# WEST VIRGINIA SECRETARY OF STATE NATALIE E. TENNANT ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION

Do Not Mark In This Box

2012 DEC 14 AM 9: 26

Form #2

#### NOTICE OF A COMMENT PERIOD ON A PROPOSED RULE

AGENCY: Higher Education Policy Commission	<u> </u>	TITLE NUMBER: _	133
RULE TYPE: Procedural	CITE AUTHORITY:	West Virginia Code 18B 1 1	A; 18B 1 4
AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING RULE: YES	<u>x</u> NO		
IF YES, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING A	MENDED: Series 23	<u></u>	
TITLE OF RULE BEING AMENDED: St	tandards and Procedures for Un	dergraduate Admission at Fou	ır-Year Colleg
	niversities		
IF NO, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING PR	OPOSED:		
TITLE OF RULE BEING PROPOSED: _		_	
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IN LIEU OF A PUBLIC HEARING, A COMME	NT PERIOD HAS BEEN	ESTABLISHED DURIN	NG WHICH
ANY INTERESTED PERSON MAY SEND COM	MENTS CONCERNING  2013 AT 5:00 PM	THESE PROPOSED RU	JLES. THIS
ANY INTERESTED PERSON MAY SEND COM COMMENT PERIOD WILL END ON January 14,	MENTS CONCERNING  2013 AT 5:00 PM	THESE PROPOSED RU	JLES. THIS
ANY INTERESTED PERSON MAY SEND COM  COMMENT PERIOD WILL END ON January 14,  COMMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED AND ARE	MENTS CONCERNING  2013  AT 5:00 PM  TO BE MAILED TO TH	THESE PROPOSED RU	ULES. THIS WRITTEN RESS:
ANY INTERESTED PERSON MAY SEND COMMENT PERIOD WILL END ON  January 14,  COMMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED AND ARE  Higher Education Policy Commission  Attention: Dr. Paul L. Hill	MENTS CONCERNING  2013  AT 5:00 PM  TO BE MAILED TO THE  THE ISSUES TO	THESE PROPOSED RU  ONLY HE FOLLOWING ADDI	ULES. THIS WRITTEN RESS:

ATTACH A **BRIEF** SUMMARY OF YOUR PROPOSAL

# **TITLE 133** PROCEDURAL RULE

## 2012 DEC 14 AM 9: 27

#### WEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION

#### **SERIES 23**

## SECRETARY OF STATE STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES FOR UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS AT FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

#### §133-23-1. General.

- Scope -This rule establishes standards and procedures for public 1.1. undergraduate institutional admissions policies at four-year colleges and universities.
- 1.2. Authority - West Virginia Code 18B-1-1A; 18B-1-4
- 1.3. Filing Date - May 2, 2007
- 1.4. Effective Date - June 1, 2007
- Repeal of Former Rule Repeals and replaces Title 133, Series 23 which 1.5. had an effective date of April 1, 2005 June 1, 2007.

#### §133-23-2. Statement of Principles.

- It is the intent of the Higher Education Policy Commission (Commission) 2.1. that West Virginia residents shall-have to provide access to higher educational opportunities commensurate with their student interests and abilities. Working toward this end, the Commission continues to encourage the development of academic programs and flexible time space delivery options which-allow citizens throughout West Virginia to develop to the fullest-their capabilities for-work and fulfillment of-life facilitate access and promote college completion. It is further the intent of the Commission that admissions policies at the four-year state-supported institutions of higher education should foster the attainment of these broad goals of access to the highest extent possible within the limits of available educational programs and resources.
- 2.2. In recognition of the diverse educational programs offered by the different public four-year higher education institutions and the varying kinds of preparation necessary for successful entry into them, the Commission considers it more appropriate to establish basic statewide guidelines and standards than to provide detailed provisions related to admissions criteria and procedures. Accordingly, the Commission has identified certain basic

- policies and provisions around which specific institutional admissions policies and practices are to be developed.
- 2.3. This rule applies to undergraduate admissions at West Virginia public four-year colleges and universities. The standards in this rule also apply to students who enroll in baccalaureate-level programs at state higher education institutions where missions are primarily the offering of associate-level degrees. Standards for students enrolled in associate degree or one-year certificate programs, regardless of institutional classification, shall be at least as rigorous as those at the community and technical colleges.
- 2.4. In fulfilling its mission, the Commission is also responsible for assuring quality programs to any individual attending West Virginia institutions.

#### §133-23-3. <u>Definitions.</u>

- 3.1. ACT and SAT are college admission tests that are designed to assess academic readiness.
- 3.2. Conditional admission is the admission of an undergraduate student who does not meet the requirements for regular admission as outlined in section 4 of this rule.
- 3.3. Continual enrollment is a term that describes student enrollment in consecutive semesters, excluding summer terms.
- 3.4. Developmental education programs commonly address academic preparedness, diagnostic assessment and placements, development of general and discipline-specific learning strategies. Developmental courses are "pre-college" courses and do not count toward a baccalaureate degree, an A.A. degree, an A.S. degree, or an A.A.S. degree.
- 3.5. Diploma means formal documentation and recognition that a student has satisfactorily completed the graduation requirements of a state and school district.
- 3.6. General Education Development (GED) Diploma means a diploma issued by a state department of education based upon satisfactory score earned on the GED test prepared by the General Educational Testing Service as an agent of the American Council on Education.

- 3.7. Grade point average (GPA) is the cumulative high school grade point average based on a 4.0 scale.
- 3.8. Home-Instructed (Home-Schooled) students means those students defined under West Virginia Code §18-8-1, who are not enrolled in a public school within the school district and who are instructed by a person or persons providing home instruction.
- 3.9. International Baccalaureate Diploma Program means a comprehensive two-year international curriculum designed as a rigorous pre-university course of study that leads to examinations. An institution, at its discretion, may award college credit to students for successful completion of IB courses and examinations.

#### §133-23-3. BASIC ADMISSIONS STANDARDS

- 3.1 As a means of ensuring a reasonable chance of success in the educational programs for which students seek admission and of making the most productive use of federal, state and community resources, institutional admissions policies shall incorporate the following basic standards.
- This rule applies to undergraduate admissions at West Virginia public four year colleges and universities. The standards in this rule also apply to students who enroll in baccalaureate level programs at state higher education institutions where missions are primarily the offering of associate level degrees. Standards for students enrolled in associate degree or one year certificate programs, regardless of institutional classification, shall be at least as rigorous as those at the community and technical colleges.
- 3.3 Degree Programs at Four-Year Colleges and Universities. Students who meet General Educational Development (GED) requirements or have a high-school diploma and overall grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.0, or a composite score of at least 17 (3.0 GPA or 18 ACT composite score and a 2.0 GPA effective August 2008) on the ACT may be admitted on a regular admission basis to four-year colleges and universities which offer associate and bachelor's degree programs. For universities which grant doctoral degrees, the minimum high school GPA/standardized test score requirement for regular admission (effective August 2008) is a 3.0 high school GPA or a 19 ACT composite score and a high school 2.0 GPA. Students will normally be expected to sit for the ACT. However, in instances where students have taken the SAT I examination, these scores may be substituted for the ACT. SAT I scores will be converted to ACT-equivalents by using an appropriate conversion chart authorized by the chancellor. These students will not be required to take the ACT at a later time.
  - 3.3.1 Conditional admission may be granted in instances where GPA or ACT standards are not met and institutional officials have evidence that the student has the potential to successfully complete college level work.

Students—who do not meet—the GPA or—ACT—standards, but who demonstrate the potential to complete an-undergraduate program may be admitted conditionally with the following stipulations:

- 3.3.1.1 If freshman placement standards require, developmental work must be completed prior to enrolling in the corresponding college level courses.
- 3.3.1.2 Students must complete the provisions of their conditional admission within the first three semesters of enrollment.
- 3.3.1.3 Conditionally admitted students must achieve a minimum of a 2.0 GPA in at least twelve graded hours.
- 3.3.1.4 When-all admission standards—have—been-met,—conditional status will-be removed and the student will-become a regular admission student.
- 3.3.2 In order to facilitate an orderly transition to the higher ACT/GPA standards effective in 2008, institutions shall employ the conditional admission provisions in section 3.3.1 of this rule. The use of these provisions must, however, be consistent with the recognition of the Commission's commitment to high academic standards as well as the need to afford students the opportunity to pursue a baccalaureate education. While there are no specific limits imposed on the number of students who may be admitted conditionally in 2008, beginning with the 2010 fall semester, no more than fifteen (15) percent of entering first time students may be admitted conditionally. The percentage of students admitted conditionally shall not exceed ten (10) percent in fall 2011 and thereafter.
- 3.3.3 In addition to GPA and ACT requirements, students must successfully complete the following minimum academic core unit requirements (effective until August 2008) prior to admission:

#### Required Units (Years)

- 4 English (including courses in grammar, composition, literature)
- 3-Social Studies (including U.S. History)
- 3 Mathematics (Algebra I and at least one higher unit)
- 3 Science (Two of the three units must be laboratory science. At least two units—from Coordinated and Thematic Science-10, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and other courses with a strong laboratory science orientation)

**Strongly Recommended Units** 

2 Foreign Language

**Elective Units** 

Remaining Units—It is recommended that the remaining elective units be chosen—from—the—academic—core—(English/language—arts,—mathematics, science, social studies) or subjects such as computer science, fine arts, humanities, and keyboarding.

3.3.4 Effective August 2008, students in addition to GPA and ACT requirements, must successfully complete the following minimum academic core unit requirements prior to admission:

#### Required Units (Years) 2008 Standards

- 4-English (including courses in grammar, composition, and literature)
- 3 Social Studies (including U.S. History)

3.3.5.a

- 4 Mathematics (three units must be Algebra I and higher)
- 3 Science (all courses to be college preparatory laboratory science, preferably including units from biology, chemistry, and physics)
  1-Arts
- 2 Foreign Language (Two units of the same foreign language)
- 3.3.5 Institutions are authorized to employ the following exemptions to the above unit requirements:
  - All four (4)-year-public higher education institutions have the discretionary authority to-waive the college preparatory curricular requirements-for regular admission for not more than five (5) percent of resident freshman-students who graduated with a high school diploma within three (3) years of the date of enrollment based upon enrollment of resident first time freshmen entering the institution in the fall term of the previous year. Beginning with the fall 2008 semester and-until the fall 2010-semester, the-five (5)-percentage limit on curriculum waivers shall be lifted to allow for a study of the impact of the effect of the 2008-college preparatory - curriculum - requirements on otherwise academically qualified resident students who seek admission to West Virginia public colleges and universities. This suspension of the waiver limitation will permit (1) West Virginia high schools to deliver more fully the necessary courses required for regular-admission and (2) enable a more orderly and non-punitive transition-for qualified-West-Virginia-high school-students to the state's colleges and universities. No later than December 2009, the Higher Education Policy Commission shall establish an appropriate limit on the percentage of college preparatory curricular-waivers-allowed, effective with the fall 2010 semester.

-Students admitted with a waiver under the provisions of this section must satisfy any of the curricular deficiencies through the successful completion of commensurate college coursework. Each student receiving a waiver under this provision must complete any commensurate coursework no later-than the academic term in which s/he accumulates sixty hours of credits.

- 3.3.5.b Applicants for admission who have been out of high school for more than three (3) years or who meet institutionally established GED requirements may be exempted from the specified high school curricular requirements at the discretion of the individual institution.
- 3.3.5.c Non resident applicants for admission who graduate from high schools not requiring the minimum number of units for high school graduation listed in Section 3.3.4 (effective August 2008) may be exempted from the resident curricular requirements at the discretion of the individual institution. Any non resident student admitted under provisions of this rule who has not completed the high school curricular requirements delineated in section 3.3.4 of this rule must complete any commensurate coursework no later than the academic term in which s/he accumulates sixty hours of credit.
- 3.3.6 The academic performance of students admitted under one (1) of the above exemptions or on a conditional basis must be evaluated at the conclusion of each semester. To continue, such students must be in good academic standing according to institutional standards as stated in the institutional catalog for regularly admitted students. Neither regular nor conditional admission shall ensure the entry of applicants into specific programs.
- 3.4 Transfer Students. Students seeking transfer admission to a state college must be academically eligible to return to the institution from which they wish to transfer. Students seeking transfer admission or readmission to a community college or community college division must meet the institution's basic admission standards. Students attending community and technical colleges or community college divisions who are seeking to transfer into a four (4) year program must meet the regular institutional criteria for transfer admission. Students with fewer than twenty six (26) transferable semester credit hours must meet the basic admission standards outlined in this section.
  - 3.4.1 Students under disciplinary sanction at a West Virginia public college or university at the time of the application for transfer admission are also subject to other applicable rules of the Higher Education Policy Commission.
- 3.5 Non Degree Students. An institution may admit students on a non-degree basis.

  By definition, such students are not seeking and/or not eligible to pursue a certificate or degree at the institution.
- 3.6 It should be noted that the basic standards contained in this section are based upon current levels of funding. Should financial resources be limited, it may be

necessary to establish additional standards and/or-accept only those qualified students applying by a specified date.

#### §133-23-4. Regular Admission Standards.

- 4.1. Students who meet GED requirements or have an approved high school diploma and a) an overall grade-point average (GPA) of a least 2.0 and an 18 ACT composite score, or c) a 3.0 GPA, may be admitted on a regular admission basis to four-year colleges and universities which offer associate and bachelor's degree programs.
- 4.2. For universities which grant doctoral degrees, the minimum high school GPA/standardized test score requirement for regular admission is a) a 2.0 high school GPA and a 19 ACT composite score or b) a high school 3.0 GPA.
- 4.3. Home-School students who provide appropriate ACT composite scores as outlined above and meet any additional institutional requirements may be admitted on a regular admissions basis.
- 4.4. Except as provided in section 8.2 and section 9.3 of this rule, all students must submit ACT or SAT scores prior to admission.
- 4.5. In instances where students have taken the SAT examination, these scores may be substituted for the ACT. SAT scores will be converted to ACT equivalents by using an appropriate conversion chart authorized by the Chancellor. These students will not be required to take the ACT at a later time.

#### §133-23-5. Conditional Admission Standards.

5.1. Conditional admission may be granted in instances where GPA or ACT standards for regular admission are not met and institutional officials have evidence that the student has the potential to successfully complete college-level work. Students who do not meet the GPA or ACT standards, but who demonstrate the potential to complete an undergraduate program may be admitted conditionally with the stipulations listed below. Institutions are expected to monitor and provide support to conditionally admitted students through the offering of developmental education initiatives and other dedicated academic and student service programs.

- 5.1.a. Conditionally-admitted students must maintain good academic standing as defined by the institution.
- 5.1.b. If freshman placement standards require, developmental education must be completed prior to enrolling in the corresponding college-level courses. As necessary, students must enroll in the required developmental education program in the first semester of enrollment and maintain continual enrollment until all developmental requirements are fulfilled.
- 5.1.c. Students must complete any required developmental education and the provisions of their conditional admission within the first four semesters of enrollment. Unless the student is still enrolled in developmental education, students failing to meet the provisions of conditional admission shall be denied re-enrollment. Return to the institution is subject to institutional policy.
- 5.2. The percentage of first-time, baccalaureate degree-seeking students enrolled conditionally shall not exceed ten (10) percent of the Commission census data enrollment. The percentage shall be based upon a three-year rolling average. The specific process for calculating this average will be determined by the Commission and communicated to all institutions.

### §133-23-6. Admissions – Core Requirements.

- 6.1. In addition to GPA and ACT requirements, students must successfully complete the following minimum academic core unit requirements prior to the initial period of enrollment: Required Units
  - 6.1.a. 4 English (including English 12CR and courses in grammar, composition, and literature)
  - 6.1.b. 3 Social Studies (including U.S. History)
  - 6.1.c. 4 Mathematics (three units must be Algebra I and higher or Math I or higher; Transitional Math for Seniors will also be accepted)
  - 6.1.d. 3 Science (all courses to be college preparatory laboratory science, preferably including units from biology, chemistry, and physics)
  - 6.1.e. 1 Arts

- 6.1.f. 2 Foreign Language (two units of the same foreign language, Sign language is also acceptable)
- 6.2. Institutions are authorized to employ the following waivers to the above unit requirements:
  - 6.2.a. All four-(4) year public higher education institutions have the discretionary authority to waive academic core unit requirements for admission to their institution.
  - 6.2.b. Students admitted with a waiver under the provisions of this section must satisfy any of the curricular deficiencies through the successful completion of commensurate college coursework. Each student receiving a waiver under this provision must complete any commensurate coursework prior to degree completion.

#### §133-23-7. Transfer Students and Non-Degree Seeking Students.

- 7.1. Students seeking transfer admission to a state college or university must be academically and otherwise eligible to return to the institution from which they wish to transfer and must meet the institution's basic admission standards. Students attending community and technical colleges who are seeking to transfer into a four-(4) year program must meet the regular institutional criteria for transfer admission. Students with at least twenty-four (24) transferable credit hours are exempt from meeting regular admission standards outlined in section 4 of this policy. Institutions may develop policies which require a greater number of credit hours completed prior to exemption from regular admission standards.
- 7.2. Transfer students must supply the institution with official transcripts reflecting all previous college work prior to admission.
- 7.3. Non-Degree Students. An institution may admit students on a non-degree basis. By definition, such students are not seeking and/or not eligible to pursue a certificate or degree at the institution. Institutions may establish minimum standards for admission of non-degree students.

#### §133-23-8. International Students.

8.1. International students are required to abide by the same freshman and/or transfer admission requirements as previously stated in this policy.

- 8.2. International students are not required to present ACT or SAT scores for admission purposes. International students are required to submit ACT or SAT scores prior to their second semester of enrollment.
- 8.3. International students must meet English proficiency requirements as established by the institution and must submit scores prior to admission.

# §133-23-49. INSTITUTIONAL ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES Additional Admissions Criteria.

- 49.1. Official high school transcripts or GED scores are required to be on file for each incoming freshman who is registered in an undergraduate certificate or degree program and who has graduated from high school within five years. Such transcripts documents shall be on file with the institution prior to the end of the first semester of the student's attendance.
- 9.2. The institution issuing the diploma can be validated by a College Entrance Examination Board (CEEB) code, by a state department of education, or by other established procedures determined by the institution.
- 4.2. Students who desire to enroll on a degree seeking basis at four year state colleges and universities who do not meet the GED requirements or have a high-school diploma and an overall grade point average of at least 2.0 must submit ACT or SAT I scores prior to admission.
- 4.3. In accordance with Section 3.3, students who substitute SAT I scores for ACT scores will not be required to take the ACT at a later time.
- 4.4. Degree seeking state college students at four year colleges or universities who do meet the GED or high school grade point average requirements must submit ACT or SAT I scores prior to their second semester of enrollment.
- 4.59.3. All students who have graduated from high school or completed GED requirements more than five years prior to seeking admission to a four-year college or university may have the requirement for ACT or SAT I scores waived exempted at the discretion of the institution.
- 4.6. Transfer students must supply the institution with official transcripts reflecting all previous college work prior to admission.

- 4.79.4. In addition to the above, colleges <u>institutions</u> may use, but shall not be limited to the use of, the following information in determining admission to institutions and/or institutional programs:
  - 4.7.19.4.a. Records of traditional academic performance relative to the specific educational program to which the student seeks entry.
  - 4.7.29.4.b. Record of nontraditional learning experiences.
  - 4.7.39.4.c. Standardized examinations relative to the requirements of the program to which the student seeks entry.
  - 4.7.49.4.d. College equivalency examinations such as the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) and also, special preparatory programs such as the Advanced Placement Program of the College Entrance Examination Board and the International Baccalaureate Diploma.
  - 4.7.59.4.e. Recommendations and reports of interviews.
- 4.8.9.5. Health and immunization records may be required <u>before or</u> after admission into the institution <u>depending on institutional policy</u>. Immunization records are to be submitted at the time of initial enrollment in-accordance with the applicable rule of the Higher Education Policy Commission.
- 9.6. Neither\_regular\_nor\_conditional admission shall ensure the entry\_of applicants into specific programs.

#### §133-23-510. Institutional Admissions Policies.

- 510.1. Institutional admissions policies shall be comprehensive and stated in specific terms and shall include the general admissions requirements of the institution, as well as additional requirements for entry into specific programs. Institutions may establish admission standards more rigorous than those established by this rule for basic admission to the institution and/or for admission into specific programs.
- 510.2. All institutional admissions policies shall be submitted to the Commission for evaluation in terms of their compatibility with stated Commission policies, institutional goals and available educational programs and resources. Any amendments to admission policies shall be submitted to

the Commission prior to their actual implementation at the institutional level. Institutional admissions policies shall be comprehensive and stated in specific terms and shall include the general admissions requirements of the institution, as well as additional requirements for entry into specific programs.

- 510.3. All institutional admissions policies shall be consistent with existing Commission policies and applicable State and Federal regulations regarding nondiscrimination.
- 510.4. Subject to Commission approval, institutions may establish admission standards more rigorous than those established by this rule for basic admission to the institution and/or for admission into specific programs. Institutional admissions policies shall be submitted to the Commission for evaluation in terms of their compatibility with stated Commission policies, institutional goals and available educational programs and resources. Any amendments to general admission policies shall be submitted to the Commission prior to their actual implementation at the institutional level. The Commission shall be notified of any amendments to admission policies prior to implementation at the institution.

#### §133-23-6. IMPLEMENTATION DATE

6.1. The high school GPA and ACT/SAT-I test score requirements in section 3.3 and the successful completion of high school unit requirements listed in section 3.3.4 and related exemptions outlined in Section-3 shall be effective no later than the fall of 2008. The effective date of all other provisions of this policy will be sixty (60) days after the date of filing with the West-Virginia Secretary of State's Office.

# APPENDIX B FISCAL NOTE FOR PROPOSED RULES

Rule Title:	<u></u>						
Type of Rule:							
Agency:	Higher Education Policy Commission						
Address:	Contact: Dr. Paul L. Hill, Chancellor						
Phone Number:	304-558-0699 Email: chanceflor@hepc.wvnet.edu						
Sum	Fiscal Note Summary marize in a clear and concise manner what impact this measure will have on costs and revenues of state government.						
No impact.							

## **Fiscal Note Detail**

Show over-all effect in Item 1 and 2 and, in Item 3, give an explanation of Breakdown by fiscal year, including long-range effect.

FISCAL YEAR							
Effect of Proposal	Current Increase/Decrease (use "-")	Next Increase/Decrease (use "-")	Fiscal Year (Upon Full Implementation)				
1. Estimated Total Cost	0.00	0.00	0.00				
Personal Services	0.00	0.00	0.00				
Current Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00				
Repairs & Alterations	0.00	0.00	0.00				
Assets	0.00	0.00	0.00				
Other	0.00	0.00	0.00				
2. Estimated Total Revenues	0.00	0.00	0.00				

Rule Title:	_	 	
		_	

Date: December 14, 2012

Signature of Agency Head or Authorized Representative

# West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission Meeting of December 7, 2012

ITEM:

Approval of Revisions to Series 23, Standards and Procedures for Undergraduate Admission

at Four-Year Colleges and Universities

**INSTITUTIONS:** 

ΑII

RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION:

Resolved, That the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission approves the revisions to Series 23, Standards and Procedures for Undergraduate Admission at Four-Year Colleges and Universities, as a procedural rule to be filed with the Secretary of State for a thirty-day public comment period.

Further Resolved, That the rule is approved for final filing at the conclusion of the comment period if no substantive comments are

received.

STAFF MEMBER:

Kathy Butler

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Series 23, Standards and Procedures for Undergraduate Admission at Four-Year Colleges and Universities, is the procedural rule that outlines the admission standards and procedures for West Virginia public four-year colleges and universities. The current version of this policy was last revised in 2007 and does not accurately reflect present public high school graduation requirements, conditional admission processes, or guidelines for admission of special groups.

The proposed revisions to Series 23, summarized below, strengthen the rule and clarify the standards and procedures for admission at West Virginia's four-year higher education institutions. These changes are proposed in an effort to prevent unintended consequences of denying admission to academically qualified students.

The proposed modifications are as follows:

#### Section 2

Changes within this section are intended to clarify for whom the policy is applicable and to further emphasize the purpose for establishing admission standards, noting an emphasis on facilitating access to quality academic programs and promoting college completion.

#### Section 3

This new section, Definitions, was added to clarify terms used throughout the policy. This new section replaces Section 3, Basic Admissions Standards, as found in the older version of the policy. The content previously found in the section on Basic Admission Standards is now separated into distinct sections that address regular admission, conditional admission, and core requirements.

#### Section 4

Using much of the language found in the previous version of the policy, this section addresses basic admission standards for all institutions, focusing specifically on high school GPA and test scores. Each admission option is more clearly defined so as to eliminate ambiguity in interpretation. Remaining in this policy version is the option to admit a student based solely upon a high school GPA of 3.0 since high school GPA is widely recognized as a primary indicator of how a student will perform in college. This option gives state colleges and universities flexibility in the baccalaureate admission process.

#### Section 5

This section clarifies the institutional responsibilities and procedures for conditionally admitting students. It provides additional guidelines regarding the fulfillment of developmental education requirements and establishes a limit and reporting standard for reporting conditionally admitted students.

#### Section 6

Since this policy was last revised, West Virginia high school graduation requirements have changed resulting in a direct impact on higher education admission requirements. Section 6 updates the policy with current graduation requirements and provides institutions with a systematic process for employing waivers for students who lack core academic unit requirements.

#### Section 7

For ease of understanding and clarity, the existing admission requirements for transfer students and non-degree seeking students were removed from Section 3 of the previous policy and placed in a separate section. Minor modifications were made in total credit hours required for exemption from admission standards. Also added is a requirement that a transfer student must supply the receiving institution with all transcripts from previously attended institutions.

#### Section 8

Section 8, International Students, is a new section added to the policy in an effort to establish standards that could be implemented consistently across all institutions. Due to a renewed interest and emphasis on international student recruitment across four-year institutions, this section addresses the admission issues of this special population.

#### Section 9

Much of the text that is deleted from Section 4 of the previous version of Series 23 has been reorganized into other sections of the revised policy. Standards for the validation of high school transcripts are included. A modification in Section 9.5 allows the institutions some flexibility as to determining when immunization records must be on file with the institution. Clarification is added to the policy to state the role of conditional and/or regular admission in regard to entry into specific programs.

#### Section 10

This section, Institutional Admission Policies, has been modified to emphasize the role of the higher education institution in maintaining standards of quality. It is a reminder that institutions must establish their own admission policies, however, those policies must be in compliance with Commission policy and uphold the minimum standards of this policy.

#### Section 11

This section was deleted because it is no longer applicable.

Staff recommends approval of revised Series 23 for filing with the Secretary of State for a thirty-day public comment period and, if no substantive comments are received, final filing of the rule with the Secretary of State.