PREPARING for SUCCESS

A GUIDE TO ADMISSIONS
25,976 Mississippi High School Graduates took the ACT
Composite Score – 18.9

Average Composite Score by Level of Preparation
20.0 Core or more
17.3 Less than core

A benchmark score is the minimum score needed on an ACT subject-area test to indicate a 50% chance of obtaining a B or higher or about a 75% chance of obtaining a C or higher in the corresponding credit-bearing college course.

1 Percent of all students tested. Numbers will not add up to 100% due to student non-response.

Source: ACT Profile Report – Mississippi Graduating Class, 2009
COLLEGE PREPARATORY CURRICULUM (CPC)

HIGH SCHOOL COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS (2009-2011)

English: (4 Carnegie Units) Courses must require substantial communication skills (i.e., reading, writing, listening, and speaking).

Mathematics: (3 Carnegie Units) Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry. A fourth course in higher level mathematics is highly recommended.

Social Studies: (3 Carnegie Units) United States History (1 unit), World History (1 unit with substantial geography component), Government (½ unit), and Economics (½ unit) or Geography (½ unit).

Science: (3 Carnegie Units) Biology, Advanced Biology, Chemistry, Advanced Chemistry, Physics, and Advanced Physics or any other science course with comparable content and rigor. One Carnegie Unit from a Physical Science course with content at a level that may serve as an introduction to Physics and Chemistry may be used. Two of the courses chosen must be laboratory-based.

Advanced Electives: (2 Carnegie Units) Foreign language, World Geography, 4th year laboratory-based Science, or 4th year Mathematics. One unit must be in Foreign Language or World Geography.

Computer Applications: (½ Carnegie Unit) The course should include use of application packages, such as word processing and spreadsheets. The course should also include basic computer terminology and hardware operation.

Pre-High School Units: Algebra I, first year Foreign Language, Mississippi Studies or Computer Applications taken prior to high school will be accepted for admission provided the course content is the same as the high school course.

HIGH SCHOOL COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS (2012)

The College Preparatory Curriculum for students graduating from high school and entering a public institution of higher learning beginning in the Summer of 2012 is as follows:

English: (4 Carnegie Units) Compensatory Reading and Compensatory Writing may not be included.

Mathematics: (4 Carnegie Units) Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and any one other Carnegie Unit of comparable rigor and content (e.g., Advanced Algebra, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, Discrete Mathematics, Probability and Statistics, or AP Statistics).

Science: (4 Carnegie Units) Biology I, Chemistry I, and any two other Carnegie Units of comparable rigor and content (e.g., Physics, Physical Science, Biology II, Chemistry II, AP Chemistry, Physics II, AP Physics B, AP Physics C – Electricity and Magnetism, AP Physics C – Mechanics, Botany, Microbiology, or Human Anatomy and Physiology).

Social Studies: (4 Carnegie Units) Acceptable courses include World History, U.S. History, Introduction to World Geography, U.S. Government, Economics, and Mississippi Studies. (Credit earned for a state/local government course in any other state may stand in lieu of Mississippi Studies.)

Arts: (1 Carnegie Unit) Any visual and/or performing arts course that meets the requirements for high school graduation will be accepted.

Advanced Electives: (2 Carnegie Units) Foreign Language I and II; or Advanced World Geography and a Foreign Language (I); or any combination of English, mathematics, or lab-based science courses of comparable rigor and content to the mathematics and science courses identified as acceptable according to the new CPC requirements.

Computer Applications: (½ Carnegie Unit) An acceptable course should cover the use of application packages, such as word processing and spreadsheets, basic computer terminology, and hardware operation.

Pre-High School Units: Algebra I, first year Foreign Language, Mississippi Studies or Computer Applications taken prior to high school will be accepted for admission provided the course content is the same as the high school course.
Admission Standards & Screening Process

The Board shall have the authority to establish minimum standards of achievement as a prerequisite for entrance into any of the institutions under its jurisdiction, which standards need not be uniform between the various institutions and which may be based upon such criteria as the Board may establish.

Admission policies are to be included in materials disseminated to the high schools and in university catalogs. IHL and university websites are to relate the means by which admission policies may be readily obtained.

FULL ADMISSION

- Complete the College Prep Curriculum (CPC) with a minimum 3.2 high school grade point average (GPA) on the CPC; OR

- Complete the CPC with a minimum 2.5 high school GPA or a class rank in the top 50 percent and a score of 16 or higher on the ACT* (Composite); OR

- Complete the CPC with a minimum 2.0 high school GPA on the CPC and a score of 18 or higher on the ACT* (Composite); OR

- Satisfy the NCAA standards for student-athletes who are “full-qualifiers” under Division I guidelines.

In lieu of ACT scores, students may submit equivalent SAT scores. Students scoring below 16 on the ACT (Composite) or the equivalent SAT are encouraged to participate in the Year-Long Academic Support Program during their freshman year.

ACADEMIC PLACEMENT RESULTING FROM VARIOUS DEFICIENCIES

Those Mississippi residents who applied and failed to meet Full Admission Standards along with any Mississippi high school graduate regardless of academic performance may, as a result of review, be admitted to the summer or fall semester. The ACT is not a requirement in this category. The review shall involve a consideration of high school performance, ACT scores (if available), placement testing, special interests and skills as well as other non-cognitive factors. The review shall result in placement in one of the following categories:

FULL ADMISSION

As a result of the review, students in this category may be placed as if admitted under “Full Admission” status. In addition, students may be required to enroll in selected college level courses in science and social science equivalent to high school courses in which their background is inadequate. These courses will yield institutional credit. Other students in this category may be required to participate in the Year-Long Academic Support Program.

FULL ADMISSION WITH ACADEMIC DEFICIENCIES

Students who have not demonstrated adequate readiness in English or Reading or Mathematics will be granted Full Admission with Academic Deficiencies to the Summer Developmental Program. This is an intensive program that concentrates on those high school subject areas (English, Reading, and Mathematics) that are applicable to success in first-year college courses. These courses carry institutional credit. Students who successfully complete the summer program, by passing developmental English, developmental Mathematics, developmental Reading and the Learning Skills Laboratory courses, will receive admission to the fall term with mandatory participation in the Year-Long Academic Support Program. Students who fail to successfully complete the Summer Developmental Program are not eligible for enrollment in the regular academic year and will be counseled to explore other post-secondary opportunities, including those offered by community colleges.

YEAR-LONG ACADEMIC SUPPORT PROGRAM

This program is designed to assist those students admitted with academic deficiencies, as well as other volunteer students, with their freshman courses. The Year-Long Academic Support Program will consist of classroom, individual, and computer-assisted instruction along with career counseling in a laboratory setting. The Program carries institutional credit.
SUMMER DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAM

The summer program is a nine-week academic program that provides both faculty-directed and computer-assisted instruction in math, reading, and writing. Academic support for the summer program consists of learning strategies and study skills, as well as academic advising and personal and career counseling. The session will begin in the week of Memorial Day. Students must be enrolled for the entire term to receive credit. Exceptions will be made for Mississippi students whose high school spring term is completed after the beginning of the summer term. The program will be closed after the first week to both in-state and out-of-state students; the decision to admit beyond this point is not academically sound. Students who successfully complete the program will be eligible to continue their post-secondary education at any IHL university in the fall term.

EDUCATIONAL ALTERNATIVES

Students who fail to successfully complete the Summer Developmental Program are not eligible for enrollment in the regular academic year and will be counseled to explore other post-secondary opportunities, including those offered by community colleges.

GENERAL TRANSFER ADMISSION FOR STUDENTS WHO WERE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR REGULAR ADMISSION

Any student who was not eligible for regular admission and who has not successfully completed the Summer Developmental Program must attend an accredited institution of higher education other than those under the governance of the Board of Trustees and must attain a "C" average (2.0 GPA) on a 4.0 scale, as calculated by the admitting IHL institution) in the following 30 transferable semester credit hours to be eligible to transfer to an IHL institution:

- 6 semester hours English Composition
- 3 semester hours College Algebra, Quantitative Reasoning, or higher level mathematics
- 6 semester hours Natural Science
- 9 semester hours Humanities and Fine Arts
- 6 semester hours Social or Behavioral Sciences
Q. What has changed in the requirements for admission to a public university?
A. The only change in the 2012 Admission Requirements for admission to an IHL institution is the College Preparatory Curriculum (CPC). The Carnegie units within the CPC have increased from 15 1/2 units to 19 1/2 units. One additional unit each in mathematics, science, and social studies has been added; and one unit in the arts has been added.

Q. When will the 2012 requirements go into effect; What cohort of students will this change effect?
A. All students beginning in kindergarten should be prepared for the new CPC changes. Students who will be applying to an IHL institution for admissions beginning the Summer of 2012 should be advised to take the identified CPC courses in order to meet the 2012 Admission Requirements.

Q. Were the 2012 admission requirements ever identified as the 2010 requirements?
A. Yes, the IHL system originally identified the launch year of the new admission requirements as 2010; discussions with local school districts led the IHL Board to postpone implementation until 2012, to provide local school districts adequate time to prepare students for the transition.

Q. Who is responsible for dissemination of the new CPC to parents and students?
A. Mississippi's public universities, local school districts, the Mississippi Department of Education, and the Institutions of Higher Learning's Executive Office.

Q. Will any Agri-science courses be accepted for a Carnegie unit CPC science requirement?
A. Yes, Science of Agricultural Animals, Science of Agricultural Plants, or Science of Agricultural Environments is sufficient in content and rigor to count as one Carnegie unit CPC Science requirement.

Q. Will a mathematics Carnegie unit lower than Algebra I be acceptable for the CPC mathematics requirements?
A. No, math Carnegie units in the 2012 CPC are identified as Algebra I and higher (See 2012 CPC)
Funds are now available for Mississippi residents attending the Mississippi Summer Developmental Program. Specific eligibility requirements must be met. The student must:

1. be accepted and attend on a full-time basis the Mississippi Summer Developmental Program (full time is defined as no less than twelve (12) hours);

2. complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) from the current year (the results from the FAFSA must be received prior to the deadline date for enrollment in the Mississippi Summer Developmental Program); and

3. demonstrate need after all other grant/gift aid has been applied and prior to the certification of any federal loan applications.

For additional information visit IHL’s website at www.mississippi.edu or contact financial aid at 1-800-327-2980 or 601-432-6997.

What are the eligibility requirements?

- Be a Mississippi resident;
- Be accepted as a first time attendee of the Summer Developmental Program at an eligible institution;
- Not be in default on a federal or state educational loan or owe a repayment on a federal or state grant;
- Meet general eligibility admission requirements into the Mississippi Summer Developmental Program and be eligible to receive student financial aid;
- Complete the current year Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA); and
- Demonstrate financial need after all other grant/gift aid is awarded.

How will student be notified if awarded?

- Once MOSFA receives all the documents necessary to determine eligibility, MOSFA will notify the student of a grant offer by an Award Letter. MOSFA will also be in contact with the student’s school regarding the award.

What is the award amount of the student’s grant?

- Each award will be dependent upon demonstrated financial need (as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid) minus all other gift and grant aid. No grant will exceed financial need or the cost of attendance. This is a non-renewal grant.

When should student apply and what is the deadline?

- The student may apply online beginning January 1 each year. The deadline for applying is the established deadline date for enrollment in the Summer Developmental Program (http://www.mississippi.edu/riseupms/financialaid-state.php)

For more information, please contact the Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid. Assistance is available during office hours at 1-800-327-2980 (toll-free in Mississippi), or at (601) 432-6997, or by email at: sfa@ihl.state.ms.us.
Local school districts and the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning may establish dual enrollment programs allowing certain high school students to enroll in state institutions of higher learning; program standards; tuition costs to be paid from private sources.

**DEFINITION** "Dual enrollment course" means a post-secondary level course offered by a state institution of higher learning or community or junior college, which, upon successful completion, qualifies for academic credit in both the post-secondary institution and public high school.

**PURPOSE** The purpose of the dual enrollment agreement is to enter into a system-wide articulation agreement for the transfer of appropriate credits earned by qualified high school students enrolled in dual enrollment programs from the various universities offering such credit to the appropriate home school district of the student.

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1. Students must have completed a minimum of fourteen (14) core high school units;

2. Students must have a 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale, or better, on all high school courses, as documented by an official high school transcript; home-schooled students must submit a transcript prepared by a parent, guardian or custodian with a signed, sworn affidavit to meet the requirement of this paragraph; and

3. Students must have an unconditional written recommendation from their high school principal and/or guidance counselor. A home-schooled student must submit a parent, legal guardian or custodian's written recommendation to meet the requirement of this paragraph.

Students may be considered for the dual enrollment program who have not completed the minimum of fourteen (14) core high school units if they have a minimum ACT composite score of thirty (30) or the equivalent SAT score, and have the required grade point average and recommendations outlined above.

Q. Should a student be properly enrolled in a dual enrollment program before credits earned are transferred to student's school district?

A. Yes, before credits earned by a qualified high school student from a state institution of higher learning are transferred to the student's home school district, the student must be properly enrolled in a dual enrollment program.

Q. Are there two dual enrollment state statutes that Institutions of Higher Learning may operate?

A. Yes, implementation of a dual enrollment program should be based on adherence to all tenets of Sections 37-15-37 and 37-15-38 of Mississippi Code of 1972 annotated.

Q. What are the admission criteria for dual enrollment in university programs?

A. The Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning may recommend admission criteria for dual enrollment programs under which high school students may enroll at a university while they are still attending high school and enrolled in high school courses. (See Section 37-15-37 of Mississippi Code of 1972 Annotated)

Q. Who is responsible for tuition and the cost of the dual enrollment program?

A. Tuition and costs for university-level courses offered under a
dual enrollment program may be paid for by the post-secondary institution, the local school district, the parents or legal guardians of the student, or by grants, foundations or other private or public sources. Payment for tuition and any other costs must be made directly to the credit-granting institution.

Q. Who is responsible for transportation of the student?
A. Any transportation required by a student to participate in the dual enrollment program is the responsibility of the parent, custodian or legal guardian of the student; however, transportation costs may be paid from any available public or private sources.

Q. Will school districts be allowed to count students for daily attendance?
A. When dually enrolled, students may be counted for adequate education program funding purposes in the average daily attendance of the public school district in which the student attends high school.

Q. Who will determine the grades and college credits earned by the high school student?
A. Grades and college credits earned by students admitted to a dual enrollment program must be recorded on the college transcript at the university where the student attends classes. The transcript of the university coursework may be released to another institution or applied toward college graduation requirements.

Q. Who will determine the prerequisites for enrollment in dual credit courses?
A. Each university participating in a dual enrollment program shall determine course prerequisites for enrolling and receiving dual credit.

Q. How will the articulation curriculum between a high school and a university be determined?
A. Post-secondary curricula for eligible courses currently offered through Mississippi Curriculum Frameworks must meet the prescribed competencies requirements. Eligible courses not offered in Mississippi Curriculum Frameworks must meet the standards established at the post-secondary level. Post-secondary level developmental courses may not be considered as meeting the requirements of the dual enrollment program. A dual credit memorandum of understanding must be established between each post-secondary institution and the school district implementing a dual credit program.

Q. What courses are not eligible for dual enrollment?
A. Any course that is required for subject area testing as a requirement for graduation from a public school in Mississippi is not eligible for dual credit.

Q. What courses are eligible for dual enrollment?
A. Courses eligible for dual credit include, but are not necessarily limited to, foreign languages, advanced math courses, advanced science courses, performing arts, advanced business and technology, and career and technical courses. These courses and any additional courses considered for dual credit must receive unconditional approval from the superintendent of the local school district.

Q. What are the high school Carnegie equivalence units?
A. One (1) three-hour university course is equal to one-half (1/2) high school Carnegie unit. A full Carnegie unit may be awarded for a three-hour university course upon approval of the local superintendent. Partial credit agreements for post-secondary courses that are less than three (3) hours may be developed between a local school district and the participating post-secondary institution.

Q. How is course alignment achieved between university courses and State Board of Education high school courses?
A. Once alignment is achieved between university courses and the State Board of Education approved high school courses, the universities, community and junior colleges and high schools shall review their respective policies and assess the place of dual credit courses within the context of their traditional offerings.

Q. What are the maximum dual credits allowed for high school students?
A. It is the intent of the dual enrollment program to make it possible for every student who desires to earn a semester's worth of college credit in high school to do so. A qualified dually enrolled high school student must be allowed to earn an unlimited number of college or university credits for dual credit as long as a B average is earned on the first two (2) approved dual credit courses. If a B average is not maintained after the completion of the student's first two (2) dual credit courses, the student may not continue in the dual credit program.

Q. What are the dual credit allowances?
A. A student may be granted credit delivered through the following means:
(a) Examination preparation taught at a high school by a qualified teacher. A student may receive credit at the secondary level after completing an approved course and passing the standard examination, such as an Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate course which is taught at a college, university or high school student who desires to earn a semester’s worth of college credit in high school to do so. A qualified dually enrolled high school student must be allowed to earn an unlimited number of college or university credits for dual credit as long as a B average is earned on the first two (2) approved dual credit courses. If a B average is not maintained after the completion of the student's first two (2) dual credit courses, the student may not continue in the dual credit program.

(b) School-based courses taught at a high school or designated post-secondary site by a qualified teacher who is an employee of the school district and approved as an instructor by the collaborating university.
(c) College or university-based courses taught at a college, university or high school by an instructor employed by the college or university and approved by the collaborating school district.
(d) On-line courses, including eligible courses offered by the Mississippi Virtual Public School or any post-secondary institution.

Q. What are the qualifications of a dual credit instructor?
A. A dual credit academic instructor must have, at a minimum, a master's degree with at least eighteen (18) graduate semester hours in the instructor's field of expertise. University personnel have the sole authority in the selection of dual credit instructors.
GEAR UP Mississippi actively encourages students to set high academic expectations, stay in school, study hard and take courses that will prepare them to enter and succeed in college. GEAR UP Mississippi provides educational support services to our partner schools throughout Mississippi. GEAR UP Mississippi provides essential support to 9,492 eighth grade students and their families from low-income school districts with a high degree of minority students underrepresented in higher education. GEAR UP Mississippi is a high-functioning partnership between school districts, institutions of higher education, state agencies, national and state non-profit organizations, and community-based organizations focused on:

- Ensuring that Mississippi’s low-income students have the requisite academic preparation to succeed in higher education;
- Significantly increasing the number of students who graduate from high school and enroll in higher education; and,
- Ensuring that students, families and communities have the motivation and knowledge required to prepare for, apply and finance higher education.

GEAR UP Mississippi will implement a comprehensive and holistic strategy sharply focused on correcting specific weaknesses in Mississippi’s educational pipeline. Services include:

- Strengthening the capacity of schools to deliver high-quality instruction;
- Enrolling students in a college prep curriculum;
- Creating college-bound cultures in schools and communities;
- Providing students with enriching support services;
- Improving public awareness through a college access marketing campaign;
- Expanding outreach to students and families about the college search, application and enrollment process; and,
- Ensuring that students and families benefit from federal and state financial aid resources.

GEAR UP Mississippi is funded by a grant from the United States Department of Education.
The Academic Common Market (ACM) is a cooperative, tuition-reduction agreement among 16 Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) states allowing residents of a participating state to pursue academic degree programs not available in their home state. The program, administered by SREB and coordinated by each individual state, allows a resident of a participating state to apply for a waiver of out-of-state tuition to attend a cooperating public institution of higher education in another participating state. The participation by the state and the institution is voluntary. The programs available to Mississippi residents through the ACM can be found on the SREB website at [www.sreb.org](http://www.sreb.org).

**Who qualifies?**
Students must be residents of Mississippi and must be admitted unconditionally into an out-of-state degree program that is not available in Mississippi.

**What programs are available?**
More than 1,800 programs are available to eligible students at in-state tuition rates. For a complete list of programs available to Mississippi residents, visit [www.sreb.org](http://www.sreb.org), click on "Academic Common Market" and search for Mississippi.

**Who participates?**
- Alabama
- Arkansas
- Delaware
- Florida*
- Georgia
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Maryland
- Mississippi
- North Carolina*
- Oklahoma
- South Carolina
- Tennessee
- Texas*
- Virginia
- West Virginia

*Participates at the graduate level only.

**How do I apply?**
ACM applications are available online. Visit our website at [www.mississippi.edu/ihl](http://www.mississippi.edu/ihl).

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It's tough to pin your hopes on something that might not happen. Luckily, there's a new, more assured way to get to college, a place where you can explore majors, discover careers, apply to Mississippi schools, and find financial aid, scholarship options and much more. Check out RiseUpMS.com for students, ParentGuide2College.com for parents. That way, college-wise, you’ll always be ahead of the game.