



# **ANNUAL REPORT ON EXCEPTIONS TO THE MINIMUM ADMISSION STANDARDS AT STATE UNIVERSITIES**

January 2026

From 1915 to 2001, Kansas had an open admission policy that guaranteed admission to anyone who graduated from an accredited high school in Kansas. In 1996, the Legislature passed K.S.A. 76-717, which established minimum admission standards for state universities. Those became effective in 2001. The statute requires the Board to annually submit to the Legislature information on undergraduate students admitted to state universities who did not meet minimum admission standards.

### **Minimum Admission Criteria for 2023-2024 Freshman Applicants**

In June of 2017, the First Generation Task Force recommended the Board revisit the qualified admission requirements, which, in accordance with K.S.A. 76-717, included a minimum ACT score of 21+ or a rank in the top third of the applicant's class, as well as a minimum GPA of 2.0 in a specified pre-college curriculum for residents (GPA of 2.5 for nonresidents). In September 2017, the Board adopted the goal of simplifying the admission process for state universities and formed a working group. After two years of work, the group recommended changes to admission requirements. In September 2019, the Board approved the recommendations, kicking off what became a yearlong process to update the associated state regulations on qualified admissions. All changes were finalized and in effect by October 2020 for applicants for the summer of 2021 and later for the five state universities. **For admittance to any state university except for the University of Kansas, resident and non-resident freshmen applicants under the age of 21 who have graduated from accredited high schools typically must meet one of the following criteria:**

1. earn a minimum ACT score of 21; **or**
2. earn a minimum cumulative high school GPA of 2.25 (ESU, FHSU, PSU, WSU) or 3.25 (KSU).

Applicants who graduated from unaccredited private high schools or who earned high school equivalency credentials must earn a minimum ACT score of 21.

In addition, all freshman applicants must have earned a minimum 2.0 GPA on any completed college coursework, including coursework completed while in high school.

(Resident applicants meeting the above criteria are assured admission to the given state universities.)

In March 2021, the Board approved changes in the University of Kansas Qualified Admission standards to allow for a "test-flexible" path to admission, as well as the elimination of the application deadline for first-time freshmen. Regulations effectuating the changes were adopted by the Board in December of 2021, and became effective beginning with applicants for the summer of 2022 and later. **Resident and nonresident freshman applicants under the age of 21 who have graduated from accredited high schools typically must meet one of the following criteria for admission to the University of Kansas:**

1. earn a minimum ACT score of 21 *and* a minimum cumulative high school GPA of 2.00; **or**
2. earn a minimum cumulative high school GPA of 3.25

As with the other state universities, University of Kansas applicants who graduated from unaccredited private high schools or who earned high school equivalency credentials must earn a minimum ACT score of 21.

Similarly, all freshman applicants must have earned a minimum 2.0 GPA on any completed college coursework (if the student has a high school equivalency degree, a 2.5 GPA minimum applies to college coursework completed after high school).

(Resident applicants meeting the above criteria are assured admission to the University of Kansas. Resident and non-resident applicants who do not meet the above criteria, but who would meet the criteria for admission to another state university and who are recommended for admission by the University of Kansas’ review committee, may be admitted to the University of Kansas, and such admissions are not counted as exceptions to the minimum standards.)

Any applicant 21 and older must meet one of the following criteria to gain admittance to a state university as a freshman:

- (1) graduate from an accredited high school; or
- (2) graduate from a non-accredited private high school (Kansas residents only); or
- (3) earn a high school equivalency credential with the prescribed minimum scores.

(Resident applicants meeting the above criteria are assured admission to any state university)

**2024-2025 Freshman Applicants**

K.S.A. 76-717 requires that on or before January 31 of each year, the Board submit a report that includes the following information on the number and percentage of **resident freshman class admissions permitted as exceptions to the minimum admissions standards**, disaggregated by institution (Table 1). State universities may, at their discretion, admit applicants who do not meet the minimum freshman admissions criteria, provided that the number of resident freshmen admitted as exceptions is limited to 10 percent of the university’s total freshmen admitted. No institution exceeded the 10 percent limit.

*Table 1: Number of Resident Freshman Exceptions 2024-2025*

	<b>Resident Freshman Exceptions</b>	<b>Admits</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Emporia State University</b>	11	1,402	0.8%
<b>Ft. Hays State University</b>	32	2,571	1.2%
<b>Kansas State University</b>	468	12,462	3.8%
<b>Pittsburg State University</b>	20	2,882	0.7%
<b>University of Kansas</b>	30	20,058	0.1%
<b>Wichita State University</b>	94	8,893	1.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	655	48,268	1.4%

Table 2 presents the number and percent of **non-resident freshman students admitted as exceptions**, disaggregated by institution. By regulation, the number of non-resident freshman exceptions is limited to either 10 percent of the total number of admitted non-resident freshmen or 50 students, whichever is greater. No institution exceeded the 10 percent limit for Academic Year (AY) 2025.

Each state university has a written policy to guide decisions about exceptions, and per KBOR policy, every student admitted as an exception to the minimum qualified admission standards, resident or non-resident, shall receive a written individual plan for student success from the university prior to enrollment.

The individual plan for success shall be reviewed by the student and the student’s advisor at least once each semester in the first academic year immediately after adoption of the plan.

*Table 2: Number of Non-Resident Freshman Exceptions 2024-2025*

	<b>Non-Resident Freshman Exceptions</b>	<b>Admits</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Emporia State University</b>	1	237	0.4%
<b>Ft. Hays State University</b>	9	484	1.9%
<b>Kansas State University</b>	596	6,558	9.1%
<b>Pittsburg State University</b>	8	1,211	0.7%
<b>University of Kansas</b>	28	13,381	0.2%
<b>Wichita State University</b>	23	4,278	0.5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	665	26,149	2.5%

**Minimum Admission Criterion for 2024-2025 Transfer Applicants**

State universities are required to admit resident transfer applicants who have earned at least 24 credit hours of transferable coursework with a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale (2.5 for KU, or 2.0 if recommended for admission by the KU review committee). State universities may admit non-resident transfer applicants who have met this criterion, but they are not required to do so. State universities may adopt additional and/or more stringent standards to admit non-resident transfer applicants.

*Exceptions to the Minimum Admission Standards*

State universities may admit transfer applicants who have earned less than a 2.0 GPA on 24 or more transferable semester credit hours, but the number of these exceptions is limited by statute. The number of resident transfer exceptions is limited to 10 percent of the university’s resident transfer admits. The number of non-resident transfer exceptions is limited to 10 percent of the university’s non-resident transfer admits. Admitting applicants as exceptions is at the discretion of the state university, and each student receives an individual success plan.

K.S.A. 76-717 requires the Board to report the following to the Legislature on or before January 31 of each year: (1) the number and percent of resident transfer students admitted as exceptions, and (2) the number and percent of non-resident transfer students admitted as exceptions. The statute specifies this information to be disaggregated by institution.

Table 3 presents the **number and percent of transfer students admitted by each state university through the 10 percent exception window**. This information is disaggregated by institution and by residency status. No institution exceeded the 10 percent limit.

Table 3: Number of Transfer Students Admitted as Exceptions 2024-2025

	Resident Transfer			Non-Resident Transfer		
	Exceptions	Admits	Percent	Exceptions	Admits	Percent
<b>Emporia State University</b>	12	318	3.8%	0	77	0.0%
<b>Ft. Hays State University</b>	58	1,276	4.5%	47	528	8.9%
<b>Kansas State University</b>	5	848	0.6%	7	986	0.7%
<b>Pittsburg State University</b>	7	346	2.0%	5	262	1.9%
<b>University of Kansas</b>	18	1,777	1.0%	1	970	0.1%
<b>Wichita State University</b>	34	1,775	1.9%	7	352	2.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	134	6,340	2.1%	67	3,175	2.1%