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Rhode Island Department of Education Minimum Admissions Requirements and Implementation Guidance

Background

Beginning in 2009, the Rhode Island Department of Education established minimum basic skills requirements for entering educator preparation programs to ensure a high level of academic ability and achievement for Rhode Island students. There are both cohort and individual requirements for all teaching programs at the undergraduate level. There are individual level requirements for all post-baccalaureate teacher, administrator and support professional programs.

Cohort Requirements for Undergraduate Teaching Programs

Approved undergraduate programs ensure that the mean college GPA of their admitted candidate cohorts meets or exceeds 3.0 and that the mean score of their admitted candidate cohorts on nationally normed admissions assessments (such as the ACT, SAT or GRE) meet or exceed the annual benchmarks on each sub-test of these assessments:

- top 50 percent of the national distribution from 2016-2017;
- top 40 percent of the national distribution from 2018-2019; and
- top 33 percent of the national distribution by 2020.

Cohort averages will be determined utilizing SAT Percentile Rank Comparison years, ACT Percentile Rank Reporting Years, and/or GRE Percentile Rank Reporting years. Cohorts will be separately determined for the undergraduate and graduate programs at the provider. Additionally, cohorts are also determined by certificate area program within the undergraduate and graduate groups.

Admitted Cohort Year	SAT Percentile Rank Comparison Year	ACT Percentile Rank Comparison Year	GRE Percentile Rank Reporting Year	Percentile Ranking on each subtest
2016-2017	-2015	2013-2015	2012-2015	Top 50th
2017-2018	-2016	2014-2016	2013-2016	Top 50th
2018-2019	-2017	2015-2017	2014-2017	Top 40th
2019-2020	-2018	2016-2018	2015-2018	Top 40th
2020-2021	-2019	2017-2019	2016-2019	Top 33rd
2021-2022	-2020	2018-2020	2017-2020	Top 33rd

Note: Assessment scores from SAT, ACT, GRE and other approved national assessments may be used for up to 10 years after the test date. Individual candidates must meet the percentile ranking for the year aligned to their admitted cohort year, regardless of when they took those assessments.

Individual Requirements for Undergraduate Teaching Programs

For undergraduate programs, individual candidates must have at least a 2.75 GPA and meet rising percentile-based thresholds by meeting the lowest threshold of the previous two years. (For example, in 2018-2019, programs must ensure the mean score of their admitted candidate cohort meets or exceeds the 40th percentile on nationally normed admissions assessments, while individual candidates must score in at least the 50th percentile).

Individual candidates, who do not meet the current year’s test percentile threshold, must also meet or exceed RIDE’s requirements for the Core Academic Skills for Educators test:

Test Name	Passing Score Fall 2014
Core Academic Skills for Educators	150 Math 156 Reading 162 Writing Composite Score of 468 with no test score more than 3 points below the cut.

Individual Requirements for Post-Baccalaureate Teaching Programs

Individual candidates in post-baccalaureate programs must have at least a 3.0 GPA. Programs may implement a conditional acceptance policy that includes a GPA review after initial coursework. There are no additional basic skills testing requirements for post-bac programs.

Requirements for Administrator and Support Professional Programs

Basic Skills testing requirements do not apply to the following certificates: School Psychologist, School Social Worker, Speech-Language Pathologist, Administrator of Special Education, Administrator of Curriculum and Superintendent. They also do not apply to reading specialists, math specialists, school counselor, or principal candidates IF they hold or have held a teaching certificate since these requirements are considered to have been met previously.

Conditional Acceptance

In rare instances, programs may offer a conditional acceptance for a candidate who does not meet all entrance requirements. Candidates who do not meet current testing requirements must be provided with appropriate support to successfully remediate the area of need prior to program completion. Support to demonstrate meeting other admissions requirements such as GPA or other selectivity factors must also be provided and achieved prior to program completion. Programs may determine conditional acceptance protocols with RIDE to meet this expectation. The number of conditional acceptances granted and other relevant data will be reported to RIDE annually.