

# Summary of Proposed Academic Standards Changes

Ouachita Baptist University

December 2014

The faculty **approved** these changes at the Faculty Meeting on Tuesday, December 2, 2014.

[Admissions requirements for transfer students](#)

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<b>Admissions requirements for transfer students</b>	<p><b>Changes to the transfer student admissions catalog section.</b></p> <p><b>1. Clarify that ACT or SAT scores are required for course placement rather than admission.</b> Currently reads, "A transfer student who has fewer than twenty-nine hours of acceptable credit must submit ACT or SAT scores and a transcript from previous colleges before being admitted." Proposed change to residential, OBU Online and OBU at New Life Church catalogs, "A transfer student who has fewer than twenty-nine hours of acceptable credit must submit ACT or SAT scores for course placement." The requirement of previous college transcripts for admission is reflected in the existing opening phrase, "Those who wish to transfer...should apply for admission as transfer students".</p> <p><b>2. Remove the seminary transfer paragraph from residential, OBU Online and OBU at New Life Church catalogs.</b> Remove current statement, "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."</p> <p><b>3. Clarify policy on transfer credit for courses taken at unaccredited institutions.</b> Currently reads, "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." Proposed change to residential and OBU Online catalogs, "Students transferring from educational institutions not accredited by a regional accreditation agency may enroll if they have a 2.000 GPA. Courses taken at such institutions will be evaluated to determine which courses will receive credit, and a maximum of 12 of those hours will apply toward graduation." Proposed change to OBU at New Life Church catalog, "Students transferring from educational institutions not accredited by a regional accreditation agency may enroll if they have a 2.000 GPA. Courses taken at such institutions will be evaluated to determine which courses will receive credit, and a maximum of 6 of those hours will apply toward graduation."</p> <p><b>4. Change policy on transfer GPA for admission.</b> Currently reads, "Transfer students may be admitted only if they are eligible to return to the institution from which they came." Our proposed change reads, "Transfer students may be admitted with at least a 2.000 transfer GPA."</p> <p><b>Rationale</b> 1. Transfer student admission is determined by college academic standing, not by ACT or SAT scores. The</p>
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proposed change clarifies the use of ACT or SAT scores for course placement and not for admission.

2. Ouachita has not had a student requesting transfer credit from an accredited theological seminary in several years.

3. The guiding policy in awarding transfer credit, as stated in the Requirements for Transfer Students, is "Courses accepted in transfer must be consistent with the liberal arts character of the Ouachita curriculum." All transfer courses are evaluated based on this and other criteria prior to credit being granted. Changing the wording from "full credit for courses taken in such institutions" to "Courses taken at such institutions will be evaluated" is a better reflection of this policy.

Students obtaining bachelor's degrees from the residential campus or Ouachita Online are currently able to count up to 12 credit hours from an unaccredited institution toward the 120 hours required for graduation. We propose to reduce the number of credit hours from an unaccredited institution that can be counted toward the associate's degree from 12 to 6, since the associate's degree requires 61 hours for graduation.

4. This change will bring us in line with other 4-year Arkansas institutions.

### **Catalog Description**

#### **Requirements for Transfer Students**

Those who wish to transfer to Ouachita should apply for admission as transfer students and supply course descriptions for all courses taken. Transfer students may be admitted with at least a 2.000 transfer GPA. They must declare all colleges and universities attended in the past and supply official transcripts from each school attended. A transfer student who has fewer than twenty-nine hours of acceptable credit must submit ACT or SAT scores for course placement. 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.

Students transferring from educational institutions not accredited by a regional accreditation agency may enroll if they have a 2.000 GPA. Courses taken at such institutions will be evaluated to determine which courses will receive credit, and a maximum of 12 of those hours will apply toward graduation.

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 in the Academic Information section, as well as those for the degree they seek. Sixty resident hours 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 in residence at Ouachita.

### **Change to the admissions criterion for OBU Online**

**The current OBU Online GPA admissions criterion for high school graduates and homeschool students is "A minimum high school grade point average (GPA) of 2.750 on a 4.000 scale or a cumulative GPA of 2.000 for all colleges attended."**

**We propose to change the GPA criterion to "Students who have earned fewer than 12 hours of college credit must have a high school grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.750 on a 4.000 scale. Students with at least 12 hours of college credit must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.000 for all colleges attended."**

#### **Rationale**

If an incoming student has fewer than 12 hours of college credit, we expect the high school GPA to accurately reflect his/her academic ability.

	<p>However, if an incoming student has 12 or more hours of college credit, we anticipate the college GPA to better represent the student's collegiate academic ability than the high school GPA.</p> <p><b>Catalog Description</b>  <b>Requirements for High School Graduates (Ouachita Online)</b>  The University will consider for regular admission to online degree programs a student who submits:  A completed application for admission  An official transcript from high school  An official transcript from all colleges or universities attended</p> <p>Students who have earned fewer than 12 hours of college credit must have a high school grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.750 on a 4.000 scale. Students with at least 12 hours of college credit must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.000 for all colleges attended.</p> <p><b>Requirements for Home-Schooled Students (Ouachita Online)</b>  A student who has been home-schooled and desires admission to Ouachita's online degree programs must submit:  A completed application for admission  An official transcript of high school work completed  An official transcript from any colleges or universities attended</p> <p>Students who have earned fewer than 12 hours of college credit must have a high school grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.750 on a 4.000 scale. Students with at least 12 hours of college credit must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.000 for all colleges attended.</p>
<p><b>Points of information for catalog revision (no vote required)</b></p>	<p><b>1. To consolidate the conditional admission statements from the admissions section into a single statement.</b></p> <p><b>Catalog Description</b>  <b>Conditional Admission (Residential)</b></p> <p>The University may grant Conditional Admission to students who fall below the previously stated standards. Most of these students will be advised to enroll in certain Academic Skills courses. The University will refuse admission to students whose academic record indicates an inability to meet Ouachita's academic standards.</p> <p><b>Conditional Admission (OBU at New Life Church)</b></p> <p>OBU at New Life Church may grant Conditional Admission to students who fall below the previously stated standards. Most of these students will be advised to enroll in certain Academic Skills courses. The University will refuse admission to students whose academic record indicates an inability to meet Ouachita's academic standards.</p> <p>Please note that Ouachita Online does not presently accept students for Conditional Admission.</p> <p><b>2. To restore admission requirements for non-graduates of high school, distinguishing non-graduates 17 years of age and younger from those 18 years of age and older. The admission requirements for non-graduates lacking a GED score (those younger than 18 years of age) were listed in previous catalogs, but were inadvertently omitted from the 2014-2015 catalog.</b></p> <p><b>Catalog Description</b>  <b>Requirements for Non-Graduates of High School (Residential &amp; Ouachita Online)</b>  The University will consider for regular admission a student who is 17 years or younger who is not a high school graduate who submits:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A completed application for admission</li> <li>2. An official transcript showing at least 16 units in high school work</li> <li>3. A GPA of 3.000 or higher on a 4.000 scale on high school work</li> </ol>

4. A minimum ACT composite score of 20 or SAT score of 940 or higher
5. A recommendation from one's principal, superintendent or counselor.

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. A completed application for admission
2. Scores of 150 or higher on each of the four subject areas on the General Education Development test (GED)
3. ACT composite score of 20 or higher or SAT score of 940 or higher.

**Requirements for Non-Graduates of High School (OBU at New Life Church)**

OBU at New Life Church will consider for regular admission a student who is 17 years or younger 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 work
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 or higher
5. A recommendation from one's principal, superintendent or counselor.
6. A written statement of faith.

OBU at New Life Church will consider for regular admission a student who is 18 years or older who is not a high school graduate who submits:

1. A completed application for admission
2. Scores of 150 or higher on each of the four subject areas on the General Education Development test (GED)
3. ACT composite score of 20 or higher or SAT score of 940 or higher
4. A written statement of faith.