of Applicable¹ First-Time Freshmen Meeting High School Course Prerequisites
Out-of-State Only (GEO-Origin = Not SC)

| Institutions | 2010 | | 2011 | | 2012 | | | Percentage Change from 2011 to 2012 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | Applicable Freshmen | Percent Meeting Prerequisites | Applicable Freshmen | Percent Meeting Prerequisites | Applicable Freshmen | Number Meeting Prerequisites | Percent Meeting Prerequisites | |
| Research Institutions | | | | | | | | |
| Clemson | 1,219 | 98.2% | 1,091 | 79.9% | 1349 | 1323 | 98.1% | 18.2% |
| USC-Columbia | 1,860 | 93.2% | 1,944 | 76.2% | 2091 | 1606 | 76.8% | 0.6% |
| Sub Total | 3,079 | 95.2% | 3,036 | 77.5% | 3,440 | 2,929 | 85.1% | 7.6% |
| Comprehensive Teaching | | | | | | | | 0.0% |
| The Citadel | 297 | 85.6% | 347 | 84.7% | 329 | 278 | 84.5% | -0.2% |
| Coastal Carolina | 1,060 | 96.4% | 1,161 | 90.1% | 1161 | 1056 | 91.0% | 0.9% |
| College of Charleston | 1,010 | 98.7% | 1,166 | 98.7% | 1067 | 1038 | 97.3% | -1.4% |
| Francis Marion | 42 | 92.9% | 41 | 85.4% | 32 | 27 | 84.4% | -1.0% |
| Lander | 38 | 89.5% | 25 | 88.0% | 37 | 28 | 75.7% | -12.3% |
| SC State | 249 | 98.8% | 263 | 98.1% | 155 | 139 | 89.7% | -8.4% |
| USC-Aiken | 62 | 77.4% | 71 | 53.5% | 42 | 30 | 71.4% | 17.9% |
| USC-Beaufort | 55 | 76.4% | 84 | 65.5% | 77 | 48 | 62.3% | -3.1% |
| USC-Upstate | 56 | 85.7% | 56 | 66.1% | 64 | 46 | 71.9% | 5.8% |
| Winthrop | 77 | 85.7% | 100 | 81.0% | 106 | 83 | 78.3% | -2.7% |
| Sub Total | 2,947 | 94.9% | 3,314 | 91.0% | 3,070 | 2,773 | 90.3% | -0.7% |
| Total Sr. | 6,026 | 95.0% | 6,350 | 84.6% | 6,510 | 5,702 | 87.6% | 3.0% |
| USC Two-Year² | | | | | | | | 0.0% |
| USC-Lancaster | 3 | 66.7% | 2 | 50.0% | 1 | 0 | 0.0% | -50.0% |
| USC-Salkehatchie | | | 0 | | 0 | | | 0.0% |
| USC-Sumter | 1 | 0.0% | 2 | 100.0% | 1 | 1 | 100.0% | 0.0% |
| USC-Union | | | 1 | 0.0% | 0 | | | 0.0% |
| Sub Total USC Two-Year | 4 | 50.0% | 5 | 60.0% | 2 | 1 | 50.0% | -10.0% |
| Grand Total | 6,030 | 95.0% | 6,355 | 84.6% | 6,512 | 5,703 | 87.6% | 3.0% |

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

² At the USC two-year campuses, prerequisites apply only to those students as baccalaureate-ready and accepted as such.

This year's report examines for the third time 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. All senior institutions except Clemson and College of Charleston showed a lower retention rate for students who did **not** meet the high school course requirements. South Carolina State and USC-Beaufort showed the largest differences in retention rates between students who met the requirements compared to those who did not meet them, with Winthrop showing the smallest difference.

| TABLE 3C Retention Rate of Fall 2010 First-Time Freshmen Meeting and Not Meeting the High School Pre-Requisites Retained at Same Institution in Fall 2011 | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------|--|----------|---------|---|----------|---------|
| S.C. Public Colleges and Universities | | | | | | | |
| Institution | Applicable Freshmen | Applicable Freshmen Meeting Pre-Requisites | | | Applicable Freshmen <u>NOT</u> Meeting Pre-Requisites | | |
| | | Number | Retained | Percent | Number | Retained | Percent |
| Clemson University | 2,932 | 2,457 | 2,232 | 90.8% | 475 | 434 | 91.4% |
| U.S.C. - Columbia | 4,542 | 3,782 | 3,280 | 86.7% | 760 | 654 | 86.1% |
| The Citadel | 630 | 559 | 468 | 83.7% | 71 | 57 | 80.3% |
| Coastal Carolina University | 2,128 | 1,966 | 1,179 | 60.0% | 162 | 93 | 57.4% |
| College of Charleston | 2,332 | 2,309 | 1,878 | 81.3% | 23 | 19 | 82.6% |
| Francis Marion University | 743 | 667 | 439 | 65.8% | 76 | 45 | 59.2% |
| Lander University | 588 | 520 | 319 | 61.3% | 68 | 39 | 57.4% |
| SC State | 829 | 809 | 498 | 61.6% | 20 | 8 | 40.0% |
| U.S.C. - Aiken | 593 | 481 | 325 | 67.6% | 112 | 63 | 56.3% |
| U.S.C. - Beaufort | 416 | 305 | 159 | 52.1% | 111 | 40 | 36.0% |
| U.S.C. - Upstate | 785 | 646 | 420 | 65.0% | 139 | 83 | 59.7% |
| Winthrop University | 963 | 872 | 633 | 72.6% | 91 | 66 | 72.5% |

On average there was a -5.8% difference in retention rates for students who did not meet the prerequisites to those who did. Based on the data, students are more likely to remain in college and transition to their sophomore year if they have successfully completed the high school course prerequisites. Additional data is needed to determine if meeting the high school course prerequisites contributes to degree completion. Colleges need to develop support services for students to increase the retention rate of those who are admitted to the institution without the prerequisites.

Part III: SAT and ACT Scores as Indicators of Academic Preparation, Fall 2012

This report includes the average SAT/ACT scores for all first-time entering freshmen. The majority of students attending South Carolina institutions take 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 institutions by sector and SAT/ACT combined mean and the combined mean for SAT scores only and the percentage of students reporting ACT scores only.

| TABLE 4 SAT/ACT SCORES OF FIRST-TIME ENTERING FRESHMEN, FALL 2012 (INCLUDING Foreign and Provisional Students and Students Age 22 and Above) SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SENIOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITIES | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Institutions | SAT & ACT Combined Mean ¹ | SAT (Only) Combined Mean | % Reporting Only ACT Score |
| Research Institutions | | | |
| Clemson | 1253 | 1246 | 35.7% |
| USC-Columbia | 1202 | 1199 | 36.5% |
| Average Research Institutions | 1224 | 1219 | 36.2% |
| Comprehensive Teaching Institutions | | | |
| The Citadel | 1083 | 1088 | 35.7% |
| Coastal Carolina | 998 | 1000 | 38.3% |
| College of Charleston | 1159 | 1193 | 48.0% |
| Francis Marion University | 944 | 954 | 44.2% |
| Lander University | 976 | 981 | 44.5% |
| SC State University | 835 | 826 | 58.4% |
| USC-Aiken | 982 | 985 | 41.1% |
| USC-Beaufort | 942 | 938 | 31.0% |
| USC-Upstate | 984 | 979 | 38.6% |
| Winthrop | 1049 | 1048 | 40.9% |
| Average Comprehensive Teaching Institutions | 1023 | 1028 | 42.5% |
| State Average, Senior Institutions | 1113 | 1117 | 39.7% |
| Two-Year Regional Campuses of USC | | | |
| USC-Lancaster | 870 | 884 | 33.4% |
| USC-Salkehatchie | 798 | 839 | 47.9% |
| USC-Sumter | 931 | 956 | 55.6% |
| USC-Union | 834 | 878 | 36.3% |
| Average Two-Year Regional Campuses of USC | 859 | 887 | 43.0% |

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

Table 5 presents a comparison of the number of students accepted with ACT scores for 2011 and 2012.

| Table 5 | | |
|---|---|---|
| Comparison of the Percent of Students Reporting ACT Scores | | |
| Academic Years 2010 and 2011 | | |
| Institutions | 2011 | 2012 |
| | % First-Time Freshmen Including Foreign, Prov. & Age 22 & Above Reporting ACT | % First-Time Freshmen Including Foreign, Prov. & Age 22 & Above Reporting ACT |
| Research Institutions | | |
| Clemson | 36.2% | 35.7% |
| USC-Columbia | 38.1% | 36.5% |
| Average Research Institutions | 37.4% | 36.2% |
| Comprehensive Teaching Institutions | | |
| The Citadel | 32.0% | 35.7% |
| Coastal Carolina University | 33.7% | 38.3% |
| College of Charleston | 50.0% | 48.0% |
| Francis Marion University | 45.5% | 44.2% |
| Lander University | 41.0% | 44.5% |
| SC State University | 56.9% | 58.4% |
| USC-Aiken | 37.6% | 41.1% |
| USC-Beaufort | 30.1% | 31.0% |
| USC-Upstate | 41.1% | 38.6% |
| Winthrop University | 39.5% | 40.9% |
| Average Comprehensive Teaching Institutions | 41.8% | 42.5% |
| State Average, Senior Institutions | 39.9% | 39.7% |
| Two-Year Regional Campuses of USC | | |
| USC-Lancaster | 41.9% | 33.4% |
| USC-Salkehatchie | 44.0% | 47.9% |
| USC-Sumter | 44.5% | 55.6% |
| USC-Union | 39.4% | 36.3% |
| Average Two Year Regional Campuses of USC | 42.9% | 43.0% |

Table 6 compares the SAT/ACT combined mean for each institution for 2010, 2011, and 2012.

| TABLE 6 | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| SAT/ACT Scores of First-Time Entering Freshmen | | | | |
| (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 | 2011- 2012 Change Combined Mean |
| Research Institutions | | | | |
| Clemson | 1236 | 1236 | 1253 | 17 |
| USC-Columbia | 1190 | 1200 | 1202 | 2 |
| Average Research Institutions | 1209 | 1214 | 1224 | 10 |
| Comprehensive Teaching Institutions | | | | |
| The Citadel | 1059 | 1085 | 1083 | -2 |
| Coastal Carolina | 991 | 999 | 998 | -1 |
| College of Charleston | 1160 | 1147 | 1159 | 12 |
| Francis Marion | 973 | 945 | 944 | -1 |
| Lander | 981 | 966 | 976 | 10 |
| SC State | 879 | 866 | 835 | -31 |
| USC-Aiken | 991 | 988 | 982 | -6 |
| USC-Beaufort | 940 | 943 | 942 | -1 |
| USC-Upstate | 983 | 984 | 984 | 0 |
| Winthrop | 1054 | 1059 | 1049 | -10 |
| Average Comprehensive Teaching Institutions | 1022 | 1023 | 1023 | 0 |
| State Average, Senior Institutions | 1103 | 1105 | 1113 | 8 |
| Two-Year Regional Campuses of USC | | | | |
| USC-Lancaster | 870 | 870 | 870 | 0 |
| USC-Salkehatchie | 805 | 807 | 798 | -9 |
| USC-Sumter | 931 | 934 | 931 | -3 |
| USC-Union | 802 | 820 | 834 | 14 |
| Average Two-Year Regional Campuses of USC | 866 | 866 | 859 | -7 |

Part IV: Fall 2013 Minimum Admission Standards

Minimum admission standards are approximate and vary depending on the value and weight of the other elements in the admission formula. The minimum SAT and ACT scores are guideposts for students aspiring to be admitted to an 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 asked which method an institution used to set the minimum score and to provide the information for this report. These data are separated into two tables indicating institutions that use class rank (**Table 7**) and those that use core GPA (**Table 8**). Clemson University, College of Charleston, Lander University, South Carolina State University, USC-Aiken, USC-Beaufort, and USC-Upstate report using both methods in setting their approximate minimum scores.

| TABLE 7 ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS APPROXIMATE MINIMUM SAT SCORE (COMBINED) AND MINIMUM ACT SCORE REQUIREMENTS FOR FIRST-TIME ENTERING FRESHMEN 2013 | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|------------|-------------------------|------------|-------------------------|------------|--|-----------|
| Institutions | High School Class Rank | | | | | | Use Predictive Equation¹ | |
| | Top 20% of Class | | Top 50% of Class | | Top 80% of Class | | Yes | No |
| | SAT | ACT | SAT | ACT | SAT | ACT | | |
| Research Institutions | | | | | | | | |
| Clemson University | 1050 | 23 | 1290 | 30 | 1580 | 36 | X | |
| USC-Columbia | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | | |
| Comprehensive Teaching Institutions | | | | | | | | |
| The Citadel | 950 | 20 | 950 | 20 | 950 | 20 | | X |
| Coastal Carolina University | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| College of Charleston | 1050 | 22 | 1170 | 26 | N/A | N/A | | X |
| Francis Marion University | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Lander University | 820 | 17 | 975 | 20 | 1050 | 23 | X | |
| SC State University | 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 University | 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 | | |

SC State reported changes in approximate minimum SAT/ACT scores in **Table 7** for 2013. All other institutions reporting data in **Table 7** kept the 2012 minimum scores.

The approximate SAT and ACT score requirements reported by each institution **using core GPA for Fall 2013** are shown in **Table 8**. Coastal Carolina University is **increasing** required minimum scores (SAT/ACT) for the admission of students with a 4.0 core GPA from 850/18 (4.0 GPA) to 860/18 (4.0 GPA); Lander University is **decreasing** the required minimum scores (SAT/ACT) for the admission of students with a 4.0 core GPA from 1050/23 to 820/17 ; SC State University is **increasing** the required minimum scores (SAT/ACT) for the admission of all students from 830/17 to 830/18.

| TABLE 8 ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS APPROXIMATE MINIMUM SAT SCORE (COMBINED) AND MINIMUM ACT SCORE REQUIREMENTS FOR FIRST-TIME ENTERING FRESHMEN 2012 | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|-----|--------------|-----|--------------|-----|-------------------------|----|
| Institutions | High School Core GPA and Minimum SAT/ACT score | | | | | | Use Predictive Equation | |
| | Core GPA 2.0 | | Core GPA 3.0 | | Core GPA 4.0 | | Yes | No |
| | SAT | ACT | SAT | ACT | SAT | ACT | | |
| Research Institutions | | | | | | | | |
| Clemson University | 1580 | 36 | 1270 | 29 | 950 | 22 | X | |
| USC-Columbia | 1250 | 28 | 950 | 20 | 700 | 15 | X | |
| Comprehensive Teaching Institutions | | | | | | | | |
| The Citadel | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | | X |
| Coastal Carolina University | 960 | 20 | 900 | 19 | 860 | 18 | | X |
| College of Charleston | N/A | N/A | 1200 | 26 | 1050 | 22 | | X |
| Francis Marion University | * | * | 780 | 16 | 780 | 16 | | X |
| Lander University | 1050 | 23 | 975 | 20 | 820 | 17 | X | |
| SC State University | 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 | |

* A new freshman applicant who has a high school GPA of 2.3 or below and SAT of at least 1000 or an ACT of at least 22 may be presented to the Admission, Advising, and Retention Committee for possible admittance.

In 2005, the SAT added a mandatory writing section. **Table 9** shows that USC-Columbia, Coastal Carolina, College of Charleston, USC-Upstate, and Winthrop require the writing section for admission. Clemson and Francis Marion use the writing section for research or for planning services and placements.

| Table 9 | | | |
|--|------------|-----------|--|
| Requirement of SAT Writing Component for Admission in Fall 2013 | | | |
| Institutions | Yes | No | Additional Information |
| Research Institutions | | | |
| Clemson | | X | Supplemental information in a student's application. Research to see if writing may be part of the predictive formula. |
| USC-Columbia | X | | Currently required for study; possible use in holistic review. |
| Comprehensive Teaching Institutions | | | |
| The Citadel | | X | |
| Coastal Carolina University | X | | Assessment of new student success. |
| College of Charleston | X | | An additional source when making admission decisions. |
| Francis Marion University | | X | Students who score 500+ are exempt from taking the institution's English Placement Test. |
| Lander University | | X | |
| SC State University | | X | |
| USC-Aiken | | X | |
| USC-Beaufort | | X | |
| USC-Upstate | X | | Uses for appropriate placement in freshman English courses. |
| Winthrop University | X | | Not for admission. Collecting for correlation between freshmen student performance in first writing course. |

Table 10 shows a slight decrease in the number of first-time freshmen aged 25 or older in the South Carolina public colleges and universities for the past five years.

| Table 10 Number of First-time Freshmen Aged 25 and Older by Year South Carolina Public Colleges and Universities Five-Year Comparison | | | | | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| Institutions | Fall 2008 | Fall 2009 | Fall 2010 | Fall 2011 | Fall 2012 | Grand Total |
| Research Institutions | | | | | | |
| Clemson University | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| U.S.C. - Columbia | 3 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 16 |
| Total Research Institutions | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Comprehensive Teaching Institutions | 3 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 18 |
| The Citadel | | | | | | |
| Coastal Carolina University | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| College of Charleston | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 14 |
| Francis Marion University | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 6 |
| Lander University | 5 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 18 |
| South Carolina State Univ. | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 7 |
| U.S.C. - Aiken | 10 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 28 |
| U.S.C. - Beaufort | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 5 |
| U.S.C. - Upstate | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 24 |
| Winthrop University | 11 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 33 |
| Total Comprehensive Teaching Institutions | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 5 |
| Total Senior Institutions | 44 | 33 | 28 | 23 | 16 | 144 |
| Two-Year Regional Campuses of USC | 47 | 34 | 33 | 27 | 21 | 162 |
| U.S.C. - Lancaster | | | | | | |
| U.S.C. - Salkehatchie | 24 | 12 | 26 | 16 | 17 | 95 |
| U.S.C. - Sumter | 36 | 41 | 59 | 81 | 52 | 269 |
| U.S.C. - Union | 4 | 14 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 33 |
| Total Two-Year Regional Campuses of USC | 8 | 14 | 13 | 15 | 15 | 65 |
| Grand Total | 72 | 81 | 106 | 115 | 88 | 462 |

Conclusion

Fall 2012, 91.7% of applicable first-time freshmen met all the prerequisites compared to 87.8% in 2011 and 96% in 2010. All but two of the four-year institutions showed increases from Fall 2011 to Fall 2012 in the percentage of freshmen meeting high school course prerequisites.

The trend where freshmen do not meet the lab science, foreign language, and the elective requirements of the high school course prerequisites continues, but the additional requirements of a fourth mathematics course and a fine arts course contributed to the decrease from 2010 to 2011. Students who did not meet the high school course prerequisites tend to have a lower retention rate after the first year at the institution than those students who met the prerequisites.

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, five institutions now require the new writing component of the SAT. Two 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.