

**Official Memorandum of Action – MOA-16/08
Revise High School Dual Enrollees Policy**

Name of Council/Committee
Undergraduate Studies Council

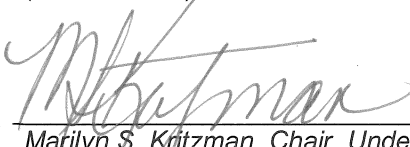
Meeting Date
12 April 2016

RECOMMENDATION:

Implementation Date
Upon Administrative Approval

To revise the WMU Undergraduate Catalog/Admissions/Nontraditional Admission Programs/High School Dual Enrollees policy.

(see attached)



Marilyn S. Kritzman, Chair, Undergraduate Studies Council

12 April 2016

Date

Approve
Comments:

Disapprove

Return to council/committee

C. Dennis Simpson, Faculty Senate President

Date

Approve
Comments:

Disapprove

Other action

Timothy J. Greene, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Date

Approve
Comments:

Disapprove

Other action

John M. Dunn, WMU President

Date

Official Memorandum of Action – MOA-16/08 Revise High School Dual Enrollees Policy

RECOMMENDATION

Current:

WMU's Undergraduate Catalog/Admissions/Nontraditional Admission Programs/ High School Dual Enrollees

Students who wish to take courses at the University while still in high school should submit a High School Dual Enrollment application (available from the Office of Admissions or from the Office of Admissions website). Seniors with at least 3.25 high school grade point average will normally be admitted. Freshman through juniors with at least a 3.50 grade point average will be considered for enrollment on a case-by-case basis. In either instance, admission as a high school dual enrollment student does not constitute degree admission. Students who wish to apply for degree admission must be considered under regular admission standards.

Proposed:

WMU's Undergraduate Catalog/Admissions/Nontraditional Admission Programs/ High School Dual Enrollees: 2 Options for Admission

OPTION 1: Freshman through senior with an overall high school grade point average of at least a 2.75 (at the time of application) and an accepted composite standardized test score:

ASSESSMENT	MINIMUM SCORE REQUIRED*
ACT	21
ACCUPLACER	TBD
PSAT	790
SAT	1000**

*Standards based on Michigan Department of Education guidelines

** Subject to change based on new SAT concordance table

OPTION 2: Freshman through junior with an overall high school grade point average of at least a 3.50, or a senior with an overall grade point average of at least a 3.25 (GPA at the time of application).

Early/Middle College Students

Students enrolled in their fifth year of high school through an Early or Middle College must meet the requirements for a high school senior, as stated above.

Exceptions and Appeals

The Director of Admissions will review and decide on exceptions to this criteria and appeals submitted.

RATIONALE

Western Michigan University seeks to establish collaborative relationships with school districts to offer online and hybrid dual enrollment programming to high school students. The Collegiate Pathways is designed to complement K-12 partner curriculum, accelerate college degree completion for students, and introduce future students to WMU while still in high school.

Revised dual enrollment admission criteria will address the following:

- 1. Increase secondary student access to four-year college coursework**
 - Significant portions of Michigan are not served by a community college (Senate Fiscal Agency, PDF).
 - As a research-level university WMU offers increased rigor and unique courses/ programs not offered by community colleges and other Michigan four-year colleges and universities.
- 2. Reduce barriers to admission by considering multiple measures**

- Western is not currently accessible to a wide range of dual enrolled students due to high GPA requirement (3.50 GPA) (WMU Honors College Website, 2016).
 - A greater number of talented students will have access to the university with the new 2.75 GPA and recognized standardized test score.
3. **Align dual enrollment admission standards more closely to Michigan Department of Education guidance** (Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act, 1996)
 - The Michigan Department of Education recommends that higher ed institutions use multiple measures for admissions including, GPA, SAT, ACT, PSAT or Accuplacer scores (PA160, PSEO, Revised 2014).
 - Current state policy monetarily supports increased high school student access to higher education (PA160, PSEO, Revised 2014).
 4. **Match dual enrollment admission requirements to degree seeking admission requirements**
 - Our current dual enrollment standards (minimum 3.50 GPA) prevent a wider pool of student's access to dual enrollment (50 students, Spring 2016)
 - Current freshmen are admitted by a review of a combination of key factors- GPA, ACT or SAT, type of college prep courses, and trend grades (Admission Criteria on WMU website).
 5. **Increase overall university enrollment and diversity of student body**
 - In Michigan, 73% of early college graduates are students of color, 61% are from low-income families, and 56% are the first in their families to attend college. (MEMCA/NCREST, 2014).
 - Overall, early college graduates enter college at higher rates than comparable peers, and 94% of graduates earn some transferable college credit that can be applied toward a degree (Reinventing High Schools for Postsecondary Success, JFF, 2016).
 - WMU Spring 2016 dual enrolled students are 84 % White, 2% African American, and 4% Hispanic.
 6. **Possible increased Pell grant access offered to dual enrollment students through the proposed Federal Dual Enrollment Experiment** (pending response from U.S. Dept. of Education)
 - High school students' who complete college courses before graduating are significantly more likely to enroll in and complete college than similar students who do not, including those from low-income backgrounds who would likely qualify for financial assistance in college (Reinventing High Schools for Postsecondary Success, JFF, 2016)
 7. **Support WMU early/middle college initiatives**
 - WMU has recently demonstrated a commitment to early college access through its new early college student portal to ease the path for transferring early college/ dual enrollment graduates. This website was created by WMU Admissions and is found at: <https://wmich.edu/admissions/emc>.
 - Increasing college access by better serving a new demographic group for WMU, early college students, is the next evolution in undergraduate education in Michigan, and nationally.
 8. **Increase persistence in college and credential attainment** (U.S. Department of Education)
 - There is a stark difference between the White population and minority degree attainment. Black, Hispanic, and Native American populations are 16-18% below the White populations' attainment levels (The Governor's - Reaching for Opportunity Report, p. 12, 2016).
 - 86% of early college graduates who enroll in college persist for a second year vs. 72% of college students nationally (Early College Expansion, JFF, 2014)
 9. **Align requirements with other colleges and universities to remain and/or become competitive**
 - Michigan community colleges and a few universities are more welcoming and have dual enrolled students in larger numbers: FSU (658). EMU (318), SVSU (121), and UM-Flint (395).
 - MSU (43), UM (30), CMU (34), WMU (55) MTU (49), OU (49) serve only a small number of dual enrolled students. This may be attributed to too high admission requirements and non-competitive credit hour pricing (WMU Office of Institutional Research, 2016).