

**Establish Admission Requirements for Carolina Online:** For consideration of Faculty Senate, April 7, 2021

**Proposal:** Establish minimum freshman, transfer, and readmit admission requirements for Carolina Online.

**Requested Effective Date:** Summer 2021

**Background:**

A priority of the Strategic Plan, *For Carolina: A Path to Excellence*, is to enhance access, success and affordability for every eligible South Carolina student – traditional and nontraditional – by establishing an integrated online program management. Carolina Online was developed in response to Strategic Priority 5 in an effort to develop end to end bachelor's degree programs to be delivered online.

Carolina Online is intended to be for multiple non-traditional audiences that range from those who are working professionals to those who are serving military and veterans. In each case the non-traditional student brings something different to the classroom by way of lived experiences that will impact how they experience and contribute to class. For this reason, a separate admissions process with corresponding metrics for admission is proposed.

Recruitment for traditional students is different than the online market. The latter prioritizes an efficient and approachable processes with a quick turnaround for the admission decision. For UofSC to be competitive in the market and best serve the students, the following are required:

- Transfer admission GPA: a standard of 2.25, irrespective of the program
- High School GPA: a minimum of 2.25, including for military applicants.
- Credits: permit a student in a non-degree seeking status to change to degree seeking status and carry those credits earned in the former status to the latter.

Carolina Online students will not impact our CHE reporting requirements.

**Proposed Admission Policy for Carolina Online:**

Application to online programs offered through Carolina Online will be submitted to Carolina Online. The following policies only apply to Carolina Online.

**Freshman Admission**

An applicant who has not attended a regionally accredited college or university after high-school graduation may be considered for freshman admission. Requirements for admission to online programs offered through Carolina Online include:

- Completed application
- Application fee
- Completion of required high school courses as defined by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
- Minimum GPA of 2.25
- Official final high school transcript with graduation date
- Standardized test scores (e.g., SAT or ACT), if requested.

**Military Freshman Applicants**

South Carolina resident applicants with at least two years of active-duty military service may be admitted as freshmen if they graduated high school with a 2.25 GPA, completed minimum college preparatory course requirements outlined by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education, and have not attempted any postsecondary work since graduation. The application fee is waived for military applicants.

### **Transfer Admission**

An applicant who has attended another regionally accredited postsecondary institution after high school graduation and attempted one or more courses is a transfer student, irrespective of credit earned, and must meet transfer entrance requirements. Requirements for transfer admission to online programs offered through Carolina Online include:

- Completed application
- Application fee (waived for military)
- Official transcripts from postsecondary institution(s); 30 credit hours are needed to qualify for transfer admission
  - Applicants with a Joint Services Transcript may choose to apply up to 15 credit hours towards the 30 credit hours needed to qualify for transfer admission
- Minimum GPA of 2.25
- Official final high school transcript with graduation date (only if fewer than 30 credit hours of college-level coursework have been completed)
- Standardized test scores [e.g., SAT or ACT], if requested (only if fewer than 30 credit hours of college-level coursework have been completed)

Courses attempted at another regionally accredited postsecondary institution will be evaluated consistent with University policy on transfer of credit.

Please refer to [https://sc.edu/about/offices\\_and\\_divisions/registrar/transfer\\_credits/index.php](https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/registrar/transfer_credits/index.php) for further details on transfer credit guidelines.

### **Readmission**

A former UofSC student wishing to return to complete an online program through Carolina Online will need to submit a completed application for readmission. Returning students must have a 2.0 UofSC GPA.

### **Non-degree Seeking Admission**

A student who applies for admission to a program offered through Carolina Online and does not meet the freshman, transfer, or readmit admission requirements may be admitted as a non-degree seeking student. After completing two UofSC Carolina Online program courses (minimum of 6 hours) that are degree-applicable to the Carolina Core or the major and approved by the Carolina Online Director of Enrollment, such students with a 2.25 GPA may be admitted as a degree-seeking student to a Carolina Online program without submitting an additional application. However, such students must submit any requested documentation prior to moving to degree-seeking status. Courses completed while in non-degree seeking status may apply toward the Carolina Online degree program.

### **Justification:**

The proposed admission requirements will provide an efficient and equitable admission process. This policy emphasizes the commitment and investment of UofSC to educating all South Carolina residents as well as those in the southeastern region and nationally. The policy is in alignment with the strategic priority of making access to education more equitable and affordable for all.