



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

**Joint Committee on Rules and Regulations
January 28, 2015**

Testimony Regarding Qualified Admissions Regulations

K.A.R. 88-29-1, 88-29-5, 88-29-6, 88-29-7, 88-29-7a, 88-29-11, 88-29a-1, 88-29a-5, 88-29a-6, 88-29a-7, 88-29a-7a, 88-29b-1, 88-29b-4, 88-29b-5, 88-29b-6, 88-29b-7, and 88-29b-7a

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Good afternoon Chairwoman Schwartz and Members of the Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to provide background information and a brief summary of the Board of Regents' proposed amendments to the qualified admissions regulations.

During the 2009 Session, the Legislature amended K.S.A. 76-719 to give the Kansas Board of Regents authority to establish admissions standards for the state universities. In 2010, the Board convened a Task Force to "advise the Board and make recommendations regarding optimal state university admissions policies for year 2010 and beyond."

The Task Force conducted public hearings and gathered significant input from a wide range of stakeholders across the state and forwarded recommendations to the Board and the Board approved them in December 2010. The recommendations included revised admissions standards for high school students graduating in 2015 and thereafter. These revised QA standards have gone through all legal approvals and apply to those seeking to enter state universities this summer.

Subsequently, the Board, using the above-mentioned authority granted by the Legislature, approved different admission standards for the University of Kansas. Those standards specific to KU have gone through all legal approvals and apply to those seeking to enter KU beginning in Summer 2016.

Almost all of the proposed amendments cut across the admission standards that are effective through this semester, the standards effective for all state universities beginning this summer, and the KU-specific standards that are effective beginning in Summer 2016.

There are three overarching purposes for the proposed amendments to the Qualified Admissions regulations. The first is to replace the term "GED" with the more generic "high school

equivalency” to reflect that other tests are now available for obtaining a high school equivalency credential.

In 2014 a new GED® test was released and the 2002 version was retired. The 2014 test has a new scoring system. In addition to the new GED® test, a new high school equivalency exam is now available as an alternative to the GED®. The new test is the High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) offered by ETS. While this new exam is not yet available in Kansas, twelve states (California, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, Nevada, New Hampshire, Tennessee, Wyoming) currently offer the HiSET.

To permit state universities to evaluate for admission applicants who took the HiSET exam or the new GED® exam, Qualified Admissions regulations must be updated in order to reflect the new GED® passing score and to include the passing score for the HiSET exam. We also need to change the word “GED” to the more generic and non-trademarked “high school equivalency diploma” to reflect that there are now other options available.

The second purpose is to update the list of courses that the Board has determined will meet certain qualified admission curriculum requirements. As time passes, new courses are brought forward for consideration, existing courses are brought forward for reconsideration, and the list is refined in an effort to make it more user-friendly and to incorporate curricular changes. When the list is updated, the regulation must also be updated because it adopts the list by reference.

Finally, the Board is recommending an amendment to two of the qualified admission regulations that are specific to the University of Kansas. The amendment removes race as a factor to be considered by KU’s admission review committee in making admissions recommendations for those that are not automatically admitted. This change is recommended in response to the United States Supreme Court’s decision in *Fisher v. Texas* dealing with appropriate use of affirmative action in admissions processes.

Other changes are not substantive, but are clarifying in nature or seek to remove obsolete language.

The Board has crafted and is proposing the following amendments:

Article 29—STATE UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS (Prior to Summer 2015)

K.A.R. 88-29-1 defines key terms for the regulations in Article 29 and Article 29a up until review of applications for the 2016 summer session. The regulation is being amended to replace the term “GED” with the more generic “high school equivalency” and to reflect that other tests are now available for obtaining a high school equivalency credential. Other changes include removing terms that are no longer used in the article, changing outdated language and providing clarity.

K.A.R. 88-29-5 establishes admission standards, prior to the 2015 summer session, for resident freshmen. The regulation is being amended to replace the term “GED” with the more generic “high school equivalency.”

K.A.R. 88-29-6 establishes admission standards, prior to the 2015 summer session, for residents who are 21 years of age or older. The regulation is being amended to replace the term “GED” with the more generic “high school equivalency.”

K.A.R. 88-29-7 establishes admission standards, prior to the 2015 summer session, for nonresident freshmen. The regulation is being amended to replace the term “GED” with the more generic “high school equivalency.”

K.A.R. 88-29-7a establishes admissions standards, prior to the 2015 summer session, for nonresidents who are 21 years of age or older. The regulation is being amended to replace the term “GED” with the more generic “high school equivalency.”

K.A.R. 88-29-11 sets forth the qualified admission precollege curriculum for state university applicants who graduated from high school in academic year 2013-2014 or earlier. The regulation is being amended to adopt an updated list of precollege curriculum courses approved for university admissions purposes. Other amendments are non-substantive.

Article 29a—STATE UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS (Summer 2015 and after)

K.A.R. 88-29a-1 defines key terms for the regulations in Article 29 and Article 29a. Prior to the 2016 summer session, the K.A.R. 88-29-1 definitions apply to the article 29a regulations as well as the article 29 regulations. Beginning with the 2016 summer session, K.A.R. 88-29-1 will sunset and the K.A.R. 88-29a-1 definitions will apply to the article 29 regulations as well as the article 29a regulations. The main difference between K.A.R. 88-29a-1 and K.A.R. 88-29-1 is the definition of “state educational institution.” For article 29, the definition includes KU; for article 29a it does not.

The regulation is being amended to replace the term “GED” with the more generic “high school equivalency” and to reflect that other tests are now available for obtaining a high school equivalency credential. Other changes include removing terms that are no longer used in the article, changing outdated language and providing clarity.

K.A.R. 88-29a-5 establishes admission standards, beginning with the 2015 summer session, for resident freshmen. The regulation is being amended to replace the term “GED” with the more generic “high school equivalency.”

K.A.R. 88-29a-6 establishes admission standards, beginning with the 2015 summer session, for residents who are 21 years of age or older. The regulation is being amended to replace the term “GED” with the more generic “high school equivalency.”

K.A.R. 88-29a-7 establishes admission standards, beginning with the 2015 summer session, for nonresident freshmen under age 21. The regulation is being amended to replace the term “GED” with the more generic “high school equivalency.” Other amendments are non-substantive.

K.A.R. 88-29a-7a establishes admissions standards, beginning with the 2015 summer session, for nonresidents who are 21 years of age or older. The regulation is being amended to replace the term “GED” with the more generic “high school equivalency.”

Article 29b—UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS ADMISSIONS

The article 29b regulations will first be effective with students applying for admission for the 2016 summer session. This is the first day of the fourth academic year following the year in which the regulations were adopted, as required by law for adoption of more rigorous standards.

K.A.R. 88-29b-1 defines key terms for the regulations in article 29b, all of which are specific to the University of Kansas. The main difference between K.A.R. 88-29a-1 and K.A.R. 88-29b-1 is the definition of “state educational institution.” For article 29b, the definition includes the University of Kansas; for article 29a it does not.

The regulation is being amended to replace the term “GED” with the more generic “high school equivalency” and to reflect that other tests are now available for obtaining a high school equivalency credential. Other changes include removing terms that are no longer used in the article, changing outdated language and providing clarity.

K.A.R. 88-29b-4 establishes the University of Kansas’ admission standards, beginning with the 2016 summer session, for transfer students. Automatic admission standards apply for students who apply for admission on or before July 1 of the academic year for which the student is applying. The main difference between KU’s automatic admission standards for transfer students and the Board’s admission standards for transfer students is that KU will require a 2.5 cumulative GPA on all transferable college coursework rather than a 2.0. Those students who do not meet the automatic admission standards or who apply after July 1 will be reviewed by the University’s admission review committee. Any student admitted by recommendation of the University’s admission review committee who does not meet the Kansas Board of Regents admission standards set out in K.A.R. 88-29-4 must be admitted as an exception.

The regulation is being amended to remove race as a factor that could be considered in making admission recommendations.

K.A.R. 88-29b-5 establishes the University of Kansas’ admission standards, beginning with the 2016 summer session, for resident freshmen who are under age 21. Automatic admission standards apply for students who apply for admission on or before February 1 and require either a 3.0 cumulative high school GPA and a 24 on the ACT, or a 3.25 cumulative high school GPA and a 21 on the ACT; students will also have to have completed the Board of Regents’ qualified admission curriculum or equivalent with a 2.0 or better GPA and achieved a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better on all transferable college coursework. The high school GPA and KBOR curriculum requirements will not apply to students who have obtained a GED. Those students who do not meet the automatic admission standards or who apply after February 1 will be reviewed by the University’s admission review committee. Any student admitted by recommendation of the University’s admission review committee who does not meet the Kansas Board of Regents admission standards set out in K.A.R. 88-29a-5 must be admitted as an exception.

The regulation is being amended to replace the term “GED” with the more generic “high school equivalency” and to remove race as a factor that could be considered in making admission recommendations.

K.A.R. 88-29b-6 establishes the University of Kansas' admission standards, beginning with the 2016 summer session, for resident freshmen who are age 21 or older. The primary difference between K.A.R. 88-29b-6 and K.A.R. 88-29a-6 is the application deadline. Those students applying after the February 1 application deadline will be reviewed by the University's admission review committee. Any student admitted by recommendation of the University's admission review committee who does not meet the Kansas Board of Regents admission standards set out in K.A.R. 88-29a-6 must be admitted as an exception.

The regulation is being amended to replace the term "GED" with the more generic "high school equivalency."

K.A.R. 88-29b-7 establishes the University of Kansas admission standards, beginning with the 2016 summer session, for nonresident freshmen. Automatic admission standards apply for students who apply for admission on or before February 1 and require either a 3.0 cumulative high school GPA and a 24 on the ACT, or a 3.25 cumulative high school GPA and a 21 on the ACT; students will also have to have completed the Board of Regents' qualified admission curriculum or equivalent with a 2.5 or better GPA and achieved a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better on all transferable college coursework. The high school GPA and KBOR curriculum requirements will not apply to students who have obtained a GED. Those students who do not meet the automatic admission standards or who apply after February 1 will be reviewed by the University's admission review committee. Any student admitted by recommendation of the University's admission review committee who does not meet the Kansas Board of Regents admission standards set out in K.A.R. 88-29a-7 must be admitted as an exception.

The regulation is being amended to replace the term "GED" with the more generic "high school equivalency." Other changes are non-substantive.

K.A.R. 88-29b-7a establishes the University of Kansas admission standards, beginning with the 2016 summer session, for nonresident applicants who are age 21 or older. The primary difference between K.A.R. 88-29b-7a and K.A.R. 88-29a-7a is the application deadline. Those students applying after the February 1 application deadline will be reviewed by the university's admission review committee. Any student admitted by recommendation of the University's admission review committee who does not meet the Kansas Board of Regents admission standards set out in K.A.R. 88-29a-6 must be admitted as an exception.

The regulation is being amended to replace the term "GED" with the more generic "high school equivalency."

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