

(Revised) Senate Resolution 98-07

Whereas LSU, Louisiana's flagship university, should strive to attract the state's best and most promising high school graduates, and provide them with the best training and finest quality education possible, and

Whereas our statistics show that higher admissions standards translate into better student performance and enhanced student success at LSU, and furthermore appear to be correlated with increased numbers of high school students considering LSU to be an attractive university to attend, and therefore with rising numbers of entering freshmen and rising year-to-year retention rates, and

Whereas fall 1997 enrollments have already made it necessary to increase instructional staff and find additional classroom space on short notice, and

Whereas the State has instituted the innovative and exciting TOPS scholarship program, which may lead to further increases in the number of students wanting to attend LSU, and

Whereas LSU applauds the State Legislature's efforts to raise standards for high school students across the state, and should play its part as well in this effort to raise academic standards,

Therefore, be it resolved that

1. The University will continue the process of strengthening our admissions standards for entering students. Specifically:
 - a. Students satisfying a published set of requirements based primarily on high school courses, grade point average, and standardized test scores will be accepted automatically. This automatic admission level will be set and adjusted as necessary by the Admissions, Standards, and Honors Committee, approved by the faculty Senate, and published in the University catalog.
 - b. Starting in Fall 2000, students with the following will be automatically admitted:
 - i. A high school GPA of greater than 3.5, ACT greater than 28, and rigorous college preparatory curriculum in an accredited or state-approved high school; or
 - ii. 17.5 specified high school units and a high school GPA/ACT combination of greater than 2.5/20; or
 - iii. 16 of 17.5 specified units and a high school GPA/ACT combinations of greater than 2.5/22, 2.7/21, or 3.0/20; or
 - iv. Other combinations of GPA on the 17.5 specified high school units and ACT composite score that are equivalent to the predicted success based on the 2.5 GPA and 20 ACT.
 - c. All other students will be considered for admission based on an evaluation of their likelihood of success at LSU. The specific admissions criteria will be established each year by Admission, Standards, and Honors Committee of the Faculty Senate, working with the Office of Undergraduate Admissions and the Office of Academic Affairs, and will include high school grade point average, standardized test scores, class rank, pattern and quality of courses, grade trends, educational objectives, extracurricular activities, leadership abilities, school recommendations, special talents, significant life

and career experiences, membership in groups underrepresented in the student body, or special circumstances. The purpose of the Admission Committee review is to evaluate the qualifications of each applicant to determine whether equivalent predictors of success exist and whether to admit the student on this basis. The aim will be to admit students with retention and graduation rates that will put LSU in the top 25% of major public universities.

2. ACCESS will be discontinued in Fall 1998 and replaced by a summer program for students who are identified as having the potential for success at LSU and who might benefit from a summer program prior to regular admission for the fall semester. To continue after the summer program, students must complete 6 college level credit hours during the summer, 3 hours of which must be English or Mathematics, and earn at least a 2.5 GPA.
3. The Chair of Admissions, Standards, and Honors will present a report of the November meeting of the Faculty Senate each year describing the admissions profile of the entering class, the criteria used for making admissions decisions, information on the accuracy of success predictions for previous classes, and the results of a summer program for entering students.
4. The new admissions procedure will be fully implemented for the class entering in Fall 2000 and publicized as soon as approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Additional Comments:

1. An immediate change can be made to the University catalog by adding the following statement to the beginning of the Undergraduate Admission section:
“Note: The admissions criteria described in this catalog apply though Fall 1999 admissions only. The University’s admissions requirements are currently being studied and are expected to be strengthened. New policies will be published as soon as they are finalized and are expected to go into effect in Fall 2000.”
2. In order to provide some enrollment control, deadlines will be used more seriously. For Fall 1998, Admissions will require that all applications be in by the “Priority date” of June 1. Any application arriving after June 1 will be considered on an appeals basis only. We will require that applicants have all their credentials in to Admissions by Aug. 1. Any student who is late getting his or her credentials in will be admitted on an appeals basis only. This is totally consistent with our catalog statements, but at least gives us information about the number of new students a little earlier than this past year.

For Fall 1999, we will move the June 1 deadline up to May 1, and move the Aug. 1 credentials deadline date up to July 1. This is intended to help our planning process and should pose no problem for applicants.