UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON SYSTEM
BOARD OF REGENTS AGENDA

COMMITTEE: Academic and Student Success

ITEM: Approval of Admission Standards for Freshmen at the University of Houston-Clear Lake

DATE PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED:

SUMMARY:
The University of Houston-Clear Lake proposes freshmen admission standards effective for first-time-in-college (FTIC) students entering in the fall of 2014. The new admission standards are part of UH-Clear Lake’s overall initiative to transition from an upper-level to a four-year university in fall 2014.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:
Proposed Freshmen Admissions Standards Policy
Comparison of Admissions Standards at UH System universities
SAT scores for students in Houston Metro area

FISCAL NOTE: None

RECOMMENDATION/ACTION REQUESTED:
Administration recommends approval of this item.

COMPONENT: University of Houston-Clear Lake

08/15/12
CONSENT DOCKET-A&SS - A1
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON-CLEAR LAKE

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE FOR FRESHMEN ADMISSION STANDARDS

In the 2011 session of the Texas legislature, UH-Clear Lake received legislative authority to offer freshmen and sophomore level courses. UH-Clear Lake is planning to transition from an upper-level to a four-year university effective with the fall 2014 semester. Freshmen admission standards are a critical part of this transition process. Key considerations in the formulation of our freshmen admission standards include the following factors:

- UH-Clear Lake’s admission standards will be complementary to, not competitive with, the admission standards of UH, UHD, and UHV. For fall 2014, which would be the first semester for UHCL to admit freshmen, the chart of the admit standards for the four UH System universities (University of Houston System Fall 2014 Admission Standards SAT/ACT) shows the differences between and among the four universities. The different admit standards would allow the UH System to serve the entire Houston Metro region with different options for different students while at the same time allowing the UH System to grow and capture more total enrollment across the Houston region.

- With respect to the number of potential students for UHCL at its proposed admission standards, the chart of College Board Test Takers shows the number of those test takers who scored an SAT between 950 and 990 was 1,905 within a 30 mile radius of UHCL, 3,007 within a 40 mile radius, and 3,386 within a 50 mile radius. Given the number of test takers in the 30 to 50 mile radius of UHCL who scored between 950 and 990, we are confident of meeting enrollment goals for freshmen. We are also confident of meeting enrollment goals for lower division transfer students, who will come to UHCL primarily from the many community colleges in our region.

- Additional key information can be found in the University of Houston’s fall 2010 applicants who were denied admission by SAT scores. For the SAT range of 900 to 999, 1,102 students were denied while for the range of 899 and below, 2,007 were denied. With the proposed admission standards of 950 for UHCL, we should be able to capture additional students who have been denied admission at UH thus increasing the overall enrollment for the UH System.
University of Houston-Clear Lake

Freshman Admissions

Uniform Admission Policy

The University of Houston-Clear Lake abides by the State of Texas Uniform Admission Policy (Texas Education Code 51.803-51.809), which requires that all students meet one of the following college readiness standards in order to be eligible to be considered for admission at a Texas Four-Year Public Institution. To demonstrate college readiness, an applicant must:

- Successfully complete the recommended or advanced high school program or the portion of the program that was available to them; or

- Satisfy the College Readiness Benchmarks on the SAT or ACT assessment
  SAT – 1500 out of 2400 (Verbal + Math + Writing)
  ACT – 18 English, 21 Reading, 22 Mathematics and 24 Science; or

- Successfully complete a curriculum that is equivalent in content and rigor to the recommended or advanced high school program at a high school that is exempt from offering such programs.

Applicants who do not meet one of the first two requirements must prove they meet the third requirement by submitting with their application the High School Curriculum Certification Form.

Automatic Admission

In compliance with state law, applicants who graduate in the top 10% of their high school class and who completed coursework equivalent to the Texas Recommended High School Program or higher will receive automatic admission to UHCL. In order to be eligible for consideration under this option, an applicant must have graduated from high school no more than two years prior to the academic year for which he or she is applying for admission.

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Applicants in the top 10% of their class are required to submit either SAT or ACT scores. Those who do not score at least 950 on the SAT (combined critical reading/verbal + math) or 20 on the ACT are required to participate in recommended success programs.

**Assured Admission**

Applicants who meet the State of Texas Uniform Admission Policy and also meet the requirements below are assured admission to UHCL.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank in Class</th>
<th>Minimum Test Scores</th>
<th>ACT Composite</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Top 11-25%</td>
<td>950 (CR + M)</td>
<td>20 OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top 26-50%</td>
<td>1050</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Applicants who:

- attended a non-accredited high school, or
- attended home school, or
- received a GED, or
- do not meet the criteria for automatic or assured admission

will be considered under Individual Review.

**Admission under Individual Review**

Freshman applicants who do not meet the assured admission criteria, but who graduate in the 1st or 2nd quartile of their high school class, may be referred to the Admissions Review Committee. Once an applicant’s file has been reviewed, he or she may be asked to submit additional information required to finalize the admission decision. These may include:

- New SAT or ACT scores
- An essay (personal statement) addressing educational and career goals
• Letters of recommendation from a high school counselor and two teachers. All letters should address the student's academic ability and preparedness for university-level study.

Freshman applicants who ranked in the 3rd or 4th quartile of their high school class or who attended a non-accredited high school, attended home school, or who received a GED are required to submit the following documentation with the application:

• SAT or ACT test scores

• Essay or personal statement addressing educational and career goals

• Three letters of recommendation which address the applicant's academic ability and preparedness for university-level study. One letter must be from the applicant's high school counselor and two from the applicant's teachers. GED and home-school applicants may present letters from individuals who can address the applicant's academic ability and preparedness for university-level study.

Factors that may assist in determining academic readiness through Individual Review may include, but are not limited to, the following:

• High school attended

• First-generation college attendance

• Employment experience

• Special abilities such as bilingual proficiency

• Meeting family responsibilities

• Individual achievements

• Leadership activities

• Public service

• Extra-curricular activities

Consideration for admission by individual review can occur only if an applicant has submitted the required documentation (letters of recommendation, personal essay, etc.).

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CONSENT DOCKET-A&SS-A5
An applicant under Individual Review may be required to complete an interview with an admission officer.

Transfer student admission criteria:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours of college-level credit</th>
<th>Required GPA*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-29</td>
<td>Must meet freshman criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-44</td>
<td>2.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45+</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Admission will be granted to applicants who have earned an associate’s degree from a regionally accredited U.S. institution. Official transcripts must be received from all previously attended institutions.

Applicants who are not eligible to return immediately to the last institution attended will not be admitted.

* All grades earned from college-level courses, including repeated courses, are used in computing the grade point average. All courses taken must be from regionally accredited U.S. institutions.

Please note: The admissions appeal is similar to the request for Individual Review and will be incorporated into the admissions appeal process that already is established for transfer students.

International students can be considered under individual review.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High School Rank</th>
<th>UH</th>
<th>UHCL</th>
<th>UHV</th>
<th>UHD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Top 10%</td>
<td>No Minimum</td>
<td>No Minimum</td>
<td>No Minimum</td>
<td>No Minimum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admit Standards</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11% - 25%</td>
<td>1000/21</td>
<td>950/20</td>
<td>860/18</td>
<td>No Minimum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26% - 50%</td>
<td>1100/24</td>
<td>1050/23</td>
<td>860/18</td>
<td>850/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd &amp; 4th Quartile</td>
<td>Ind Rev</td>
<td>Ind Rev</td>
<td>Ind Rev</td>
<td>Ind Rev</td>
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