

Proposed GPA Policy for Home School Students - Admission

Background

As shown below, high school GPA is one of three factors that make up a freshman applicant's Regent Admission Index (RAI) score – the score which determines the student's admission status to Iowa State University.

RAI Formula for Admission

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Cumulative high school GPA} \times 30 \\ & + \text{ACT composite score} \times 3 \\ & + \text{Number of years of high school core courses} \times 5 \\ & \text{RAI score} \end{aligned}$$

Home school parents assign the grades for many or, in some cases, all of their child's high school courses. As such, an inherent conflict of interest exists when the grades the parent assigns to their child's coursework can ensure the child's admission to Iowa State. The data below summarizes data for mean GPA (if independent GPA available), ACT and SAT scores, and offers and enrollments for freshman home school applicants for Fall 2019 and Fall 2020.

Data

Fall 2019 Freshman Home School Applicants

Applicants	94	
GPA*	Yes	No
	59 (63%)	35 (37%)
Mean GPA	3.74	NA
Mean ACT	26.98	27.67
Mean SAT	1281.0	1357.5
Offers	78	
Enrolled	33	

Fall 2020 Freshman Home School Applicants As of 03-06-20

Applicants	103	
GPA*	Yes	No
	58 (56%)	45 (44%)
Mean GPA	3.74	NA
Mean ACT	27.67	28.84
Mean SAT	1237.3	1392.9
Offers	84	
Accepts	32	

*Student earned enough independently assigned grades to establish a GPA

Proposal

To implement the following policy regarding the calculation of high school GPA for home school applicants for admission:

When calculating a home school applicant's high school GPA for admission purposes, only those grades which have been assigned by an independent entity (e.g., the local high school, a college, or an accredited online curriculum) are factored into the cumulative GPA. Home school applicants must have earned independently assigned grades in at least 12 semester credits of college-level coursework or at least 5 Carnegie units of high school-level coursework (or a

combination of both) before their independently assigned grades can be used to establish their high school GPA.

Home school applicants who have not earned enough independently assigned grades to have an established high school GPA will be considered for admission on an individual basis. This will include a holistic evaluation of the student's entire academic record, **including ACT/SAT test scores, high school core classes, and coursework taken through high school and local colleges and universities.**

Original proposal:

Approved by ASAC, unanimous, 1/16/2020

Approved by AAC, unanimous, 1/29/2020

Not approved by FS EB, 3/3/2020

Revised proposal:

Approved by ASAC, unanimous, 3/12/20

Presented to AAC, 3/25/2020 (no vote since previously approved)

Approved by FS Executive Board, as amended to only address admissions for home school students (strike 'scholarships' from proposal), unanimous 3/31/2020

Additional explanation of holistic evaluation provided for home school applicants without an established high school GPA, as suggested following first reading at Faculty Senate meeting on 4/7/2020