Notice of Change form

Notice of Change for: Undergraduate Admissions GPA Requirement for education majors

Date: 11/18/16

A. PROGRAM INFORMATION

1. Name of institution
   University of Rhode Island

2. Name of department, division, school or college
   Department: School of Education
   College: College of Education and Professional Studies

3. Intended initiation date of program change. Include anticipated date for granting first degrees or certificates, if appropriate.
   Initiation date: Summer 2017
   First degree date: Spring 2018

4. Intended location of the program
   Kingston Campus

5. Summary description of proposed program (not to exceed 2 pages).
   Change #1: A proposed change to the undergraduate teacher education programs raises the minimum GPA for admission from a 2.50 overall GPA to a 2.75 overall GPA at time of application to the program.

   This change is required to remain in compliance with the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) teacher preparation program admissions standards. RIDE has recently mandated that teacher education programs must implement a minimum GPA for admission of 2.75 (see Appendix A).

   This requirement is consistent with our accrediting agency, the Council for the Accreditation for Educator Preparation (CAEP), language (see Appendix B).

6. If applicable, please include the existing URI catalog language and proposed catalog changes indicated in Track Changes.

   Catalogue Change #1: Change Undergraduate Minimum GPA at admissions

   Admission Requirements.
   Applications for admission to teacher education programs are normally submitted during the sophomore year. Applications will be reviewed by a departmental screening committee based on the
following criteria: 1) recommendations from faculty and others who have knowledge of the candidate’s experience or interest in working in education; 2) a writing sample expressing career goals, experience in working with children, and expectations as a teacher; 3) passing scores on admissions tests based on Rhode Island Program Approval process, subject to change by the Rhode Island Department of Education (See School of Education website for updated information.); 4) the student’s academic record, including a cumulative grade point average of 2.50 2.75 or better.

7. Signature of the President

___________________________________________
David M. Dooley
Appendix A

Rhode Island Department of Education
Minimum Admissions Requirements and Implementation Guidance

Background
Beginning in 2009, the Rhode Island Department of Education established minimum basic skills requirements for entering educator preparation programs to ensure a high level of academic ability and achievement for Rhode Island students. There are both cohort and individual requirements for all teaching programs at the undergraduate level. There are individual level requirements for all post-baccalaureate teacher, administrator and support professional programs.

Cohort Requirements for Undergraduate Teaching Programs
Approved undergraduate programs ensure that the mean college GPA of their admitted candidate cohorts meets or exceeds 3.0 and that the mean score of their admitted candidate cohorts on nationally normed admissions assessments (such as the ACT, SAT or GRE) meet or exceed the annual benchmarks on each sub-test of these assessments:
- top 50 percent of the national distribution from 2016-2017;
- top 40 percent of the national distribution from 2018-2019; and
- top 33 percent of the national distribution by 2020.

Cohort averages will be determined utilizing SAT Percentile Rank Comparison years, ACT Percentile Rank Reporting Years, and/or GRE Percentile Rank Reporting years. Cohorts will be separately determined for the undergraduate and graduate programs at the provider. Additionally, cohorts are also determined by certificate area program within the undergraduate and graduate groups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Admitted Cohort Year</th>
<th>SAT Percentile Rank Comparison Year</th>
<th>ACT Percentile Rank Comparison Year</th>
<th>GRE Percentile Rank Reporting Year</th>
<th>Percentile Ranking on each subtest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Note: Assessment scores from SAT, ACT, GRE and other approved national assessments may be used for up to 10 years after the test date. Individual candidates must meet the percentile ranking for the year aligned to their admitted cohort year, regardless of when they took those assessments.
Individual Requirements for Undergraduate Teaching Programs

For undergraduate programs, individual candidates must have at least a 2.75 GPA and meet rising percentile-based thresholds by meeting the lowest threshold of the previous two years. (For example, in 2018-2019, programs must ensure the mean score of their admitted candidate cohort meets or exceeds the 40th percentile on nationally normed admissions assessments, while individual candidates must score in at least the 50th percentile).

Individual candidates, who do not meet the current year’s test percentile threshold, must also meet or exceed RIDE’s requirements for the Core Academic Skills for Educators test:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Name</th>
<th>Passing Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core Academic Skills for Educators</td>
<td>150 Math 156 Reading 162 Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Composite Score of 468 with no test score more than 3 points below the cut.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Individual Requirements for Post-Baccalaureate Teaching Programs

Individual candidates in post-baccalaureate programs must have at least a 3.0 GPA. Programs may implement a conditional acceptance policy that includes a GPA review after initial coursework. There are no additional basic skills testing requirements for post-bac programs.

Requirements for Administrator and Support Professional Programs

Basic Skills testing requirements do not apply to the following certificates: School Psychologist, School Social Worker, Speech-Language Pathologist, Administrator of Special Education, Administrator of Curriculum and Superintendent. They also do not apply to reading specialists, math specialists, school counselor, or principal candidates IF they hold or have held a teaching certificate since these requirements are considered to have been met previously.

Conditional Acceptance

In rare instances, programs may offer a conditional acceptance for a candidate who does not meet all entrance requirements. Candidates who do not meet current testing requirements must be provided with appropriate support to successfully remediate the area of need prior to program completion. Support to demonstrate meeting other admissions requirements such as GPA or other selectivity factors must also be provided and achieved prior to program completion. Programs may determine conditional acceptance protocols with RIDE to meet this expectation. The number of conditional acceptances granted and other relevant data will be reported to RIDE annually.
Appendix B

CAEP ACCREDITATION HANDBOOK

Standard 3

3.2 REQUIRED COMPONENT- The provider sets admissions requirements, including CAEP minimum criteria or the state’s minimum criteria, whichever are higher, and gathers data to monitor applicants and the selected pool of candidates. The provider ensures that the average grade point average of its accepted cohort of candidates meets or exceeds the CAEP minimum of 3.0, and the group average performance on nationally normed ability/achievement assessments such as ACT, SAT, or GRE:

- is in the top 50 percent from 2016-2017;
- ♣ is in the top 40 percent of the distribution from 2018-2019; and
- ♣ is in the top 33 percent of the distribution by 2020 (p. 37)