**MASSACHUSETTS STATE COLLEGES AND UMASS**

**MINIMUM ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS**

The admissions standards for the state colleges and UMass emphasize a strong

academic high school background so that students enter college ready to learn. These

standards represent minimum requirements; meeting them does not guarantee

admission, since campus officials consider a wide range of factors in admissions

decisions. Students shall have fulfilled all requirements for the high school diploma or its

equivalent upon enrollment. *It is important to note that admissions standards for the*

*state’s community colleges differ. Community colleges may admit any high school*

*graduate or GED recipient.*

***Freshman Applicants***

The admissions standards for freshmen applicants have two main parts:

1. 16 required academic courses.

2. a minimum required grade point average (GPA) earned in college preparatory

courses completed at the time of application.

Applicants must also submit an SAT or ACT score.

*Academic Course Requirement*

Sixteen college preparatory courses distributed as follows are required. (A course is

equivalent to one full school year of study. Courses count toward the distribution only if

passed.)

♦ English 4 courses

♦ Mathematics 3 courses (Algebra I & II and Geometry or

Trigonometry, or comparable coursework)

♦ Sciences 3 courses (including 2 courses with

laboratory work)

♦ Social Sciences 2 courses (including 1 course in U.S. History)

♦ Foreign Languages 2 courses (in a single language)

♦ Electives 2 courses (from the above subjects or from the

Arts & Humanities or Computer Sciences)

*Minimum Required Grade Point Average (GPA)*

The GPA must be achieved based on all college preparatory courses completed at the

time of application and should be weighted for accelerated (Honors or Advanced

Placement) courses. The required minimum weighted high school GPA is 3.0 for the

four-year public campuses.

State College GPA University GPA

3.00 3.00

*SAT Scores*

Applicants who meet the GPA requirement do not have to use the sliding scale

for admission, but still must submit SAT or ACT test scores for consideration if

they are applying to a state college or UMass within three years of high school

graduation.

*Sliding Scale (used when GPA is lower than the minimum required GPA)*

If an applicant’s GPA falls below the required minimum, a sliding scale will apply.

*This scale should be used only when an applicant’s GPA falls below the required*

*3.0 minimum for admission to the state colleges or UMass.*

Scores on the new writing section of the SAT will not affect the sliding scale for freshman

applicants to the Massachusetts state colleges and to the University of Massachusetts at

this time. The sliding scale, used in making admissions decisions for students with high

school grade point averages falling below the required minimum, will continue to be

based upon the combined critical reading (verbal) and math sections of the SAT.

***Sliding Scale for Freshman Applicants to UMass***

**Weighted High School GPA Combined SAT-I V&M**

**Must Equal or Exceed**

*(ACT Equivalent in Italics)*

2.51-2.99 950 *(20)*

2.41-2.50 990 *(21)*

2.31-2.40 1030 *(22)*

2.21-2.30 1070 *(23)*

2.11-2.20 1110 *(24)*

2.00-2.10 1150 *(25)*

NO APPLICANT WITH A HIGH SCHOOL GPA BELOW 2.00

MAY BE ADMITTED TO A STATE COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY CAMPUS.

***Sliding Scale for Freshman Applicants to a State College***

**Weighted High School GPA Combined SAT-I V&M**

**Must Equal or Exceed**

*(ACT Equivalent in Italics)*

2.51-2.99 920 *(19)*

2.41-2.50 960 *(20)*

2.31-2.40 1000 *(21)*

2.21-2.30 1040 *(22)*

2.11-2.20 1080 *(23)*

2.00-2.10 1120 *(24)*

**EXCEPTION ALLOWANCES**

***English as a Second Language (ESL) Applicants***

Effective Fall 1999, English As a Second Language (ESL) applicants must complete the

16 required college preparatory courses with two exceptions:

1. ESL applicants may substitute up to two college preparatory electives for the two

required foreign language courses and,

2. ESL applicants may substitute up to two years of college preparatory ESL English

courses for college preparatory English courses, provided they achieve a rank of at

least the 62nd percentile on the TOEFL or ELPT test. (This means a 550 on the

paper TOEFL, 968 on the ELPT, or a 213 on the computerized TOEFL test.)

*ESL exception applicants who meet minimum GPA*

To qualify for either of these exceptions ESL applicants must achieve the required

minimum GPA in their college preparatory and substitute ESL courses. Applicants must

submit in addition to the required TOEFL or ELPT, an SAT 1 or ACT test score,

although no minimum SAT 1 or ACT score must be achieved.

*ESL exception applicants who do not meet minimum GPA*

When the applicant’s GPA is below the minimum required GPA, in addition to the

required TOEFL or ELPT score, the sliding scale must be used to meet minimum

admissions standards and an appropriate SAT-I or ACT test score must be achieved.

***Learning Disabled Applicants***

Applicants with professionally diagnosed and documented learning disabilities

(documentation must include diagnostic test results) are exempt from taking

standardized tests for admission to any public institution of higher education in the

Commonwealth. Such students, however, must complete 16\*\* required academic

courses with a minimum required GPA of 3.00 or present other evidence of the potential

for academic success.

\*\*An applicant may substitute two college preparatory electives for the two required

foreign language courses only if the applicant has on file with the high school results of

a psycho-educational evaluation completed within the past three years that provides a

specific diagnosis of a learning disability and an inability to succeed in a foreign

language.

*Eligibility for admission is not an entitlement of admission for any applicant, including*

*learning disabled students.*

This policy frames minimum standards for admission to Massachusetts state colleges

and UMass. Institutions are free to set higher standards and/or to impose additional

requirements. In any case, meeting minimum standards for admissibility does not

guarantee admission for any applicant. The final decision on accepting an applicant

rests with the individual campus.