



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 2013-14

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.

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 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.

Each year, CHE staff compiles data from the public institutions and submits an annual report to the Commission on Higher Education. Data showed that in Fall 2013, 85.3% of applicable first-time freshmen met all the prerequisites compared to 91.7% in 2012 and 87.8% in 2011. Data were split among the four-year institutions from Fall 2012 to Fall 2013 in the percentage of freshmen meeting high school course prerequisites. Six institutions demonstrated

increases in freshmen meeting high school course prerequisites while six institutions demonstrated decreases in freshmen meeting high school course prerequisites.

Retention rates were also split among student who did not meet the high school course prerequisites. Six institutions showed an increase in freshmen-to-sophomore retention rates for students who did not meet the high school course prerequisites, while six 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. Of the public institutions, five 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.

Attached is the annual report on 2013 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 2013 Applications, acceptances, and enrollments](#)
- [Part II: Fall 2013 Data related to high school course prerequisites](#)
- [Part III: Fall 2013 SAT and ACT scores](#)
- [Part IV: 2013 Provisionally Admitted Students](#)
- [Part V: Fall 2014 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 commends to the Commission endorsement of 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 2013
SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SENIOR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

- [Part I: Fall 2013 Applications, acceptances, and enrollments](#)
- [Part II: Fall 2013 Data related to high school course prerequisites](#)
- [Part III: Fall 2013 SAT and ACT scores](#)
- [Part IV: Fall 2013 Provisionally Admitted Students](#)
- [Part IV: Fall 2014 Minimum admission standards](#)

Part I: Applications, Acceptances, and Enrollments

In Fall 2013, 87,745 applications were received for admission as first-time freshmen at the state's public senior colleges and universities. Of these, 57,492 (65.5%) met the minimum admission standards at one or more of the public senior institutions and were offered admission. Of those who were offered admission, 17,938 (31.2%) applicants enrolled.

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

TABLE 1 APPLICATIONS, ACCEPTANCES, AND ACTUAL ENROLLMENTS S.C. PUBLIC SENIOR INSTITUTIONS, FALL 2013					
Institutions	Number of Applications ¹	Number of Applicants Offered Admission	Percent of Applicants Offered Admission	Number who Actually Enrolled	Percent Accepted and Enrolled
Research Institutions					
Clemson	18,604	10,645	57.2%	3,289	30.9%
USC-Columbia	23,035	14,844	64.4%	5,046	34.0%
Sub Total	41,639	25,489	61.2%	8,335	32.7%
Comprehensive Teaching Institutions					
The Citadel	2,767	2,116	76.5%	645	30.5%
Coastal Carolina	12,537	8,675	69.2%	2,095	24.1%
Coll. Of Charleston	11,532	8,330	72.2%	2,116	25.4%
Francis Marion	3,951	2,239	56.7%	744	33.2%
Lander	3,079	1,392	45.2%	517	37.1%
S.C. State	1,999	1,838	91.9%	566	30.8%
USC-Aiken	1,841	1,325	72.0%	643	48.5%
USC-Beaufort	1,721	1,097	63.7%	400	36.5%
USC-Upstate	2,394	1,895	79.2%	781	41.2%
Winthrop	4,285	3,096	72.3%	1,096	35.4%
Sub Total	46,106	32,003	69.4%	9,603	30.0%
Total Senior Institutions	87,745	57,492	65.5%	17,938	31.2%

¹Reported manually by the institutions.

South Carolina State University offered admission to the largest percentage (91.9%) of students who applied but only enrolled 30.8% of students who were offered admission. Five institutions (The Citadel, College of Charleston, USC-Aiken, USC-Upstate, and Winthrop) offered admission to 70-80% of applicants. Three institutions (USC-Columbia, Coastal Carolina and USC-Beaufort) offered admission to 60-69% of applicants. Two institutions (Clemson and Francis Marion) offered admission to 50-59% of applicants. Lander University offered admission to the lowest percentage (45.2%) of applicants. USC-Aiken enrolled the largest percentage (48.5%) of students who were offered admission.

A comparison of the percent of students accepted and enrolled from Fall 2012 to Fall 2013 data shows that seven institutions (Clemson, The Citadel, Coastal Carolina, College of Charleston, Francis Marion, Lander, and Winthrop) decreased. Coastal Carolina experienced the largest decrease in the percent accepted and enrolled (-3.4%).

Table 2 provides a five-year overview of applications, acceptances, and enrollments. The number of applicants has increased by 10,692 over the last five years, and the number enrolled has increased by 1,077 students. The percentage of applicants who were accepted and enrolled **has decreased** by approximately 1.5% from 2009-2013.

TABLE 2 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
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%
2013	87,745	57,492	65.5%	17,938	31.2%

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>
<p>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.</p>
<p>2. 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, precalculus, calculus, statistics, discrete mathematics, or a capstone mathematics course and should be taken during the senior year.</p>

High School Course Prerequisites 2011

<p>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.</p>
<p>4. Two units of the same foreign language.</p>
<p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p>
<p>7. One unit of physical education or ROTC.</p>
<p>8. ONE UNIT OF FINE ARTS: One unit in Appreciation of, History of, or Performance in one of the fine arts.</p>

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 **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. 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 2013 only College of Charleston meets or exceeds the 1999 average.

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

Institutions	2011		2012		2013			Percentage Change from 2012 to 2013
	Applicable Freshmen	Percent Meeting Prerequisites	Applicable Freshmen	Percent Meeting Prerequisites	Applicable Freshmen	Number Meeting Prerequisites	Percent Meeting Prerequisites	
Research Institutions								
Clemson	2932	83.8%	3463	98.1%	3289	2786	84.7%	-13.4%
USC-Columbia	4542	83.3%	4549	84.9%	5009	4076	81.4%	-3.5%
Sub Total	7,475	83.5%	8,012	90.6%	8,298	6,862	82.7%	-7.9%
Comprehensive Teaching Colleges & Universities								
The Citadel	630	88.7%	676	91.0%	645	568	88.1%	2.9%
Coastal Carolina	2128	92.3%	2176	93.7%	2064	2014	97.6%	3.9%
College of Charleston	2330	99.0%	2135	98.2%	2107	2072	98.3%	0.1%
Francis Marion	743	89.8%	814	89.9%	744	682	91.7%	1.8%
Lander	588	88.4%	559	88.6%	505	449	88.9%	0.3%
SC State	829	97.6%	664	93.7%	566	526	92.9%	-0.8%
USC-Aiken	593	81.1%	512	88.5%	634	532	83.9%	-4.6%
USC-Beaufort	416	73.3%	399	82.5%	397	288	72.5%	-10.0%
USC-Upstate	785	82.3%	767	91.1%	766	640	83.6%	-7.5%
Winthrop	963	90.6%	1120	91.3%	1077	1010	93.8%	2.5%
Sub Total	10,007	91.3%	9,822	92.7%	9,505	8,781	92.4%	-0.3%
Total Sr. Institutions	17,482	87.9%	17,834	91.7%	6,510	17,803	15,643	-3.8%
Two-Year USC Regional²								0.0%
USC-Lancaster	105	84.8%	98	84.7%	363	188	51.8%	-32.9%
USC-Salkehatchie	17	5.9%	20	85.0%	287	13	4.5%	-80.5%
USC-Sumter	94	98.9%	82	98.8%	226	169	74.8%	-24.0%
USC-Union	14	21.4%	4	100.0%	100	3	3.0%	-97.0%
Sub Total USC Two-Year	230	80.9%	204	90.7%	976	373	38.2%	-52.5%
Grand Total	17,712	87.8%	18,038	91.7%	18,779	16,016	85.3%	-6.4%

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 Issues

The lowest compliance for the last three years continues to be at USC-Beaufort. USC-Beaufort had an increase in compliance rate between 2011 and 2012 (73.3%-82.5%); however, there was a decrease in compliance rate between 2012 and 2013 (82.5%-72.5%) indicating a -10% **decrease** in compliance rate. USC-Beaufort's compliance rate has steadily increased each year since becoming a four-year institution in Fall 2004, there was a 3.2% decrease in compliance from Fall 2009 to Fall 2010, a 10.6% from Fall 2010 to Fall 2011, but an increase of

9.2% from Fall 2011 to Fall 2012 with the new requirements. The data received from USC-Beaufort indicated Freshmen didn't meet the prerequisites in English (7.25%), Mathematics (11.5%), Lab Science (13.5%), and Fine Arts (7%).

Six senior institutions (Clemson, USC-Columbia, SC State, USC-Aiken, USC-Beaufort, and USC-Upstate) showed a decrease in compliance rates from Fall 2012 to Fall 2013. Six senior institutions (Clemson, USC-Columbia, The Citadel, Lander, USC-Aiken, and USC-Upstate) show a compliance rate between 80%-90%. Five institutions (Coastal Carolina, College of Charleston, Francis Marion, SC State, USC-Upstate, and Winthrop) show a compliance rate between 90%-98.3% for Fall 2013.

Of the six institutions (Clemson, USC-Columbia, S.C. State, USC-Aiken, USC-Beaufort, and USC-Upstate) showing a decrease in freshmen meeting prerequisite requirements, five of the institutions reported Lab Science and Fine Arts as areas where prerequisites were not met. In addition, four institutions indicated Math as an area of not meeting prerequisites, and three institutions reported not meeting prerequisites in English, Foreign Language, and Social Science.

Institution representatives communicated to CHE staff (2006) 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 further into "In-State Only" (**Table 3A**) and "Out-of-State Only" (**Table 3B**) to determine if 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 2013 the percentage of first-time in-state freshmen meeting high school course prerequisites was higher for all but three of the institutions (Coastal Carolina, College of Charleston, and Winthrop) than for out-of-state freshman. The decrease in compliance reported in **Table 3** may be attributed to its 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 five of the institutions (Clemson, USC-Columbia, USC-Aiken, USC-Beaufort, and USC-Upstate) can be attributed to its out-of-state students. SC State is the only institution with a decrease in compliance that is attributed to in-state students. Seven institutions (Clemson, USC-Columbia, The Citadel, SC State, USC-Aiken, USC-Beaufort, and USC-Upstate) show a decrease of 0%-10% between in-state, first-time freshmen meeting high school course prerequisites, compared to out-of-state, first-time freshmen.

As **Table 3B** shows four institutions (Coastal Carolina, College of Charleston, SC State, and Winthrop) improved their compliance rate for out-of-state students in 2013 after a third year with the new high school course prerequisite requirements of fine arts and an additional mathematics course. Additionally, nine of the twelve senior institutions report a compliance rate for out-of-state students below the average of 83.1% for all institutions, ranging from 46.8% to 82.5%.

TABLE 3A
Percent of Applicable¹ First-Time Freshmen Meeting High School Course Prerequisites
In-State Only (GEO-Origin = SC)

Institutions	2011		2012		2013			Change in Percent from 2012 to 2013
	Applicable Freshmen	Percent Meeting Prerequisites	Applicable Freshmen	Percent Meeting Prerequisites	Applicable Freshmen	Number Meeting Prerequisites	Percent Meeting Prerequisites	
Research Institutions								
Clemson	1841	86.1%	2114	98.1%	2000	1756	87.8%	-10.3%
USC-Columbia	2598	88.5%	2458	91.7%	2569	2289	89.1%	-2.6%
Sub Total	4,439	87.5%	4,572	94.7%	4,569	4,045	88.5%	-6.2%
Comprehensive Teaching Institutions								
The Citadel	283	93.6%	347	97.1%	339	316	93.2%	-3.9%
Coastal Carolina	967	95.1%	1015	96.8%	952	936	98.3%	1.5%
College of Charleston	1166	99.3%	1068	99.2%	1113	1104	99.2%	0%
Francis Marion	702	90.0%	782	90.2%	710	658	92.7%	2.5%
Lander	563	88.5%	522	89.5%	473	429	90.7%	1.2%
SC State	566	97.3%	509	94.9%	439	405	92.3%	-2.6%
USC-Aiken	522	84.9%	470	90.0%	549	478	87.1%	-2.9%
USC-Beaufort	332	75.3%	322	87.3%	313	251	80.2%	-7.1%
USC-Upstate	729	83.5%	703	92.9%	697	601	86.2%	-6.7%
Winthrop	863	91.7%	1014	92.7%	1002	949	94.7%	2.0%
Sub Total	6,693	91.4%	6,752	93.8%	6,587	6,127	93.0%	-0.8%
Total Sr. Institutions	11,132	89.8%	11,324	94.1%	11,156	10,172	91.2%	-2.9%
USC Regionals²								
USC-Lancaster	103	85.4%	97	85.6%	340	181	53.2%	-32.4%
USC-Salkehatchie	17	5.9%	20	85.0%	37	13	35.1%	-49.9%
USC-Sumter	92	98.9%	81	98.8%	214	166	77.6%	-21.2%
USC-Union	13	23.1%	4	100%	13	3	23.1%	-76.9
Sub Total USC Regionals	225	81.3%	202	91.1%	604	363	60.1%	-31.0%
Grand Total	11,357	89.7%	11,526	94.1%	11,760	10,535	89.6%	-4.5%

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

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

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

Institutions	2011		2012		2013			Percentage Change from 2012 to 2013
	Applicable Freshmen	Percent Meeting Prerequisites	Applicable Freshmen	Percent Meeting Prerequisites	Applicable Freshmen	Number Meeting Prerequisites	Percent Meeting Prerequisites	
Research Institutions								
Clemson	1091	79.9%	1349	98.1%	1289	1030	79.9%	-18.2%
USC-Columbia	1944	76.2%	2091	76.8%	2388	1787	74.8%	-2.0%
Sub Total	3,036	77.5%	3,440	85.1%	3,677	2,817	76.7%	-8.5%
Comprehensive Teaching Colleges & Universities								
The Citadel	347	84.7%	329	84.5%	306	252	82.4%	-2.1%
Coastal Carolina	1161	90.1%	1161	91.0%	1112	1078	96.9%	5.9%
College of Charleston	1166	98.7%	1067	97.3%	994	968	97.4%	0.1%
Francis Marion	41	85.4%	32	84.4%	34	24	70.6%	-13.8%
Lander	25	88.0%	37	75.7%	32	20	62.5%	-13.2%
SC State	263	98.1%	155	89.7%	127	121	95.3%	5.6%
USC-Aiken	71	53.5%	42	71.4%	82	54	65.9%	-5.5%
USC-Beaufort	84	65.5%	77	62.3%	79	37	46.8%	-15.5%
USC-Upstate	56	66.1%	64	71.9%	58	39	67.2%	-4.7%
Winthrop	100	81.0%	106	78.3%	75	61	81.3%	3.0%
Sub Total	3,314	91.0%	3,070	90.3%	2,899	2,654	91.5%	1.2%
Total Sr. Institutions	6,350	84.6%	6,510	87.6%	6,576	5,471	83.2%	-4.4%
Two-Year USC Regional²								0.0%
USC-Lancaster	2	50.0%	1	0.0%	13	7	53.8%	53.8%
USC-Salkehatchie	0		0		1	0	0.0%	
USC-Sumter	2	100.00%	1	100.0%	6	3	50.0%	-50.0%
USC-Union	1	0.0%	0		0			
Sub Total USC Two-Year	5	60.0%	2	50.0%	20	10	50.0%	0.0%
Grand Total	6,355	84.6%	6,512	87.6%	6,596	5,481	83.1%	-4.5%

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 fourth 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. Senior institutions were split between retention rates for students who did not meet the high school course requirements. Clemson, The Citadel, Francis Marion, SC State,

USC-Aiken, and USC-Beaufort showed a **lower** retention rate for students who did **not** meet the high school course requirements. USC-Columbia, Coastal Carolina, College of Charleston, Lander, USC-Upstate, and Winthrop showed a **higher** retention rate for students who did not meet the high school course requirements. Clemson and South Carolina State showed the largest differences in retention rates between students who met the requirements compared to those who did not meet them, with USC-Beaufort showing the smallest difference.

TABLE 3C Retention Rate of Fall 2012 First-Time Freshmen Meeting and Not Meeting the High School Pre-Requisites Retained at Same Institution in Fall 2013							
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	3,463	3,396	3,118	91.8%	67	58	86.6%
U.S.C. - Columbia	4,549	3,861	3,375	87.4%	688	638	92.7%
The Citadel	676	615	521	84.7%	61	50	82.0%
Coastal Carolina University	2,176	2,039	1,280	62.8%	137	99	72.3%
College of Charleston	2,135	2,097	1,727	82.4%	38	33	86.8%
Francis Marion University	814	732	493	67.3%	82	51	62.2%
Lander University	559	495	301	60.8%	64	47	73.4%
SC State	664	622	378	60.8%	42	22	52.4%
U.S.C. - Aiken	512	453	290	64.0%	59	37	62.7%
U.S.C. - Beaufort	399	329	182	55.3%	70	38	54.3%
U.S.C. - Upstate	767	699	473	67.7%	68	49	72.1%
Winthrop University	1,120	1,023	745	72.8%	97	75	77.3%

On average there was a 1.4% difference in retention rates for students who did not meet the prerequisites to those who did. Based on the data, students who did not meet the freshmen pre-requisites were slightly more likely to remain in college and transition to their sophomore year.

Part III: SAT and ACT Scores as Indicators of Academic Preparation, Fall 2013

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 2013 (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	1254	1246	40.7%
USC-Columbia	1212	1207	37.6%
Average Research Institutions	1,229	1,222	38.8%
Comprehensive Teaching Institutions			
The Citadel	1079	1080	39.0%
Coastal Carolina	1004	1000	32.3%
College of Charleston	1153	1149	43.2%
Francis Marion University	942	951	47.3%
Lander University	979	970	45.1%
SC State University	799	802	53.0%
USC-Aiken	986	983	40.4%
USC-Beaufort	951	929	32.0%
USC-Upstate	972	968	38.2%
Winthrop	1037	1031	39.6%
Average Comprehensive Teaching Institutions	1,021	1,018	40.0%
State Average, Senior Institutions	1,118	1,113	39.5%
Two-Year Regional Campuses of USC			
USC-Lancaster	873	898	37.4%
USC-Salkehatchie	798	868	6.2%
USC-Sumter	931	943	50.7%
USC-Union	834	794	22.4%
Average Two-Year Regional Campuses of USC	859	898	29.3%

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 2012 and 2013. Six senior institutions (Clemson, USC-Columbia, The Citadel, Francis Marion, Lander, and USC-Beaufort) reported an increase in students accepted with the ACT and six senior institutions (Coastal Carolina, College of Charleston, SC State, USC-Aiken, USC-Upstate, and Winthrop) reported a decrease in students accepted with the ACT.

Table 5		
Comparison of the Percent of Students Reporting ACT Scores		
Academic Years 2012 and 2013		
Institutions	2012	2013
	% 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	35.7%	40.7%
USC-Columbia	36.5%	37.6%
Average Research Institutions	36.2%	38.8%
Comprehensive Teaching Institutions		
The Citadel	35.7%	39.0%
Coastal Carolina University	38.3%	32.3%
College of Charleston	48.0%	43.2%
Francis Marion University	44.2%	47.3%
Lander University	44.5%	45.1%
SC State University	58.4%	53.0%
USC-Aiken	41.1%	40.4%
USC-Beaufort	31.0%	32.0%
USC-Upstate	38.6%	38.2%
Winthrop University	40.9%	39.6%
Average Comprehensive Teaching Institutions	42.5%	40.0%
State Average, Senior Institutions	39.7%	39.5%
Two-Year Regional Campuses of USC		
USC-Lancaster	33.4%	37.4%
USC-Salkehatchie	47.9%	6.2%
USC-Sumter	55.6%	50.7%
USC-Union	36.3%	22.4%
Average Two Year Regional Campuses of USC	43.0%	29.3%

Table 6 compares the SAT/ACT combined mean for each institution for 2011, 2012, and 2013. Six senior institutions (Clemson, USC-Columbia, Coastal Carolina, Lander, USC-Aiken, and USC-Beaufort) showed an **increase** in the average combined SAT/ACT mean between 2012 and 2013. Six senior institutions (The Citadel, College of Charleston, Francis Marion, SC State, USC-Upstate, and Winthrop) showed a **decrease** in the average combined SAT/ACT mean between 2012 and 2013. SC State showed the largest decrease (-36 points).

TABLE 6 SAT/ACT Scores of First-Time Entering Freshmen (Including Foreign, Provisional, and Students Age 22 and Above)				
Institutions	2011 SAT/ACT Combined Mean	2012 SAT/ACT Combined Mean	2013 SAT/ACT Combined Mean	2012- 2013 Change Combined Mean
Research Institutions				
Clemson	1236	1253	1254	1
USC-Columbia	1200	1202	1212	10
Average Research Institutions	1,214	1,224	1,229	5
Comprehensive Teaching Institutions				
The Citadel	1085	1083	1079	-4
Coastal Carolina	999	998	1004	6
College of Charleston	1147	1159	1153	-6
Francis Marion	945	944	942	-2
Lander	966	976	979	3
SC State	866	835	799	-36
USC-Aiken	988	982	986	4
USC-Beaufort	943	942	951	9
USC-Upstate	984	984	972	-12
Winthrop	1059	1049	1037	-12
Average Comprehensive Teaching Institutions	1,023	1,023	1,021	-2
State Average, Senior Institutions	1,105	1,113	1,118	5
Two-Year Regional Campuses of USC				
USC-Lancaster	870	870	873	3
USC-Salkehatchie	807	798	798	0
USC-Sumter	934	931	931	0
USC-Union	820	834	834	0
Average Two-Year Regional Campuses of USC	866	859	859	0

Part IV: Provisionally Admitted Students

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

Table 7 shows provisional freshmen as a percent of total first-time entering freshmen for Fall 2013 for each institution and overall. Winthrop admitted the largest percentage of provisional freshmen (12.2%).

TABLE 7			
Provisional Freshmen as a Percent of Total First-Time Freshmen			
Fall 2013			
Institutions	Total First-Time Freshmen	Provisional Freshmen	Percent Provisional
Research Institutions			
Clemson	3289	0	0.0%
USC-Columbia	5046	0	0.0%
Total Research Institutions	8,335	0	0.0%
Comprehensive Teaching Colleges & Universities			
The Citadel	645	0	0.0%
Coastal Carolina	2095	0	0.0%
College of Charleston	2116	214	10.1%
Francis Marion University	744	2	0.3%
Lander University	519	18	3.5%
S.C. State University	566	40	7.1%
USC-Aiken	643	0	0.0%
USC-Beaufort	643	0	0.0%
USC-Upstate	781	0	0.0%
Winthrop University	1096	134	12.2%
Total Comprehensive Teaching Institutions	9,605	416	4.3%
Total Senior Institutions	17,940	416	2.3%
Two-Year Regional Campuses of USC			
USC-Lancaster	374	0	0.0%
USC-Salkehatchie	306	1	0.3%
USC-Sumter	227	0	0.0%
USC-Union	116	0	0.0%
Total Two-Year Regional Campuses of USC	1,023	1	68.8%
Grand Total	18,963	417	2.2%

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 which relate to the data presented in **Table 7**:

- 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 can be seen from the data presented in **Table 7**, in 2013, all senior 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 below:

TABLE 7A					
Provisional Freshmen as a Percent					
Total First-Time Freshmen					
Research Institutions	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Clemson University	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
USC-Columbia	0.0%	3.7%	16.0%	13.8%	0.0%
Comprehensive Teaching Colleges & Universities					
The Citadel	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Coastal Carolina University	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
College of Charleston	11.6%	13.8%	12.1%	9.5%	10.1%
Francis Marion University	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%	0.1%	0.3%
Lander University	0.0%	0.0%	4.5%	4.0%	3.5%
S.C. State University	0.0%	8.1%	2.4%	7.4%	7.1%
USC-Aiken	7.0%	7.3%	4.8%	6.5%	0.0%
USC-Beaufort*	2.9%	2.9%	6.7%	3.4%	2.0%
USC-Upstate	7.3%	7.8%	9.0%	6.5%	0.0%
Winthrop University	7.2%	9.6%	10.0%	12.0%	12.2%

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. College of Charleston continues to have a large percentage of provisional students, but remains below the recommended 15%.

USC applies the same admissions standards used at its main campus to students who apply to a USC Regional (two-year campus) and who are classified by the institution as baccalaureate-ready students. When a student applies to a Regional Campus (RC), his/her application is compared to USC-Columbia's admission standards. If the student could have been admitted to Columbia (but obviously desires admission to the local RC), s/he is "coded", using long-established USC-specific (that is, not state-wide, common criteria) designations as an "HB" which is the same code used for a Columbia admit. If the student does not meet Columbia criteria (which could be any combination of high school prerequisites, standardized test scores, predicted GPA) the student is classified as an "HR" which is referred to as "branch" status (as in branch campuses, the original designation of the all campuses outside of Columbia). These 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 a little less than two-thirds of the entering freshmen at the USC two-year campuses are classified as provisional students. The trend data for five years is presented below and shows a general pattern of approximately 52.4% of the students admitted

to the Regional Campuses are identified as provisionally admitted students with decreases since 2009.

TABLE 7B Provisional Freshmen as a Percent of Total First-Time Freshmen USC Two-Year Campuses Annual Percentage					
USC Two-Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Annual Percentage	65.0%	63.8%	64.5%	68.8%	0.1%

Part V: Fall 2014 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) that is required of most applicants for admission as freshmen. In 1993, the Commission approved the collection of additional data to include minimum ACT scores if these were submitted in lieu of SAT scores.

It is important to note that 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 been reporting 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 report this information for 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**). 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.

The approximate SAT and ACT score requirements reported by each institution **using class rank** for Fall 2014 are shown in **Table 8**.

Minimum admission standards are approximate. At institutions that use a predictive equation to determine which students to admit, the minimum required scores will vary depending on the value and weight of the other elements in the admission formula. For this reason, the minimum SAT and ACT scores required for admission are guideposts for students aspiring to be admitted to any given institution.

To determine the target minimum SAT/ACT score, institutions use class rank, the grade point average (GPA) of the college course prerequisites, or both. These data are separated into two tables indicating institutions that use class rank (**Table 8**) and those that use core GPA (**Table 9**). Clemson University, College of Charleston, Lander University, SC State, USC-Aiken, USC-Beaufort, and USC-Upstate report using both methods in setting their approximate minimum scores.

TABLE 8 ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS APPROXIMATE MINIMUM SAT SCORE (COMBINED) AND MINIMUM ACT SCORE REQUIREMENTS FOR FIRST-TIME ENTERING FRESHMEN 2014								
Institutions	High School Class Rank						Use Predictive Equation ¹	
	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		

All institutions reporting data in **Table 8** kept the 2013 minimum scores.

The approximate SAT and ACT score requirements reported by each institution **using core GPA for Fall 2014** are shown in **Table 9**. All institutions reporting data in **Table 9** kept the 2013 minimum scores.

TABLE 9 ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS APPROXIMATE MINIMUM SAT SCORE (COMBINED) AND MINIMUM ACT SCORE REQUIREMENTS FOR FIRST-TIME ENTERING FRESHMEN 2014								
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 10** 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 10
Requirement of SAT Writing Component for Admission in Fall 2014

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 review of correlation between freshmen student's performance in 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 2013, there was a slight decrease in first-time entering freshmen aged 25 and older from 2012 (109 to 105).

Table 11 Number of First-time Freshmen Aged 25 and Older by Year South Carolina Public Colleges and Universities Five-Year Comparison						
Institutions	Fall 2009	Fall 2010	Fall 2011	Fall 2012	Fall 2013	Grand Total
Research Institutions						
Clemson University	0	0	1	1	0	2
U.S.C. - Columbia	1	5	3	4	2	15
Medical Univ. of S.C.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Research Institutions	1	5	4	5	2	17
Comprehensive Teaching Institutions						
The Citadel	1	1	1	0	1	4
Coastal Carolina University	3	4	4	1	4	16
College of Charleston	1	0	3	0	0	4
Francis Marion University	5	5	3	0	0	13
Lander University	2	1	0	1	0	4
South Carolina State Univ.	7	6	1	4	2	20
U.S.C. - Aiken	1	2	0	1	4	8
U.S.C. - Beaufort	6	5	4	2	4	21
U.S.C. - Upstate	7	4	6	5	1	23
Winthrop University	0	0	1	2	0	3
Total Comprehensive Teaching Institutions	33	28	23	16	16	116
Total Senior Institutions	34	33	27	21	18	133
Two-Year Regional Campuses of USC						
U.S.C. - Lancaster	12	26	16	17	19	90
U.S.C. - Salkehatchie	41	59	81	52	45	278
U.S.C. - Sumter	14	8	3	4	3	32
U.S.C. - Union	14	13	15	15	20	77
Total Two-Year Regional Campuses of USC	81	106	115	88	87	477
Grand Total	115	139	142	109	105	610

Conclusion

. Fall 2013, 85.3% of applicable first-time freshmen met all the prerequisites compared to 91.7% in 2012 and 87.8% in 2011. Data were split among the four-year institutions from Fall 2012 to Fall 2013 in the percentage of freshmen meeting high school course prerequisites. Six institutions demonstrated increases in freshmen meeting high school course prerequisites while six institutions demonstrated decreases in freshmen meeting high school course prerequisites.

Retention rates were also split among student who did not meet the high school course prerequisites. Six institutions showed an increase in freshmen-to-sophomore retention rates for students who did not meet the high school course prerequisites, while six 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, 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.