

Proposal to Revise GSW Policy for Addressing Required High School Curriculum (RHSC) Deficiencies

Rationale: Recommendations from USG Required High School Curriculum Deficiency Policy Group, and a change in USG Academic and Student Affairs Handbook section 3.2.6 on special admissions. The change would apply principally to out-of-state applicants to GSW and presidential exceptions.

Proposed Policy:

ADDRESSING RHSC DEFICIENCIES

Students with RHSC deficiencies shall be required to satisfy those deficiencies using one of the following methods:

Address Deficiency Prior to Enrollment

Students who have Required High School Curriculum (RHSC) deficiencies but can demonstrate competency in the deficient area(s) will be deemed as meeting the RHSC requirements. Provided these students meet all other requirements for regular admission for the sector of institution to which they are applying, the institution will not be required to admit them under the Limited Admissions category.

Demonstrate Subject Matter Proficiency

A student can satisfy a RHSC deficiency by demonstrating competency in the area(s) considered deficient or by addressing the deficiency through an appropriate course successfully completed prior to enrollment at a USG institution. Institutions may set additional and/or higher requirements for demonstrating subject matter proficiency than those listed below.

Option 1: Demonstrate Subject Matter Proficiency through Approved Standardized Tests

1. An applicant whose SAT or ACT score in the deficient area is at or above the average SAT or ACT score of the previous year's fall semester first-time freshmen admitted to GSW in an area of RHSC deficiency will be deemed to have satisfied that deficiency.
2. A student may use the CLEP subject examination to demonstrate competency in deficient areas not tested by the SAT or ACT. A score of 50 or above on the CLEP subject examination in the area of deficiency will satisfy the deficiency and grant the student college credit in that area.
3. COMPASS (for English and Mathematics) – Students with fewer than four required units of English or mathematics and (after Fall 2015) without SAT/ACT Scores are required to take the comparable COMPASS sections. Based on their scores or placement indices (see GSW Bulletin Reference), students will exempt Learning Support, which will satisfy the deficiency, or be placed in the appropriate Learning Support course in English and/or mathematics. Successfully exiting learning support will satisfy the deficiency.

Option 2: Demonstrate Subject Matter Proficiency through Approved Coursework

A student may address the deficiency prior to enrollment by taking a USG-approved high school course in the deficiency area(s) or a three credit collegiate course in the appropriate subject area(s). A student who has taken a terminal course in a subject area (for example, a student who has completed calculus in the 11th grade) will be deemed as meeting the RHSC requirement in that subject area.

Exemption for Out-of-State Applicants

An out-of-state applicant, who has successfully completed the college preparatory curriculum requirements of his or her home state but has been determined to have a deficiency according to the USG's RHSC policy, can request an exemption to the RHSC requirement as part of their application to a USG institution. As part of the exemption, the applicant must provide documentation that provides overwhelming evidence of competency in the deficient area (see Demonstrate Subject Matter Proficiency above) or provide documentation that demonstrates that the coursework he/she completed is equivalent in content and rigor to the required course.

Address Deficiency after Enrollment

Students who have RHSC deficiencies, which are addressed after enrollment are admitted under the Limited Admissions category.

Students who have RHSC deficiencies and who successfully complete collegiate courses with a grade of C or better addressing all of their deficiencies within their first 30 credit hours will be considered as having satisfied the deficiency or deficiencies. These students will receive collegiate credit towards the student's degree program. If a student does not address the deficiencies within the first 30 credit hours, then the student may not register for other courses, unless they also register for the appropriate deficiency course or courses. Successful completion of a three credit collegiate course in the appropriate subject area demonstrates collegiate-level preparedness and is sufficient for satisfying an RHSC deficiency in that subject area.

Current Policy (for Reference)

ADDRESSING RHSC DEFICIENCIES

Students admitted in the Limited Admission category, including Presidential Exceptions, who have RHSC deficiencies shall be required to satisfy those deficiencies by subject area in the following manner:

- English and Mathematics
Students with fewer than the four required units of English or mathematics are required to take the comparable COMPASS (computer-adaptive college placement test) sections administered by a USG institution or a comparable placement examination approved by the Board of Regents (BoR). Based on his or her scores, the student will exempt Learning Support (LS) or be placed in the appropriate LS course in English and/or reading and/or mathematics. Institutions may use comparable scores for students transferring from Commission on Colleges (COC) accredited Technical College System of Georgia institutions. See BoR Policy 3.3.5, Collaboration Between the USG and the Technical College System of Georgia.
- Science, Social Science, and Foreign Language
Students with fewer than the required number of units in an area are required to take additional for-credit courses selected from the appropriate area of the USG Core Curriculum. The course(s) must be in the specific content area in which the student is deficient. Students who have completed only one year of American Sign Language are considered deficient and are required to take courses in a foreign language to satisfy the deficiency.

The college credit courses used to satisfy RHSC deficiencies will count as degree credit, but the hours earned will not count toward a student's degree program. The student must earn a "C" or better in each of these courses.

Students who accumulate 30 or more semester hours of college-level credit in the institution before completing all RHSC requirements may not register for other courses, unless they also register for the appropriate deficiency course or courses.

Institutions may petition the Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer of the USG for permission to offer a Learning Support (LS) course for students admitted with RHSC deficiencies in the sciences and social sciences that would serve as an option to taking additional college-level courses in science and social science for no degree credit. This might be a co-requisite LS experience when science and social science courses are taken in the core.