



Massachusetts Department of Higher Education

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# **Admissions Standards for the Massachusetts State University System and the University of Massachusetts**

***Guide for High School  
Guidance Counselors***

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Updated Spring 2013

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## INTRODUCTION

This *Guide* is designed to help you understand Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (DHE) minimum standards for admission to the Commonwealth's four-year public institutions and equip you with the knowledge you need to effectively counsel students about them. The guide contains the following sections for your reference:

- ◆ A summary of admissions requirements for freshman applicants that is easy to reproduce for students and parents (page 3)
- ◆ A detailed explanation of exception allowances (pages 6-7)
- ◆ Information on college preparatory coursework (pages 9-10)
- ◆ Consideration of applicants who do not meet minimum requirements (page 11)
- ◆ Weighted GPA Calculation (pages 12-15)
- ◆ A section with frequently asked questions (FAQ) (pages 16-18)
- ◆ A directory of state college and university admissions offices (page 19)

This *Guide* is also available through the Department of Higher Education website. The web address is: <http://www.mass.edu>.

So that we may respond to your questions and concerns in as timely and consistent a manner as possible, please submit your questions regarding the admission standards in writing. Address your correspondence to:

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# MASSACHUSETTS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM AND UMASS MINIMUM ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

The admissions standards for the state universities and UMass emphasize a strong academic high school background so that students enter college ready to learn. These standards represent minimum requirements; meeting them does not guarantee admission, since campus officials consider a wide range of factors in admissions decisions. Students shall have fulfilled all requirements for the high school diploma or its equivalent upon enrollment. *It is important to note that admissions standards for the state's community colleges differ. Community colleges may admit any high school graduate or GED recipient.*

## ***Freshman Applicants***

The admissions standards for freshmen applicants have two main parts:

1. 16 required academic courses.
2. A minimum required grade point average (GPA) earned in college preparatory courses completed at the time of application.

Applicants must also submit an SAT or ACT score.

## ***Academic Course Requirement***

Sixteen\* college preparatory courses distributed as follows are required. (A course is equivalent to one full school year of study. Courses count toward the distribution only if passed.)

\* Effective with the college freshman class entering fall 2016, the number of required courses will increase to 17 with the additional year of math.

Requirement for college freshman class entering...						
Subject	Fall 2012	Fall 2013	Fall 2014	Fall 2015	Fall 2016	Fall 2017 and beyond
<b>English</b>	4 courses					
<b>Mathematics</b>	3 courses (Algebra I & II and Geometry or Trigonometry or comparable coursework)				4 courses (Algebra I & II and Geometry or Trigonometry, or comparable coursework) including mathematics during the final year of high school	
<b>Sciences</b>	3 courses (drawn from Natural Science and/or Physical Science and/or Technology/ Engineering; including 2 courses with laboratory work); <i>Technology/engineering courses must be designated as science courses (taken for science credit) by the high school</i>				3 courses (drawn from Natural Science and/or Physical Science and/or Technology/ Engineering), including 3 courses with laboratory work	
<b>Social Sciences</b>	2 courses (including 1 course in U.S. History)					
<b>Foreign Languages</b>	2 courses (in a single language)					
<b>Electives</b>	2 courses (from the above subjects or from the Arts & Humanities or Computer Sciences)					

### *Minimum Required Grade Point Average (GPA)*

The GPA must be achieved based on all college preparatory courses completed at the time of application and should be weighted for accelerated (Honors or Advanced Placement) courses. The required minimum weighted high school GPA is 3.0 for the four-year public campuses.

State University GPA	University of Massachusetts GPA
3.00	3.00

### *SAT Scores*

Applicants who meet the GPA requirement do not have to use the sliding scale for admission, but still must submit SAT or ACT test scores for consideration if they are applying to a state university or UMass within three years of high school graduation.

### *Sliding Scale (used when GPA is lower than the minimum required GPA)*

If an applicant's GPA falls below the required minimum, a sliding scale will apply. *This scale should be used only when an applicant's GPA falls below the required 3.0 minimum for admission to the state universities or UMass.*

Scores on the new writing section of the SAT will not affect the sliding scale for freshman applicants to the Massachusetts state universities and to the University of Massachusetts at this time. The sliding scale, used in making admissions decisions for students with high school grade point averages falling below the required minimum, will continue to be based upon the combined critical reading (verbal) and math sections of the SAT.

### ***Sliding Scale for Freshman Applicants to UMass***

Weighted High School GPA	Combined SAT-I V&M Must Equal or Exceed (ACT Equivalent in Italics)
2.51-2.99	950 <i>(20)</i>
2.41-2.50	990 <i>(21)</i>
2.31-2.40	1030 <i>(22)</i>
2.21-2.30	1070 <i>(23)</i>
2.11-2.20	1110 <i>(24)</i>
2.00-2.10	1150 <i>(25)</i>

**NO APPLICANT WITH A HIGH SCHOOL GPA BELOW 2.00 MAY BE ADMITTED TO A STATE UNIVERSITY OR UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS CAMPUS.**

### ***Sliding Scale for Freshman Applicants to a State University***

<b>Weighted High School GPA</b>	<b>Combined SAT-I V&amp;M Must Equal or Exceed (ACT Equivalent in Italics)</b>
2.51-2.99	920 <i>(19)</i>
2.41-2.50	960 <i>(20)</i>
2.31-2.40	1000 <i>(21)</i>
2.21-2.30	1040 <i>(22)</i>
2.11-2.20	1080 <i>(23)</i>
2.00-2.10	1120 <i>(24)</i>

### ***Transfer Applicants***

Transfer students must meet one of the following criteria:

1. 12 - 23 transferable college credits and a minimum 2.5 college GPA;
2. Up to 23 transferable college credits, a minimum 2.0 college GPA, and a high school transcript that meets the admission standards for freshman applicants; or
3. 24 or more transferable credits and a minimum 2.0 college GPA.

For the purposes of the transfer GPA calculation, transferable credits are to be calculated based on non-remedial credits earned from the most recently attended higher education institution. Students who have earned college credits while enrolled in high school are not transfer students and must meet the admissions standards for freshman applicants.

#### *Determining course credit for transfer*

College credits earned need only be transferable to the accepting institution in order to be counted, and not necessarily transferable to a specific degree program. Remedial coursework is not transferable. For the purposes of the transferable GPA calculation, transferable credits are to be calculated based on non-remedial credits earned at the most recently attended higher education institution.

#### *Transfers from a Massachusetts Community College*

Students enrolled in an approved Joint Admissions transfer program at a Massachusetts community college who earn their associate degree with a 2.5 or higher cumulative grade point average are eligible for the Joint Admissions program. Joint Admissions students are guaranteed admission to the University of Massachusetts and to participating State Universities (all except Massachusetts College of Art). Joint Admissions students have equal access to specific majors, registration for courses, assignment to junior status, and degree program. Joint Admissions graduates who transfer to a Massachusetts public four-year campus with at least a 3.0 college GPA may be eligible for the Tuition Advantage Program discount.

### *Non-Traditional Applicants*

Students applying for admission more than three years after high school graduation, or who have completed the GED and whose high school class graduated three or more years prior to applying to college, must show their ability to succeed in college based upon their high school and/or college transcripts.

Some campuses may consider standardized test scores and other factors as part of the admissions process for non-traditional applicants.

Students who drop out of high school, earn a GED, and apply to college within three years of when their high school class graduated are subject to the same admissions standards as students applying within three years of graduation from high school.

## EXCEPTION ALLOWANCES

### ***English as a Second Language (ESL) Applicants***

English As a Second Language (ESL) applicants must complete the 16 required college preparatory courses with two exceptions:

1. ESL applicants may substitute up to two college preparatory electives for the two required foreign language courses and,
2. ESL applicants may substitute up to two years of college preparatory ESL English courses for college preparatory English courses.

### ***Learning Disabled Applicants***

Applicants with professionally diagnosed and documented learning disabilities (documentation must include diagnostic test results) are exempt from taking standardized tests for admission to any public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth. Such students, however, must complete 16\*\* required academic courses with a minimum required GPA of 3.00 or present other evidence of the potential for academic success.

\*\*An applicant may substitute two college preparatory electives for the two required foreign language courses only if the applicant has on file with the high school results of a psycho-educational evaluation completed within the past three years that provides a specific diagnosis of a learning disability and an inability to succeed in a foreign language.

*Eligibility for admission is not an entitlement of admission for any applicant, including learning disabled students.*

This policy frames minimum standards for admission to Massachusetts state universities and UMass. Institutions are free to set higher standards and/or to impose additional requirements. In any case, meeting minimum standards for admissibility does not guarantee admission for any applicant. The final decision on accepting an applicant rests with the individual campus.

### ***Vocational-Technical Student Applicants***

Vocational-technical students must complete 16 college preparatory courses, distributed in the same manner and with the same minimum grade point averages required of other high school graduates, with the following exceptions:

- ◆ Two vocational-technical courses may be used to fulfill the two required electives.
- ◆ Vocational-technical high school graduates who do not complete the two required college preparatory foreign language courses must complete an additional elective college preparatory course, for a total of three such courses, and satisfy *one* of the following options:
  1. Complete at least one Carnegie unit of foreign language;
  2. Complete a fourth Carnegie unit of mathematics or science, which need not be a laboratory course; or
  3. Complete one Carnegie unit of computer science.

*Note: A Carnegie unit represents a full academic year of study or its equivalent in a specific subject.*

This requirement will remain in effect until the Department of Education (DOE) implements its requirements regarding foreign language study for vocational-technical students. At that time, vocational-technical applicants for admission to UMass and the state universities will be required to meet DOE requirements for foreign language study.

### ***Pre-College Summer Program Applicants***

Students who do not meet the applicable requirements with other exception allowances may demonstrate their preparedness for the rigors of college-level work through the successful completion of a DHE-approved pre-college summer program prior to their enrollment in the freshman class.

### ***Applicants who are Graduates of Non-US High Schools***

Admissions officers may use a documentation service or other appropriate means to determine whether the transcript of a non-U.S. high school graduate is comparable to the required transcript. A weighted high school GPA must be calculated.

*Core course allowance:* Graduates of high schools that are outside of the United States may substitute the same number of any college preparatory courses or their equivalent for the required distribution of core courses.

Applicants who are graduates of non-US high schools who do not meet the GPA requirement default to the sliding scale unless the applicant is unable to take the SAT due to extreme circumstances beyond their control in their home country.

# COLLEGE PREPARATORY COURSEWORK

## ***Weighted GPA Course Descriptions***

### *Standard College Preparatory Courses*

These courses are designed to prepare students to continue their education at four-year colleges. They require well-developed reading, writing, verbal, conceptual, mathematical, and study abilities, as well as substantial outside preparation.

### *Honors Courses*

These courses contain highly challenging material, presented at an accelerated and more intensive pace than the standard college preparatory courses taken by a majority of four-year college-bound students. They require advanced reading, writing, verbal, conceptual, mathematical, and study abilities, as well as extensive outside preparation.

### *Advanced Placement Courses*

This level includes courses formally recognized as Advanced Placement (AP) courses. International Baccalaureate (IB) courses also may be weighted at this level.

## ***Dual Enrollment Courses***

The Dual Enrollment program offers a reasonable alternative for students who may not have access to AP courses at their high school. This program allows high school students with GPAs of 3.0 or higher the opportunity to enroll in courses at a local college while they are still in high school. Credit for the courses can apply to both the high school and college transcript. As an additional incentive to students to tackle more challenging coursework, grades received in dual enrollment courses will receive additional weight in the calculation of applicants' weighted GPAs. The additional weight will be the same as that given for grades earned in Advanced Placement courses.

### *GPA Calculation Based on Seven Semesters of High School Coursework*

The new admissions policy stipulates that the minimum required GPA should be based upon seven semesters of coursework; yet, in reality, most students apply to UMass or a state university before final grades for their seventh semester are available. Therefore, it is permissible to base the GPA calculation on college preparatory coursework completed at the time of acceptance. Further, it will not be necessary to recalculate the GPA upon receipt of the applicant's final transcript.

## ***Eighth Grade College Prep Courses***

College preparatory courses taken in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade which appear (course and grade) on the high school transcript may be used to meet the subject-specific academic course requirement -- provided that the student successfully completes the next level course with a grade of "C" or better -- but not toward the total of 16 required courses. In this instance, the 16 required courses may be achieved by substituting additional electives or courses in other required subject areas.

Grades earned in 8<sup>th</sup> grade college preparatory courses should be used in calculating the weighted GPA if the course and grade appear on the high school transcript.

### *Computer Science Courses*

The science requirement is meant to focus on the physical/natural sciences. Therefore computer science courses may not be used to satisfy the one non-laboratory science course requirement. College preparatory computer science courses may be credited as electives.

### *Technology/Engineering Courses*

In order to be accepted as meeting the science admission requirement, a technology/engineering course must be:

1. Significantly aligned to the Massachusetts curriculum frameworks and employ mathematics and scientific content;
2. Academic and not vocational in nature;
3. Offered for science credit after review by the district as meeting district guidelines for science courses; and
4. Equivalent to a full year of learning.

### ***No Science Waivers***

The college preparatory course requirement requires three science courses (including two laboratory courses). Since information about this admissions requirement has been available to students, schools and districts since the 1995-96 academic year, campuses may not waive the third required course for students who claim that they were unaware of the science requirement or for schools offering only two years of science.

### ***Home-Schooled Students***

Home-schooled students are subject to the same admissions requirements as other students. A weighted high school GPA must be calculated. If their transcripts do not meet the core curriculum and GPA requirements, and they do not qualify for an exception allowance or meet the definition of a transfer or non-traditional student, they may be admitted under the special admissions category.

### *Special Admissions*

Applicants who fail to meet the minimum academic course requirements component with or without exception allowances and/or the minimum GPA requirement with or without the sliding scale may be considered for admission only under the institution's special admissions category.

### *Minimum Admissions Standards Do Not Preclude Higher Institutional Standards*

This policy frames minimum standards for admission to Massachusetts state universities and UMass. Institutions are free to set higher standards and/or to impose additional requirements. Meeting minimum standards for admissibility does not guarantee admission for any applicant, since a wide range of factors is considered in admissions decisions. The final decision on accepting a student who meets minimum standards rests with the individual campus.

## **CONSIDERATION OF APPLICANTS WHO DO NOT MEET ADMISSIONS STANDARDS EVEN WITH ALLOWANCES**

### ***Special Admissions Applicants***

Applicants not admissible under the standards outlined for freshman, transfer, or non-traditional students, may be considered for acceptance based upon demonstration of their potential for academic success in a four-year program. Appropriate indicators of success include steadily improving high school grades, a high class rank, special talents, and/or strong recommendations. Special admissions students are limited to 10 percent of new enrollees.

### ***Admissions Not Guaranteed***

Admission is not guaranteed for any applicant to a Massachusetts public institution of higher education. A wide range of factors is considered in admissions decisions and the final decision on accepting an applicant rests with the individual campus.

# MASSACHUSETTS STATE UNIVERSITIES AND UMASS NEW ADMISSIONS STANDARDS

## COLLEGE PREPARATORY COURSES WEIGHTED GRADE POINT AVERAGE REQUIREMENT

The admissions standards stipulate minimum required high school grade point averages for freshman admission as follows:

Effective Date	State University GPA	University of Massachusetts GPA
Fall 2001	3.00	3.00

Grade point averages are to be calculated based upon grades earned in all college preparatory courses. Grades earned in honors, Advanced Placement or Dual Enrollment courses should be given extra weight.

**Each state university or UMass campus to which a student applies will calculate the GPA for purposes of applying the admissions standards.** Because students also may wish to calculate their own GPA, the following information is provided.

To calculate a weighted GPA, individuals must convert each final grade earned in college preparatory courses to a 4-point grading scale (where "A"=4.0; "B"=3.0; "C"=2.0; "D"=1.0 and "F"=0.0). A chart is provided with these materials so that letter or numeric grades may be converted. Further, each course must be identified as college preparatory, honors level, or Advanced Placement. Descriptions of these course levels are provided to assist with proper identification of courses. Full-year honors level and Advanced Placement courses will receive an extra .5 and 1.0 points on the 4-point scale, respectively. A dual enrollment course will receive an extra 1.0 point on the 4-point scale.

Computer software for use in calculating the weighted GPA also is available on-line via the Department of Higher Education web site. Step-by-step instructions are listed on the next page.

**All applicants must have a weighted high school GPA.** Schools with uncommon grading/evaluation schemes should develop a conversion to letter grades. (See page 15.)

## Calculating the weighted GPA

Use the following steps to complete the weighted GPA calculation:

- Step 1. Convert each final grade to its equivalent on the 4.0 scale.
- Step 2. Weight grades by adding .5 to each converted grade earned in an honors level course, and 1.0 to each converted grade earned in an Advanced Placement or Dual Enrollment course.
- Step 3. Multiply each converted grade or, if applicable, each weighted grade by the course credits earned. (Where a full-year course equals one unit; a semester course equals .5 units; a quarter course equals .25 units; etc.)
- Step 4. Total the products from Step 3.
- Step 5. Divide total from Step 4 by total number of course credits attempted.
- Step 6. Quotient is the student's weighted GPA.

NOTE: Students probably will not have completed all 16 required college preparatory courses prior to applying to college, particularly in English, where four years are required. GPAs should be based upon all completed college preparatory courses for which students are able to report *final* grades.

The 16 required college preparatory courses are:

- ◆ English 4 years
- ◆ \*Mathematics 3 years (Algebra I & II, Geometry/Trigonometry, or comparable coursework)
- ◆ \*Sciences 3 years (drawn from Natural Science and/or Physical Science and/or Technology/ Engineering, including 2 courses with laboratory work)
- ◆ Social Sciences 2 years (1 year of U.S. history)
- ◆ Foreign Language 2 years (in a single language)
- ◆ Electives 2 years (choose from subjects listed above or from the Arts & Humanities and/or Computer Sciences)

### **\*Note**

#### *Mathematics*

Effective for the freshman class entering fall 2016: Mathematics, 4 courses (Algebra I & II and Geometry or Trigonometry, or comparable coursework) including mathematics during the final year of high school.

#### *Sciences*

Effective for the freshman class entering fall 2017: Science, 3 courses (drawn from Natural Science and/or Physical Science and/or Technology/ Engineering), including 3 courses with laboratory work. Technology/engineering courses must be designated as science courses (taken for science credit) by the high school.

**NOTE: The weighted GPA should be based on final grades earned in *all* college preparatory courses. Grades earned in courses that are not college preparatory may not be used to calculate the weighted GPA.**

## SAMPLE CALCULATION

Courses	<i>Col. A</i> Final Grade	<i>Col. B</i> Step 1 Converted Grade	<i>Col. C</i> Step 2 Weighted Grade (if applicable)	<i>Col. D</i> Course Credits Earned	<i>Col. E</i> Step 3 Multiply Column B or C (if applicable) by Column D	<i>Col. F</i> Step 4 Total of Column E	<i>Col. G</i> Step 5 Total of Column D	<i>Col. H</i> Step 6 Column F Divided by Column G
<b>English</b>								
1. College English 9	B-	2.7		1	2.7	47.7	17.4	2.74 = Weighted GPA
2. Honors English 10	C	2.0	2.5	1	2.5			
3. Honors English 11	D-	.7	1.2	1	1.2			
<b>Mathematics</b>								
1. Algebra 1	B+	3.3		1	3.3			
2. Geometry	B-	2.7		1	2.7			
3. Algebra II	B-	2.7		1	2.7			
<b>Sciences</b>								
1. Earth Science	B-	2.7		1	2.7			
2. Biology	C	2.0		1.2	2.4			
3. Chemistry	C	2.0		1.2	2.4			
<b>Social Sciences</b>								
1. Ancient Cultures 1	B+	3.3		.5	1.65			
2. Contemporary Issues	B	3.0		.5	1.5			
3. AP U.S. History	C	2.0	3.0	1	3.0			
4. Psychology	B-	2.7		.5	1.35			
5. World Cultures	B	3.0		.5	1.5			
<b>Foreign Language</b>								
1. Spanish I	B+	3.3		1	3.3			
2. Spanish II	A-	3.7		1	3.7			
3. Spanish III	B+	3.3		1	3.3			
<b>Electives</b>								
1. Intro. to Computers	B+	3.3			3.3			
2. Fine Arts	C	2.0		.5	1.0			
3. Theater	B	3.0		.5	1.5			

GPA CALCULATION – EXAMPLE

## CONVERSION TO 4.0 SCALE

<u>Letter Grading</u>		<u>4.0 Scale</u> <u>Minimum Passing Level *</u>				
<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>4.0 Scale</u>	<u>Numeric Grade</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>70</u>	
A+	4.3	100	4.3	4.3	4.3	
A	4.0	99	4.3	4.3	4.2	
A-	3.7	98	4.2	4.2	4.1	
B+	3.3	97	4.2	4.2	4.0	
B	3.0	96	4.1	4.1	4.0	
B-	2.7	95	4.1	4.0	3.9	
C+	2.3	94	4.0	4.0	3.7	
C	2.0	93	4.0	3.9	3.7	
C-	1.7	92	3.9	3.8	3.5	
D+	1.3	91	3.8	3.7	3.4	
D	1.0	90	3.7	3.6	3.3	
D-	0.7	89	3.6	3.4	3.2	
F	0.0	88	3.5	3.3	3.0	
		87	3.4	3.2	2.9	
		86	3.3	3.1	2.8	
		85	3.2	3.0	2.7	
		84	3.1	2.9	2.5	
		83	3.0	2.8	2.3	
		82	2.9	2.7	2.2	
		81	2.8	2.6	2.1	
		80	2.7	2.4	2.0	
		79	2.6	2.3	1.9	
		78	2.5	2.2	1.7	
		77	2.4	2.1	1.6	
		76	2.3	2.0	1.4	
		75	2.2	1.9	1.3	
		74	2.1	1.8	1.2	
		73	2.0	1.7	1.0	
		72	1.9	1.6	0.9	
		71	1.8	1.4	0.8	
		70	1.7	1.3	0.7	
		69	1.6	1.2	0.0	
		68	1.5	1.1		
		67	1.4	0.9		
		66	1.3	0.8		
		65	1.2	0.7		
		64	1.1	0.0		
		63	1.0			
		62	0.9			
		61	0.8			
		60	0.7			
		59	0.0			

**\* Schools may develop a conversion from numeric to letter grades and print this conversion on the transcript for use in GPA calculation.**

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

### 1. What is the rationale behind the admissions standards?

The admissions standards are meant to ensure that students are academically prepared for college work. When students gain a strong academic foundation in high school, they are more likely to succeed in college and to experience a higher quality of education.

### 2. What if the names of my high school courses do not match the required academic courses described in the admissions standards?

If this is true for you, your guidance counselor can advise you on which courses may be used to fulfill the academic course requirements.

### 3. Do the admissions standards apply to all state university and UMass campuses?

Yes.

### 4. Do the admissions standards apply to any community colleges.

No. Students with a high school diploma or equivalent may attend any community college.

### 5. If a student meets the standards, is he or she guaranteed admission to a state university or UMass?

No. The new admissions standards establish minimum requirements for admission; each campus, however, will decide whom to admit. Further, campuses may choose to establish higher standards than these minimums. For specific information concerning admissions standards for particular institutions, the phone numbers of the admissions offices at each Massachusetts state university and UMass campus are listed on page 19 of this *Guide*.

### 6. What is the acceptable length of an academic course?

An academic course is equivalent to one full school year of study. Courses will count toward the 16-course distribution requirement only if passed. Two semester courses or three trimester courses may in many cases equal a one-year course. Or, in some high schools where curricula may have changed as a result of Education Reform, it is possible that a one-year course may be completed in one semester.

### 7. Does the minimum required GPA have to be based on grades earned in all high school courses, or just in the 16 required academic courses?

The GPA must be based on grades earned in all college preparatory courses completed at the time of application (which may be more or fewer than 16). However, all high school grades should be submitted for consideration with the student's application.

## **8. How should the GPA be weighted?**

Grades earned in the applicant's college preparatory courses, along with the length and level of each course (e.g. standard college preparatory or accelerated), will be considered in calculating the weighted GPA. The state university or UMass Admissions office will convert each grade to a 4.0 scale and weight those earned in honors or AP courses. See page 9 of this *Guide* for detailed information.

## **9. When does the sliding scale of GPAs and test scores apply?**

The sliding scale is used only when a student does not achieve the minimum required GPA.

## **10. The minimum required GPA is meant to be calculated after the 7<sup>th</sup> semester of high school. What if a student wants to apply for early admission to a state university or UMass campus?**

Early admission applicants should submit grades earned during their first six semesters of high school. Grades earned during remaining semesters should be forwarded to the state university or UMass as soon as they become available, although the weighted GPA need not be recalculated.

## **11. If a high school student fails a course during the regular academic year, then makes up that course in summer school *after* the 7<sup>th</sup> semester, how is that student's GPA calculated?**

When a student repeats a course in the summer following the senior year, and thus after most colleges have made final admissions decisions, assuming the failing grade was the sole reason for denying admission, a campus may choose to reconsider the student's admissibility. It is permissible to recalculate the student's GPA at that point.

## **12. Is class rank unimportant under the admissions standards?**

Class rank is not a statewide minimum criterion for admission. Some state universities and UMass campuses, however, may consider class rank as a factor in the admissions decision.

## **13. Is it correct that a student with a high school GPA of less than 2.0 may not be admitted to a state university or UMass starting?**

Yes. Students not directly admissible to a four-year campus, however, are encouraged to attend a community college. Students may transfer from a community college to the state universities or UMass.

## **14. How will Education Reform affect the admissions standards?**

Education Reform will affect high school course offerings as new Curriculum Frameworks are adopted and implemented. The Admissions Advisory Committee will monitor Education Reform initiatives and recommend adjustments to the admissions requirements as necessary. Meanwhile, if the names of high school classes do not match those of the required courses, guidance counselors

or high school principals may determine on a case-by-case basis whether a course may be used to fulfill the academic course requirement.

**15. How should college courses taken through a Dual Enrollment program be considered in meeting the academic course and GPA requirements?**

In many cases, courses taken through Dual Enrollment programs may be used to meet the academic course requirement. Grades received in dual enrollment courses will receive additional weight in the calculation of applicants' weighted high school GPA's. The additional weight will be the same as that given for grades earned in Advanced Placement courses.

**16. If a student transfers into a Massachusetts high school and is unable to meet the academic course requirement, could that student apply to a state university or UMass campus as a special admissions candidate?**

Applicants do not specify an admission category when applying to a state university or UMass campus. The student in this example may be admissible, depending upon the circumstances.

**17. Who is considered an English as a Second Language (ESL) student?**

There is currently no statewide definition of ESL students. However, students who do not speak English in their homes and who are using ESL coursework to make the transition into mainstream classrooms may reasonably be considered ESL students. In some school districts ESL students may be referred to as English Language Learners (ELL) or Limited English Proficient (LEP).

**18. How is new information about the Department's admissions policy made available?**

Information will be available through the Department of Higher Education website. The DHE web address is: <http://www.mass.edu>. Also, representatives of the Massachusetts School Counselors Association (MSCA), which publishes an informative monthly newsletter for members, serve on the Admissions Advisory Committee.

## MASSACHUSETTS PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING COMMUNITY COLLEGE, STATE UNIVERSITY, AND UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS OFFICES

The admissions standards for the state universities and UMass establish minimum levels; each campus may adopt higher standards. Further, the standards do not apply to the state’s community colleges, which admit any high school graduate. For more information concerning the admissions policies of particular institutions, call the admissions offices listed below.

<u>Admissions Office Community Colleges</u>	<u>Telephone Number</u>
Berkshire Community College.....	413 499-4660 x242
Bristol Community College.....	508 678-2811 x2179
Bunker Hill Community College.....	617 228-2235
Cape Cod Community College.....	508 362-2131
Greenfield Community College.....	413 775-1000 x232
Holyoke Community College.....	413 552-2850
Massachusetts Bay Community College.....	781 239-2500
Massasoit Community College.....	508 588-9100 x411
Middlesex Community College.....	800 643-5739
Mount Wachusett Community College.....	978 632-6600 x110
North Shore Community College.....	978 762-4042
Northern Essex Community College.....	978 374-3600
Quinsigamond Community College.....	508 854-4262
Roxbury Community College.....	617 541-5310
Springfield Technical Community College...	413 781-7822 x3855

<u>Admissions Office State Universities</u>	<u>Telephone Number</u>
Bridgewater State University.....	508 531-1237
Fitchburg State University.....	978 665-3144
Framingham State University.....	508 626-4500
Massachusetts College of Art and Design..	617 232-1555 x235
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.....	800 292-6632 x5410
Massachusetts Maritime Academy.....	800-544-3411
Salem State University.....	978 741-6200
Westfield State University.....	413 572-5218
Worcester State University.....	508 793-8040

<u>Admissions Office University Campuses</u>	<u>Telephone Number</u>
University of Massachusetts Amherst.....	413 545-0222
University of Massachusetts Boston.....	617 287-6100
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.....	508 999-8605
University of Massachusetts Lowell.....	978 934-3931/3940

## **FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION**

To find out more about scholarships, grants, tuition waivers, and loans available for attendance at Massachusetts state universities, community colleges and the University of Massachusetts, you may:

- contact the financial aid office at the school you are interested in,
- call the Higher Education Information Center at 877-332-4348, or
- visit the Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance website at [www.osfa.mass.edu](http://www.osfa.mass.edu).

## **NOTES**