

Summary of Proposed Academic Standards Changes

Ouachita Baptist University

April 2014

The faculty **approved** these academic standards changes at the spring Faculty Meeting on Tuesday, April 29, 2014.

[Admission Requirements for Students Entering with a GED](#)

[Admission Requirements for Online Degree Programs](#)

[Probation Standards for OBU at NLC](#)

Admission Requirements for Students Entering with a GED

Change the admission requirements for students entering with a GED as follows: OBU will grant regular admission for students who enter with a score of 150 on each part of the GED and have a 20 or higher composite on the ACT. Students who enter with a score of 150 on each part of the GED and have a 17-19 ACT score will be accepted on Conditional Admission.

For many years, students who entered with a GED were under Conditional Admission, no matter how high their ACT score. Changing the requirements to regular admission for students with an acceptable GED or ACT score is more in line with our other admission requirements. As a result, these students would not have to take ASKL courses.

In addition, the GED test and scoring changed as of January 1, 2014. Therefore, our GED admission criteria must reflect these changes.

Catalog Description – **OBU General Catalog**

Requirements for Non-Graduates of High School

The University will consider for regular admission an applicant who is 18 years or older who is not a high school graduate who submits:

1. Scores of 150 or higher on each of the four subject areas on the General Education Development test (GED)
2. ACT composite score of 20 or higher or SAT score of 940 or higher

The University will consider for Conditional Admission an applicant who is 18 years or older who is not a high school graduate who submits:

1. Scores of 150 on each of the four subject areas on the General Education Development test (GED)
2. ACT composite scores of 17-19 or SAT scores of 810–930

Admission Requirements for Online Degree Programs

Modify admission requirements for online degree programs to eliminate unnecessary barriers for adult students, including elimination of the ACT/SAT requirement for admission except in the case of students who submit GED scores.

We expect many of our prospective students for the online programs to be adults who are unlikely to have valid ACT/SAT scores. Requiring them to submit such scores would be a major disincentive to enroll since many other online programs do not require such entrance exams. An applicant's high school transcript will continue to be required and will be the primary basis for admission decisions.

Catalog Description – [OBU Online Degree Program Catalog](#)

Admission

All entering students are expected to abide by the standards set forth in the University's *Tiger Handbook*. A prospective student must submit a completed Application for Admission to the Office of the Registrar, Ouachita Baptist University, Box 3757, Arkadelphia, Arkansas, 71998-0001. Students may also apply on-line at www.obu.edu. A certified high school transcript must be on file with the University prior to admission.

Ouachita recommends but does not require the following high school course units for success at the college level: four in English, three in social science with American History and World History recommended, two in Natural Science preferably selected from Biology, Chemistry, and/or Physics, and two in Mathematics with Algebra I and Geometry recommended. Of the remaining units, it is recommended that at least two units be in one foreign language.

Requirements for High School Graduates

The University will consider for regular admission to online degree programs a student who submits:

1. A completed application for admission*
2. An official transcript from high school
3. An official transcript from all colleges or universities attended
4. A minimum high school grade point average (GPA) of 2.750 on a 4.000 scale or a cumulative GPA of 2.0 for all colleges attended

Requirements for Non-Graduates of High School

The University will consider for regular admission to online degree programs a student who is not a high school graduate who submits:

1. A completed application for admission*
2. An official transcript showing at least 16 units in high school or a minimum General Education Development (GED) test score of 150 on each subject area (50th percentile score on GED tests taken prior to January 1, 2014)
3. A GPA of 3.000 or higher on a 4.000 scale on high school work
4. A minimum ACT composite score of 20 or SAT score of 940

Students seeking entry to the University under these requirements should be aware that eligibility for federal student aid is only available to students who have a high school diploma or a recognized equivalent such as a *General Education Development* (GED) certificate or by completing a high school education in a *homeschool* setting approved under state law. Students without a high school diploma may also have limited options for state and private aid awarded to high school graduates. Contact OBU Student Financial Services with any questions related to aid eligibility.

Requirements for Home-Schooled Students

A student who has been home-schooled and desires admission to Ouachita's online degree programs must submit:

1. A completed application for admission*
2. An official transcript of high school work completed
3. A high school GPA of 2.750 or higher on a 4.000 scale or a cumulative GPA of 2.0 for all colleges attended.

Requirements for Transfer Students

Those who wish to transfer from another institution to Ouachita's online degree programs should apply for admission as transfer students and supply course descriptions for all courses taken. Transfer students may be admitted only if they are eligible to return to the institution from which they came. They must declare all colleges and universities attended in the past and supply official transcripts from each school attended. Transfer students may use any Ouachita catalog which has been in effect since they entered college, as long as the catalog is not more than 3 years old.

Students from accredited junior or senior colleges will receive full credit for courses taken in such institutions, subject to departmental or other limitations. All grades of all college level courses will be transferred and used in calculating the grade point average except those with D or F grades which cannot be repeated at Ouachita. Courses accepted in transfer must be consistent with the liberal arts character of the Ouachita curriculum. Ouachita will accept academic skills courses from other universities, but the number of hours required for graduation increases by the number of hours of academic skills courses.

Up to thirty hours will be accepted from an accredited theological seminary. Extension work from accredited colleges will be accepted up to thirty hours, including up to ten hours of such credits in the major.

Students transferring from educational institutions not accredited by a regional accreditation agency may enroll if they have a 2.000 GPA. They will receive full credit for courses taken in such institutions, but a maximum of 12 of those hours will apply toward graduation.

All students, including transfers, are required to maintain a minimum 2.000 cumulative GPA on work done at Ouachita. Transfer students who have 29 or more hours of credit are required to submit a degree plan during their first semester in residence. To earn a baccalaureate degree, transfer students must meet all requirements outlined on pages 34-35, as well as those for the degree they seek. Sixty hours through Ouachita are required; 30 of the last 36 hours and at least 12 hours (6 junior-senior) in the major and 9 (3 junior-senior) in the minor must be taken through Ouachita.

International Student Admissions

Qualified students from other countries are eligible for admission based on valid TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) exam scores earned within two years of admission. Students who score 78-80 internet Based Test (iBT), or 550 Paper Based Test (PBT) or higher will be admitted to a degree program. Degree-seeking students who transfer from universities outside of the US must successfully complete the equivalent of one regular semester of college level courses at Ouachita before being granted any transfer credit. All transfer credit must be evaluated by Educational Credential Evaluator (ece.org), the evaluator of choice for our institutional needs. The deadline for submitting an application and all other required admissions documents is July 31 for fall admission and December 20 for spring.

Applicants must submit:

1. A completed and signed Application for Admission.
2. The required application fee, and tuition deposit.
3. A completed International Student Certification of Finances (ISCF) Form.
4. Official transcripts from all secondary or post-secondary schools attended and certified copies of the results of all standardized examinations.
5. One of the following scores is required: TOEFL, ACT, or SAT.

Any additional requirements as published by the international programs office.

Applicants whose native language is not English must submit scores earned on the TOEFL exam if the ACT or SAT score cannot be provided. Students interested in taking the TOEFL should go to www.ets.org.

For more information, contact the Daniel R. and Betty Jo Grant Center for International Education Office, 410 Ouachita Street, Box 3777, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001, USA. Office phone: 870.245.5197 or e-mail international@obu.edu.

**Probation Standards
for OBU at NLC**

Establish probation standards appropriate for the associate degrees offered through OBU at New Life Church.

Our standards for academic probation currently apply to four-year degrees. We must have standards for satisfactory academic progress for the associate degrees as well. Students who fall below the standards must repeat courses, possibly taking longer to complete their degree plans.

Catalog Description – OBU at New Life Church Catalog

Academic Probation

Academic Probation is the status of a student whose academic performance is below minimal standards. After grades are posted, the student, advisor, and Registrar will be notified of the student's placement on Probation I, Probation II, or Academic Suspension. A student will be placed on Probation I when the following requirements are not satisfied:

Cumulative GPA of 1.700 0 – 15 semester hours

Cumulative GPA of 1.800 15.5 – 30 semester hours

Cumulative GPA of 1.900 30.5 – 45 semester hours

Cumulative GPA of 2.000 45.5 and above semester hours

After being placed on Academic Suspension status, a student may apply for readmission following a lapse of at least one regular semester. At the Deans' Council's discretion, a student on Probation II whose semester work would result in Academic Suspension may be considered for immediate readmission if the student has attempted 45 or more semester hours and makes a semester GPA of 2.000 or better. In all cases, written application to the Deans' Council for readmission must state reasons for desiring reinstatement and plans for remedying academic deficiencies.