

Faculty Senate (Revised) Resolution SR 00-08

New Admission Standards for Transfer Students

Whereas, Louisiana State University (LSU) wishes to attract the very best students at every level and also desires to maximize their success at LSU, and

Whereas, present transfer policies are unfair to poorly prepared students in that they often do not succeed at LSU, and

Whereas, we have been increasing admission standards for new students entering at the freshman level,

Therefore, be it resolved that beginning in the Fall of 2001, transfer students must satisfy the following admission standards:

Students with previous college or university work from regionally accredited institutions may be considered for admission if they have an overall 2.5 grade-point average or better on all college-level work attempted (this work must be beyond remedial courses and include a mathematics and an English course).

Transfer students who have earned fewer than 30 semester hours of college-level (above remedial) work must also meet the current requirements for freshman admission.

Applications who have earned more than 60 semester hours of college-level (above remedial) work must also be accepted by their intended senior college.

Justification: With these new standards, the transfer students admitted will be similar to students who are admitted under current freshman standards. Under the new rules, we would expect their first semester grade point average (GPA) to be above 2.00 and for most students over 2.2, and second semester GPA even better. While first year persistence is currently not very different for transfer students than for our normally admitted students, we expect second year persistence will be dramatically improved to over 65%. Six-year graduation rates should increase to close to 60% compared with graduation rates in the mid-thirties which currently is the case for students admitted with a transfer GPA under 2.5

Numbers of students involved: Including all data from 1993-98, we have had 5,087 transfer students (1001 in Fall 98). For those five years that number who would not be admitted under the new rules is 37.1% of which 1598 students had a GPA under 2.5 and an extra 290 had under 30 hours in transfer credit. In 1998, 29% of 290 transfer students had GPA under 2.5 plus a few additional students who had less than 30 hours and would not be admitted under the new rules. However, the two-year dropout rates for these lower GPA students is about 55% (for native LSU students those numbers are closer to 20%). In fact, using last three-year data, only 40.4% of these lower GPA students succeed at LSU. Therefore, to see the effects on enrollment, if we admit 37% fewer students (or 630 versus 1000 total), most of those 370 would not be around after one year so the real loss is at most $370 \times .4 = 148$ students. With the number and quality of the transfer students increasing, very likely the loss would be made up within a year (even before the new standards take effect).