

3.4.3

Educational Programs: All:Admission policies

The institution publishes admissions policies that are consistent with its mission.

Judgment

Compliant Non-Compliant Not Applicable

Narrative

Note: Text for all linked documents below can be increased/decreased for ease of reading by pressing your keyboard's Ctrl key while rotating the mouse wheel.

As a public institution, Angelo State University seeks to provide equal access and opportunity to all qualified applicants, including students interested in distance education programs. This commitment is reflected in the university's admissions policies, which are consistent with the institutional mission to deliver "undergraduate and graduate programs in the liberal arts, sciences, and professional disciplines" (ASU Mission Statement). The institution defines admissions policies for its undergraduate and graduate programs that are appropriate for identifying qualified students, are based on widely accepted standards, and are clearly and uniformly outlined in disseminated publications, including university catalogs, the institutional website, and recruitment brochures.

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS

ASU commits itself to the equal consideration of all qualified applicants for admission without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, or national origin, and without regard to disabilities as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ASU Undergraduate Student Catalog, p. 11). Undergraduate admission decisions are made in accordance with published admissions standards that are clear, reasonable, and consistently implemented, as outlined below.

General Undergraduate Admission Policies

General admission policies for undergraduate students are based on a set of objective criteria developed by the ASU Admissions Committee, approved by the Board of Regents of the Texas Tech University System, and published in ASU OP 10.01, Undergraduate Student Admissions. These criteria reflect requirements of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, which defines criteria for automatic undergraduate admission in its Uniform Admission Policy (TEC §§51.801–51.809). In line with national and state trends, the criteria for admission include demonstrated college readiness (as indicated by successful completion of high school or college-readiness assessment scores), high school class rank, and standardized test scores.

In addition to defining admission criteria for high school graduates, ASU OP 10.01 defines criteria for admitting students in the following categories: individuals with a general equivalency diploma (GED), high school students in the dual credit/concurrent enrollment program, transfer students from another college or university, former ASU students, transient students (summer only), and non-degree seeking students.

Admissions criteria for international undergraduate students are published separately in ASU OP 10.17, International Undergraduate Student Admissions.

ASU also accepts applications under the “academic fresh start” statute (TEC §51.931), which allows an applicant who is a Texas resident to request that the institution *not* consider academic course credits or grades earned by the applicant 10 or more years prior to the starting date of the semester in which the applicant seeks to enroll (ASU Undergraduate Catalog 2011–2012, p. 17; ASU Graduate Catalog 2011–2012, p. 18).

Program-Specific Undergraduate Admission Requirements

In addition to the general requirements for undergraduate admission, the College of Health and Human Services, the College of Business, and the College of Education each offers academic programs that require applicants to meet additional criteria for admission. Some of these programs allow for competitive entry of freshmen, and other programs require students to complete prescribed coursework prior to application. The additional requirements defined by these programs help ensure that students who enroll in these programs have the ability to complete the program successfully, and, in some cases, the additional requirements are necessary to meet standards set by a professional accreditation organization. Programs with specific admissions policies include the following:

- **College of Health and Human Services**—Specific admissions requirements have been defined for the undergraduate programs in nursing and athletic training offered by the Department of Nursing and Rehabilitation Sciences in ASU’s College of Health and Human Services. All nursing programs at ASU are accredited by the Board of Nursing Examiners for the State of Texas and the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission. In addition, nursing programs have full approval status by the Texas Board of Nursing. Specific admission criteria for undergraduate nursing programs are published in the ASU Undergraduate Student Catalog, pp. 230–233 and on the Department of Nursing and Rehabilitation Sciences website (see admission and selection criteria for the general Bachelor of Science in Nursing, the Licensed Vocational Nurse to Registered Nurse Transition Program, and the Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing). The athletic training education program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education, and program-specific admission criteria for this program are published in the ASU Undergraduate Student Catalog, pp. 83–84 and on the Department of Nursing and Rehabilitation Sciences website (admission and selection criteria for the Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training).
- **College of Business**—All students declaring majors and/or applying for degree programs in the ASU College of Business must complete specified pre-major requirements prior to enrolling in upper-division courses. These requirements are published in the ASU Undergraduate Student Catalog 2011–2012, p. 49. The College of Business is accredited by the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs.
- **College of Education**—All students declaring majors and/or applying for degree programs in the ASU College of Education must be admitted to the Educator Preparation Program prior to enrolling in upper-division courses. Criteria for admission to the program are published on the College of Education website (Educator Preparation Program page). ASU’s undergraduate educator

preparation programs, through its College of Education, are nationally accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education and by the Texas Education Agency, State Board for Educator Certification.

Undergraduate Admission Procedures

Entering freshmen and transfer students can apply for admission to ASU and pay the application fee online through ApplyTexas, which is a website created through a collaborative effort between the THECB and colleges and universities across Texas to offer a centralized means for students to apply to postsecondary institutions in Texas. An applicant is eligible for admission to ASU when the applicant has met all admission requirements in the relevant category and has on file in the Office of Admissions the necessary documents. Students enrolling in distance education courses and programs must adhere to the same admissions policies and procedures as students who take classes on campus.

Once the application and appropriate supporting documentation is received and processed by the ASU Office of Undergraduate Admissions, the ASU Admissions Counselors are each sent a report of applicants that are ready for evaluation. Students who satisfy the criteria for automatic admission are admitted. For applicants who do not meet the assured admission criteria, their records are reviewed to evaluate other factors that could predict success at ASU. The Admissions Appeals Committee, which is composed of the managers in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, reviews such applicants individually in a holistic manner. Additional information, such as, but not limited to, high school course work, dual credit experience, and honors/advanced placement courses, is considered for the purpose of identifying candidates for admission.

International Undergraduate Admission Procedures

Applications for admission from international students are received and processed by the ASU Office of Undergraduate Admissions in accordance with the procedures outlined above. International students who do not meet the criteria specified in ASU OP 10.17, International Undergraduate Student Admissions may be admitted to the university as freshmen or transfer students through a petition process. Such students are required to write a letter of appeal explaining their situation and why they think they would be a good fit for ASU. The Center for International Studies staff will then review the application with all supporting material to determine if the student can be successful at ASU. If the staff decides that the student can be successful, the Center for International Studies will determine a plan for the student's first year at ASU. This plan could include requiring the student to take developmental English and/or math courses (based on the student's test results). The Center for International Studies would also require the student to take the University Studies Program's course in critical thinking during the student's first semester. (To date, no international students have requested admission through the petition process.)

Publication and Dissemination of Undergraduate Admission Policies and Procedures

In addition to publication in the ASU Operating Policies and Procedures (ASU OP 10.01, Undergraduate Student Admissions and ASU OP 10.17, International Undergraduate Student Admissions), undergraduate student admissions policies are published in the ASU Undergraduate Catalog 2011–2012 (pp. 11–18), on the ASU website (Admissions Home in the First-Time Freshmen, Undergraduate Transfer Students, International Undergraduate Students, Former Undergraduate ASU Students, Summer-Only Students, and

Dual Credit/Concurrent Enrollment Program tabs) and in printed brochures. See, for example, the Undergraduate General Brochure, Undergraduate Viewbook, and the Undergraduate Transfer Guide.

GRADUATE ADMISSIONS

ASU is open to all persons eligible for admission as students regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, mental or physical disability, or Vietnam Era or Special Disabled Veteran status. All students admitted to the university are treated without discrimination in regard to their participation in university educational programs or activities (ASU Graduate Catalog 2011–2012, p. 3). Graduate admission decisions are made in accordance with published admissions standards that are clear, reasonable, and consistently implemented, as outlined below.

Graduate Admission Policies

Admission policies for graduate students are based on objective criteria developed by program faculty and the Graduate Council, approved by the Board of Regents of the Texas Tech University System, and published in accordance with ASU OP 42.01, Admission to the College of Graduate Studies. These criteria are designed to admit students to graduate study who show promise of succeeding in a rigorous academic environment. This promise is generally demonstrated through superior academic performance, as measured by undergraduate grade point average (GPA) and standardized test scores (i.e., GRE or GMAT), as determined by individual program requirements. Applicants who have distinguished themselves in curricular and extracurricular undertakings, have exhibited exceptional leadership abilities, or have demonstrated special skills or talents related to the area in which they intend to pursue their studies may also be worthy of consideration for admission (ASU Graduate Catalog 2011–2012, pp. 10–12).

Each graduate program defines discipline-specific admission requirements, including prerequisite requirements, GPA and testing criteria, and other relevant criteria (ASU Graduate Catalog 2011–2012, pp. 14–17). These criteria align with national standards, and several of ASU's graduate programs are accredited by discipline-specific accrediting bodies, as summarized in the graduate catalog (ASU Graduate Catalog 2011–2012, p. 2).

ASU has also defined special admission requirements and procedures for international students (ASU Graduate Catalog 2011–2012, p. 13 and International Graduate Student Admissions), including a set of standards which graduate international applicants must meet. The standards are designed to ensure that those admitted to ASU graduate programs will be prepared to take full advantage of the opportunities offered them and to make a positive contribution to the academic and social life on campus. Every international graduate applicant must show evidence of good moral character, high scholastic achievement, ability to finance his/her way fully, and an adequate command of the English language (ASU Supplemental Information to be provided by Graduate International Applicants).

In addition to defining admissions criteria for degree-seeking graduate students, ASU defines criteria for admitting graduate students in the following categories: undergraduates receiving graduate credit, transient status, non-degree status, "academic fresh start" students (those who have completed a baccalaureate degree under TEC §51.931), and senior citizen status (ASU Graduate Catalog 2011–2012, pp. 17–18).

Graduate students enrolling in distance education courses and programs must adhere to the same admissions policies and procedures as students who take classes on campus. All students are encouraged to apply online via the ApplyTexas state-wide system or using the ASU Graduate Application available on the Graduate Studies website.

Graduate Admission Procedures

Admission to the College of Graduate Studies as either a degree-seeking or non-degree seeking student is granted by the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies upon the recommendation of the department of proposed study. Only applicants who have submitted completed applications will normally be considered for admission. Once the online application, application fee, essay (if required), official transcripts, and official test scores (if required) have been received by the College of Graduate Studies, the application is forwarded to the department to which the student is applying. The relevant department reviews the application and notifies the Graduate Studies office of its decision, and then the Graduate Studies office notifies the student. The process for determining admission is published on the Graduate Studies website under the Admission Information tab (Admission Requirements and More Admission Information) and in the ASU Graduate Catalog 2011–2012, p. 12.

Publication and Dissemination of Graduate Admission Policies and Procedures

As indicated in the narrative above, ASU graduate admission policies and procedures are published in the ASU Operating Policies and Procedures, in the ASU Graduate Catalog, and on the Graduate Studies website. In addition, graduate student admission policies are published on program-specific web pages and in printed brochures. See, for example, the Master of Professional Accountancy admissions requirements web page and the College of Graduate Studies Brochure.

EVALUATION OF ADMISSION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The ASU Admissions Committee is a standing university committee responsible for monitoring the academic performance of entering freshmen and making annual recommendations with respect to undergraduate admission standards and policies. The committee ensures that ASU undergraduate admission policies and procedures are consistent with widely accepted standards for undergraduate admissions and are appropriate to identify qualified students. With the arrival on campus of a new director of admissions, this committee is undergoing revision. Please see the updated charge and selection parameters for the Undergraduate Admissions Committee. The Graduate Council is a standing university committee responsible for making recommendations on academic policies and programs affecting the graduate program and the graduate faculty.