ADMISSION/READMISSION PROCEDURES

Policy Statement

To be eligible to register, all new students must meet admission requirements set by the university and the Board of Trustees. Former students wishing to re-enroll must apply and be accepted for readmission to be eligible for registration.

Reason for Policy/Purpose

This policy is required for the effective communication of university policies regarding admission or readmission to the university.

Who Needs to Know This Policy

All members of The University of Southern Mississippi community.

Website Address for this Policy

www.usm.edu/institutional-policies/policy-stua-adm-002

Definitions

Policy/Procedures

NEW STUDENTS

After being admitted, it is required that all new undergraduate students attend an orientation session sponsored by the Office of Admissions prior to the beginning of each semester.
*Admission requirements are subject to change as mandated by the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning.

FRESHMAN REQUIREMENTS

Entering freshmen are required to submit all of the following to be considered for admission:

1. Application for admissions
2. $35 non-refundable application fee
3. Official High School transcript
4. Official report of ACT or SAT scores

Students planning to enter the university as freshmen must complete the College Preparatory Curriculum (CPC) listed below and submit a composite ACT or combined SAT (verbal/quantitative) score. Please note that the writing components of the ACT and SAT are not used in evaluation for admission.

For more information about freshman admission requirements, click the plus signs below to expand the sections and get complete details.

**College Preparatory Curriculum (CPC)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Units</th>
<th>No. of units required</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>All must have substantial writing components.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, or higher math</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Biology, Advanced Biology, Chemistry, Advanced Chemistry, Physics, Physical Science (Some other lab-based sciences may be acceptable.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Must include U.S. History, World History, American Government (1/2 unit) and Economics or Geography (1/2 unit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Electives</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Choose from a foreign language, Geography, a math above Algebra II, or a science from those listed above. (One unit must be a foreign language or Geography.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Applications</td>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>Computer applications/programming course</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pre-High School Units

Algebra I, first year foreign language, Mississippi Studies or Computer Applications taken prior to high school will be
accepted for admission, provided the course content is the same as the high school course.

FULL ADMISSION

Full admission will be granted to the following:

1. All students completing the College Preparatory Curriculum (CPC) with a minimum of a 3.2 high school GPA on the CPC and a submitted ACT (composite) or SAT score
2. All students completing the College Preparatory Curriculum (CPC) with a minimum of a 2.5 high school GPA on the CPC or a class rank in the top 50 percent, as well as a score of 16 or higher on the ACT (composite) or a combined SAT score of 760
3. All students completing the College Preparatory Curriculum (CPC) with a minimum of 2.0 high school GPA on the CPC and a score of 18 or higher on the ACT (composite) or a combined SAT score of 860
4. Students who satisfy the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) standards for student-athletes who are full qualifiers under Division I guidelines

Admission with Deficiencies
 Applicants who fail to meet full admission standards as listed above may, as a result of a review, be admitted for the summer or fall semester. The review shall involve a consideration of high school performance, ACT/SAT scores, placement testing (ACCUPLACER), and special interests and skills, as well as other noncognitive factors.

As a result of the review, students who indicate inadequate readiness in English, reading or mathematics may be required to participate in counseling and testing, which will be held on campus prior to the beginning of the summer session. Applicants who successfully complete the counseling and testing program may be admitted to the university, with the requirement that they participate in the Year-Long Academic Support Program.

Students who are not successful in completing the counseling and testing program may be admitted with the requirements that they enroll in the Summer Developmental Program.

Summer Developmental Program
The Summer Developmental Program is an intensive nine-week program developed to prepare students for success during their first year of college studies. The program concentrates on those high school subject areas (writing, reading, mathematics) that are crucial to success in first-year college curricula. To be eligible to enroll in the program, students must first go through an on-campus interview, which includes taking a diagnostic test called the Accuplacer.

Students who successfully complete the Summer Developmental Program will be allowed to continue in the fall term with mandatory participation in the Year-Long Academic Support Program during their freshman year. Students who do not successfully complete the Summer Developmental Program will be counseled to explore other post-secondary opportunities, including those offered by community colleges.
The cost for the program is full-semester tuition plus the required study materials. A student may apply for financial aid to assist in paying for the program by filling out a FASFA application; a grant is also available through the State of Mississippi. The application for the state grant may be located on the Mississippi Institutions for Higher Learning Financial Aid website at http://www.mississippi.edu/riseupms/financialaid-state.php.

Year-Long Academic Support Program
The Year-Long Academic Support Program is designed to help students navigate through their first year of college studies with a positive experience and complete it with great success.

The program offers individualized one-on-one advisement and counseling sessions with a specified staff member in the Division of Undergraduate Studies. The student will be required to meet with the staff member throughout their first year of college prior enrolling for each upcoming semester.

TRANSFER ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Entering transfers are required to submit all of the following to be considered for admission:
1. Application for admissions
2. $35 non-refundable application fee
3. Official final transcript from each college or university attended (fax transcripts will not be accepted)

Transfer students must be in good standing from last institution attended

A transfer applicant can be admitted to Southern Miss through several different routes. Please note that admission to some academic programs may require students to meet additional requirements.

Admission through Traditional Transfer Requirements
Students must have either an associate degree intended for transfer from a regionally accredited institution or have completed the 30 semester hours of designated coursework outlined below with a minimum 2.0 cumulative grade point average for admission.

- 6 semester hours of English Composition (English Composition I and II)
- 3 semester hours of mathematics (college algebra, quantitative reasoning, or higher mathematics)
- 6 semester hours of natural science (courses must be laboratory-based, with the lecture courses accompanied by the respective lab course)
- 9 semester hours of humanities and fine arts (common examples of acceptable coursework are history, philosophy, religion, world literature, art, music)
- 6 semester hours of social or behavioral sciences (common examples of acceptable coursework are anthropology, geography, sociology, psychology, social work)

Admission through Partial Transfer Requirements
Students must have completed a minimum of 15 semester hours including the designated coursework outlined below with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average and for admission.

- 6 semester hours of English Composition (English Composition I and II)

**Admission through Freshman Requirements**
Students must meet freshman admission requirements and have earned a minimum 2.0 cumulative college grade point average for admission. Please note that transfer students admitted through this route must submit transcripts from all colleges/universities attended after high school and that transfer credits will be applied toward their degree at Southern Miss.

**Probationary Admission through Adult Status**
An applicant who is at least 21 years old and does not meet any other admission requirements may apply for admission as a non-degree-seeking student, which is commonly referred to as the adult status. Students seeking admission through this route must have a minimum cumulative college grade point average of 2.0. Students with this status may enroll in no more than 12 semester hours and must have a minimum 2.0 grade point average during the first 12 hours of enrollment at the university. Once these requirements are satisfactorily met, all restrictions are lifted and the student is considered degree-seeking. Students admitted on this status may experience financial aid restrictions, including Pell Grant ineligibility. Once adult status requirements are satisfied, all financial aid restrictions will be lifted.

**OTHER ROUTES TO ADMISSION**

**Applicants without a high school diploma**
Applicants who have not graduated from a regionally accredited high school and were not home-schooled must submit qualifying scores on the General Education Development Test (GED) and any transcripts reflecting academic performance in high school.

**Home-schooled applicants**
Home-schooled students must present portfolios summarizing his or her home-school education. Submission of ACT or SAT scores is strongly encouraged. Applicants may be required, at the discretion of the university, to appear for an on-campus interview.

**Early Admission**
The university offers highly qualified high school students the option to be considered for early admission. Consideration is based on the applicant meeting the following:

1. Obtaining a letter of support from the high school principal
2. Submitting test scores of 25 on the ACT (or SAT equivalent)
3. Completing the majority of core curriculum requirements with a 3.0 GPA
4. Providing a letter outlining reasons for early admission
5. Clearing the Admissions screening process

**Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit**
The university also offers highly qualified high school students the opportunity to earn college credits while they are enrolled in high school. Through our dual enrollment/dual credits program, high school students may take up to six hours of course work each semester at the university, provided that the courses do not interfere with their high school curriculum.

Consideration is based on the applicant meeting the following:
1. Obtaining a letter of support from his/her high school counselor or principal
2. Completing 14 core high school units from the core curriculum requirements or junior status with a 3.0 minimum grade point average
3. Submit ACT or SAT score

READMISSION

Students who have previously attended The University of Southern Mississippi and have a break in attendance of one or more terms must file an application for readmission. Readmission documents required include an official transcript from each institution attended since leaving Southern Miss, and if a degree has been received from another institution, an official transcript showing that degree. Other necessary documents required, if applicable, are academic probation/suspense clearance forms signed by all responsible parties in the academic unit and/or receipt of zero balance with Business Office.

Students must meet the minimum admission standards of the university and must have attained a 2.0 cumulative GPA from all institutions attended since leaving Southern Miss in order to be eligible for readmission. Students who have been suspended from the last institution attended since leaving Southern Miss may not be readmitted.

Students who reclassify will be discontinued in the Graduate School and will have to submit all appropriate paperwork to be readmitted to graduate studies in the future. Reclassified students previously seeking a graduate degree will not have that degree posted until they are readmitted to graduate studies and registered for graduate hours. If students are preregistered for any classes on the graduate level, they will not be able to be reclassified until the next semester. Once reclassified, students are responsible for registering for undergraduate courses during the next open registration period. A student’s existing undergraduate major will be changed to “no-major general studies.” It is the responsibility of the student to contact the appropriate academic department or dean’s office on the procedure to declare an undergraduate major.

Review

The Director of Admissions for Operations is responsible for the review of this policy every four years (or whenever circumstances require immediate review).

Forms/Instructions

N/A
Appendices

N/A

Related Information

N/A

History

11/1/11: Formatted for Institutional Policies website.
02/21/13: Formatted for template. Minor editing throughout.
Amendments: Month, Day, Year – summary of changes
Authorization

ADMISSION/READMISSION PROCEDURES
STUA-ADM-000-002

As the Responsible Officer, I have reviewed this policy and believe it represents the current policy.

[Signature]
Responsible Officer

[Date]
3/11/13