

**Comprehensive Standard 3.4.3** The Institution publishes admissions policies that are consistent with its mission.

Compliance     Partial Compliance     Non-Compliance

### **Judgment of Compliance**

Georgia College & State University is in compliance with this standard and is able to provide supporting evidence through the narrative and documentation that it publishes admissions policies consistent with its mission and vision to provide an “educational experience typical of esteemed private liberal arts colleges combined with the affordability of a public higher education.”

### **Overview**

GCSU publishes its admissions policies and procedures in the student catalogs, on the GCSU web site, on the GAcollege411 site, degree program materials, and on all applications for admission in electronic and print media. Samples are included in the documentation list.

GCSU is classified as a public state university, funded through state appropriations and governed by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. Consequently, it is bound by minimum admissions policies developed by the Board of Regents. As a public state university, GCSU must set minimum requirements for admission of students in accordance with the state university classification. GCSU complies with the admissions policy set by the University System of Georgia’s Board of Regents, which is intended to assure the nondiscriminatory processing of the application for admission to any college by any student at least 16 years of age who seeks access to quality instruction to enhance his or her capabilities ([sections 3.1-3.10 of the BOR academic affairs handbook](#), “undergraduate admissions,” included in documentation).

Under the policies of the BOR, institutions may also set higher standards than the minimum for the institution classification. Though GCSU is a public institution, it does not have an open admissions policy. GCSU’s Office of Admissions has developed institutional and program-specific admission policies that are appropriate for the institution’s mission and its vision to provide students with an “educational experience typical

of esteemed private liberal arts colleges combined with the affordability of a public higher education” ([GCSU mission/vision statements](#)). Therefore, GCSU’s admissions policies exceed the minimum requirements for admission under the BOR’s state university classification, including the minimum freshman index, SAT and/or ACT scores, and GPA requirements (see [BOR academic affairs handbook sections 3.1-3.10 on “undergraduate admissions”](#) included in documentation). These policies are explained in detail below and examples of publications containing admissions information are included.

## **Explanation**

**[GCSU Mission/Vision Statements](#):** GCSU’s admission practices are consistent with its mission as the state’s public liberal arts institution. Its vision includes “challenging and fostering excellence in the classroom and beyond” and “endow[ing] its graduates with a passion for achievement, a lifelong curiosity, and exuberance for learning.” Consistent with our mission and vision, GCSU seeks inquisitive students who exhibit the desire to further “develop an analytical mind; a sense of civic and global responsibility; sound ethical principals; respect for human diversity and individuality; effective writing, speaking and qualitative skills; and a healthy lifestyle.”

**[Undergraduate Admissions Policies](#):** The University renders undergraduate admission decisions on a competitive basis in a first-to-qualify environment. Students must meet minimum admission requirements for the institution and for the University System of Georgia (USG). Unlike the majority of USG institutions, GCSU uses a holistic review process. In addition to an application, SAT or ACT test scores, and transcripts, GCSU requires a personal essay from every freshman applicant. GCSU also strongly encourages students to submit additional items such as resumes and letters of recommendation. The submission of such items is considered a demonstration of the student’s interest in and desire to be admitted to Georgia College. Admission reviewers evaluate each student’s completed file based on seven criteria: academic preparation and achievement, recommendations, demonstrated interest, leadership and community contributions, life

experiences, elements of diversity, and strength of the freshman essay. Admissions decisions are based on the total student portfolio, the student's demonstrated potential for contribution to the university, and the student's probability for success in the unique environment of the GCSU community.

The levels at which students are admitted are determined by the quantity and quality of students in the applicant pool. The middle 50% of admitted freshman for Fall 2008 had SAT combined scores ranging from 1080 to 1210 (Critical Reasoning + Mathematics subscores only), and high school grade point averages ranging from 3.13 to 3.71 (calculated on academic courses only). Since our freshman class size is limited, an increasing number of applications received each year has resulted in increased competition for admission. Students whose test scores/subscores may subject them to screening for Learning Support/Remedial placement and students who have not completed a rigorous college preparatory curriculum will not be considered for admission.

**Program-Specific Admissions Policies:** Admission to the University does not guarantee admission to specific major programs of study. Some programs, such as those in the John Lounsbury College of Education, the Nursing program, and Mass Communication, have higher admission requirements for these specific programs than the general requirements for admission to the university.

**Transfer Admissions Policies:** Transfer students (including Post Baccalaureate and Second Undergraduate Degree applicants) have (or will have at the time of enrollment) at least 30 semester (45 quarter) hours of transferable college credit and will be eligible to immediately return to their previous school. Students with less than 30 hours of transferable college credit are subject to the freshman evaluation process.

Transfer students are admitted based on tiered admission requirements. Minimum requirements for admission as a transfer student based on numbers of semester credit hours previously earned. Applicants with less than 30 earned semester credit hours must have a minimum 2.0 Transfer GPA and meet requirements for admission as a freshman. Applicants with at least 30 earned semester credit hours, but less than 60, must have a minimum 2.3 Transfer GPA. Applicants with 60 or more earned semester credit hours must have a minimum 2.5

Transfer GPA. Applicants to the Mass Communication Program must have a minimum 2.5 Transfer GPA, regardless of earned credit hours. Applicants to the Generic Nursing Program must have a minimum 2.75 Transfer GPA regardless of earned credit hours. Official SAT or ACT scores are also required for Nursing majors seeking admission to the Generic Nursing Program.

**Joint Enrollment/Early Admission Policies:** Joint Enrollment applicants have completed at least the 10th grade and seek to challenge themselves by utilizing college courses to fulfill high school graduation requirements. Early Admission applicants seek to abandon a high school diploma and enroll as a full time student following completion of the junior year in high school. Joint Enrollment and Early Admission applicants must have a 3.0 academic grade point average calculated only on college preparatory curriculum courses, and must be on track to complete a College Preparatory diploma. It is recommended that these students, have SAT scores of at least 530 Critical Reading and 530 Math (or 23 English ACT and 22 Math ACT), however other scores may be considered in accordance with University System of Georgia minimum requirements and based on the applicant's desired course selection. Joint enrollment students, who wish to continue their education at Georgia College after they graduate from high school, must apply and be evaluated as freshmen applicants.

**Home School Admissions Policies:** Georgia College welcomes qualified home schooled students and students from non-accredited high schools. Georgia College and the Board of Regents have established guidelines for admission of home schooled students and students from non-accredited/recognized high schools. Students with a diploma from a regionally accredited home study program such as the American School or the Seton Home Study School or a diploma from the Center of the Accrediting Council for Independent Study (Georgia only) will be given the same consideration for admission as a student from a public high school. Admission of home schooled students from programs not included in the previous paragraph and students from non-accredited schools will be made on the basis of students having an SAT or ACT test score equal to or above the average score of the previous year's entering freshman class and providing a portfolio and/or other evidence of having the equivalent of the Georgia high school college preparatory curriculum as defined by the Board

of Regents of the University System of Georgia. Supplementary documentation may include scores on the Iowa Test for Academic Proficiency, The California Achievement Test, or the Stanford Achievement Test.

Students may also be considered for admission based on the minimum SAT II subject exam scores indicated below and showing proficiency with a foreign language equivalent to two years of high school foreign language completion. The required SAT II subject exams and minimum scores are as follows:

SAT II Subject Test  
English Writing, 520 (minimum score)  
English Literature, 530  
Math IC-500, Math II C 570  
Biology, 520  
Chemistry or Physics, 450 Chemistry/590 Physics  
American History & SS, 560  
World History, 540

Foreign language proficiency must be satisfied by completing a college level foreign language class with a grade of C or better at another accredited/recognized college or university OR provide Georgia College with your College Level Examination Program (CLEP) score of at least 50, or by passing a proficiency exam at Georgia College.

**Bridge Scholar Program Admissions Policies:** Bridge Scholar students must meet all admissions requirements for freshmen.

**Non-Traditional Student Admission Policies:** Non-traditional applicants are defined as individuals who meet all of the following criteria:

- \*have been out of high school at least five years or whose high school class graduated at least five years ago,

- \*hold a high school diploma from an accredited or approved high school or have satisfactorily completed the GED,

- \*have earned fewer than 30 transferable semester credit hours,

- \*have not attended college within the past five years (or are in good standing at the last college attended)

if admitted to that college as a non-traditional student).

All non-traditional students applicants must be screened for placement in Learning Support courses, using the COMPASS test as administered in a USG institution, and must meet USG criteria for exemption or exit from learning support in reading, English, and mathematics. As an alternative, non-traditional students who have within the past seven years posted SAT scores of at least 500 in both verbal and mathematics or ACT scores of at least 21 on both English and mathematics may exempt the COMPASS placement test. Non-traditional student applicants who completed the College Preparatory Curriculum in high school (or who graduated from high school prior to Spring 1988) may be admitted based on minimum freshman admission requirements.

**Graduate Admissions Policies:** Graduate admissions policies are consistent with Georgia College's mission to offer "select master's and educational specialist degrees", particularly in response to high-demand disciplines within the state. Admission to graduate study is offered to applicants who hold a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution and who present evidence of probable success in graduate work. Admission is based on criteria specific to each program. All programs require satisfactory prior college work and test scores. Additional documentation may include letters of recommendation, interviews, resume, cover letters, certificates, and/or other credentials, depending on the requirements of the particular program. The faculty and graduate coordinators within the respective disciplines make admission decisions.

### **Programs Available via Distance Education**

GCSU has limited programs available via Distance Education. These include the RN-BSN degree, the M.Ed in Instructional Technology Degree, the Master of Music Therapy degree, and the Georgia WebMBA. The WebMBA requires two years of successful professional experience and high GMAT and GPAs, indicating a probability of success in an online environment (see the [Georgia WebMBA web page pdf file](#)).

The RN-BSN degree is designed for practicing registered professional nurses holding an associate degree or diploma degree in nursing, who have already demonstrated ability to succeed in the professional environment. This program builds on the knowledge and skills of the practicing nurse following completion of the core curriculum (60 hours) and has a highly selective admissions process. It also requires applicants to have basic knowledge in word processing, email accounts, and other tools necessary for success online (see the [catalog description of admissions requirements](#) and requirements for demonstrating successful progress through the program).

The M.Ed. in Instructional Technology requires for admission Georgia State Certification or eligibility to hold certification, and this embraces technological competence necessary for success online (see the [College of Educations admissions page in the graduate catalog](#)). See also the Professional Standards Reference: Rule 505-2-.08 Special Georgia Requirement; Subsection (1)(f) (1)(f) Computer Skill Competency. Effective July 1, 2001, any person certified in any field shall demonstrate satisfactory proficiency on a PSC-approved test of computer skill competency or complete a PSC-approved training/course equivalent. Holding National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) valid certification will satisfy the computer skill competency requirement.

The Master of Music Therapy requires applicants to have a bachelors degree in music therapy that included an internship in an approved program or have completed a degree equivalency program that included an internship in an approved program and have shown evidence of certification with the CBMT or be listed in the Music Therapy Registry for non-board-certified music therapists. Applicants must also have permission of the instructor for admission to Master of Music Therapy Degree program and have basic knowledge of computer operating system, word processing skills, use of email, and an email address (see [downloaded copy of the Music Therapy web page](#)).

## Supporting Documentation

[BOR academic affairs handbook sections 3.1-3.10 on “undergraduate admissions”](#)

[GCSU mission/vision statements](#)

Sample Publications Illustrating Compliance:

UNDERGRADUATE  
ADMISSIONS

[GCSU Undergraduate Catalog](#)

[GCSU Undergraduate](#)

[Admissions](#)

[Freshman admissions](#)

[Mass Communications](#)

[admissions standards from the](#)

[catalog](#)

[College of Education](#)

[admissions standards from the](#)

[catalog](#)

[Nursing admissions standards](#)

[from the catalog](#) (scroll down to

see progression requirements)

[GCSU Undergraduate](#)

[Application](#)

GRADUATE ADMISSIONS

GCSU WEB - GRADUATE ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

[Admissions Checklist and Requirements](#)

GCSU GRADUATE CATALOG – PROGRAM ADMISSION

REQUIREMENTS

[Graduate Catalog](#) in PDF format [Public Administration Admission](#)

[Graduate Catalog Admissions](#) [Requirements](#)

page [College of Business Admission](#)

[Biology Admission Requirements](#) [Requirements](#)

[Creative Writing Admission](#) [College of Education Admission](#)

[Requirements](#) [Requirements](#)

[Criminal Justice Admission](#) [Nursing Admission Requirements](#)

[Requirements](#) [Kinesiology Admission Requirements](#)

[English Admission Requirements](#) [Music Therapy Admission](#)

[History Admission Requirements](#) [Requirements](#)

[Music Education Admission](#)

[Requirements](#)

UNDERGRADUATE  
PROGRAM BROCHURES

SAMPLE GRADUATE PROGRAM BROCHURES

<a href="#"><u>Bachelor of Science in Outdoor Education</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Master of Accountancy</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Master of Science in Criminal Justice</u></a>
	<a href="#"><u>Master of Business Administration</u></a>	
<a href="#"><u>Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Master of Management</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Master of Education in Kinesiology: Human Performance</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Bachelor of Arts in English with a Concentration in Literature</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Information Systems</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Master of Education in Kinesiology: Outdoor Education Administration</u></a>
	<a href="#"><u>WEB Master of Business Administration</u></a>	
<a href="#"><u>Mass Communication: Public Relations, Advertising, Print, Telecommunications</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Master of Education in Early Childhood Education</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Adult Clinical Nurse Specialist</u></a>
		<a href="#"><u>Family Nurse Practitioner</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Music</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Master of Education Programs in Educational Technology</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Nursing Administration: Healthcare Informatics Role</u></a>
	<a href="#"><u>Master of Arts in Teaching in Special Education</u></a>	
		<a href="#"><u>Master of Science in Nursing/ Master of Business Administration</u></a>
	<a href="#"><u>Specialist of Education in Curriculum and Instruction</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Joint Program</u></a>

**Programs Available by Distance Education: Admissions and Recruitment Materials**

[Georgia WebMBA web page pdf file](#): illustrating professional experience and other admissions requirements suggestive of success in the online environment

RN-BSN [catalog description of admissions requirements](#): Illustrating selective admissions policies and technical requirements for admission.

M.Ed. Instructional Technology: [College of Educations admissions page in the graduate catalog](#) illustrating requirements implying technical competency for online work for admission

Master of Music Therapy: [downloaded copy of the Music Therapy web page](#) illustrating requirements suggestive of success in the online environment, including technical competency.