

# Summary of Academic Standards Changes

Ouachita Baptist University

May 2023

The faculty **approved** these academic standards changes at a faculty meeting on May 2, 2023.

Catalog / Policies	Proposed Change
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Raise the GPA requirement for online undergraduates to 3.200</li><li>• Add an ACT score of 20 or a SAT score of 1030 as a second pathway to admission for online students</li></ul> <p><b>Rationale</b></p> <p>To be consistent with the admissions requirement for residential students, the GPA for online admission will be raised from 2.750 to 3.200 and a second pathway will be added to include an ACT score of 20 or a SAT score of 1030.</p> <p><b>Catalog Entry</b></p> <p>p. 16 (Ouachita Online Catalog)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Requirements for High School Graduates</b></p> <p>The University will consider for regular admission a student who submits:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. A completed application for admission</li><li>2. An official transcript from high school</li><li>3. And also satisfies at least one of the following requirements:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A minimum high school grade point average (GPA) of 3.2 on a 4.0 scale</li><li>• A minimum ACT composite score of 20 or SAT score of 1030</li></ul></li></ol> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Requirements for Home-Schooled Students</b></p> <p>A student who has been home-schooled and desires admission to Ouachita must submit:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. A completed application for admission</li><li>2. An official transcript from high school</li><li>3. And also satisfies at least one of the following requirements:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A minimum high school grade point average (GPA) of 3.2 on a 4.0 scale</li><li>• A minimum ACT composite score of 20 or SAT score of 1030</li></ul></li></ol>
Catalog / Policies	<p><b>Proposed Change</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Add an incomplete policy to the catalog</li><li>• Clarify who may receive an incomplete</li><li>• Change the completion date for incompletes from the end of the next semester to the drop date of the next full semester</li></ul>

	<p><b>Rationale</b></p> <p>Currently, there is no written incomplete policy in the catalog; the policy has lived on the incomplete form. The policy should be in the catalog where students, faculty, and staff have access to it. Additionally, this policy will apply to students in our graduate and online programs regardless of the term.</p> <p>In the past two years, there seems to be more incomplete grades given. Thus, clarifying language needs to be added to the policy. Incomplete grades need to be given only for situations that are out of the student’s control. For examples, the death of an immediate relative or a severe illness requiring a student to leave campus for an extend period.</p> <p>The current policy states that the incomplete grade is allowed to stand until the end of following semester. Shortening this time frame to the drop date of the next full semester helps motivate students to complete their work. Incompletes given at the end of the spring semester, will have until the Fall semester drop date.</p> <p><b>Catalog Entry</b></p> <p>With approval from the instructor and the dean, an incomplete (“I”) grade may be reported for a student who cannot complete all the course work by the end of the semester/term because of extenuating circumstances. Once the course work has been completed, the instructor will submit a change of grade form. If all course work has not been completed by the following semester (Fall &amp; Spring) on the last day to drop a full semester course, the “I” will automatically be changed to the grade F.</p>
<p><b>Catalog / Policies</b></p>	<p><b>Proposed Change</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delete the admission pathway option: Rank in the top half of their high school graduating class</li> </ul> <p><b>Rationale</b></p> <p>For the past two years we have had 3 pathways for admission:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. HS GPA</li> <li>2. ACT score and</li> <li>3. Rank in the top half of their high school graduating class.</li> </ol> <p>We have found that high school GPA and ACT scores are adequate for determining which students have the skills and personal qualities to likely succeed at Ouachita. The high school rank is rarely used and adds more complications than it is worthwhile.</p> <p><b>Catalog Entry</b></p> <p>p. 26</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Requirements for High School and Home School Graduates</b></p> <p>The University will consider for admission a student who:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Submits a completed application for admission;</li> </ol>

2. Submits an official transcript from high school;\* and
3. Satisfies at least *one* of the following requirements:
  - A minimum high school grade point average of 3.2 on a 4.0 scale;
  - A minimum ACT composite score of 20 or a SAT score of 1030. Superscores are accepted.

\*For incoming Fall 2024 students, high school rank will not be considered.