

3.4.3

Educational Programs: All:Admission policies

The institution publishes admissions policies consistent with its mission.

Judgment

Compliance Partial Compliance Non-Compliance Not Applicable

Narrative

The mission statement [1] of Tennessee Technological University (TTU) places a strong emphasis on providing a benefit to its students in the form of life-long success via high-quality instruction and learning experiences. This service is provided to all without regard to age, gender, ethnicity, race, religion, national origin, disability, or sexual orientation. The University is committed to an inclusive and diverse campus that enriches the educational experience, promotes personal growth and a healthy society, prepares students for success in a global economy, and enhances America's economic competitiveness. The University also "retains a special commitment to enrich the lives of people and communities in the Upper Cumberland region." The admission policies defined here are reflective of these commitments and in compliance with the admission policies (2:03:00:00) [2] of the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR).

Undergraduate applicants are considered for admission according to approved University standards. Graduate applicants are considered for admission either by approved program standards or by a combination of approved program standards and a selection committee. A multi-level, holistic appeals process is in place for students requesting an appeal to admission standards and/or admission decisions.

Admissions Policies

Admission policies, standards, and procedures for undergraduate domestic and international students are provided in detail on the University Admissions website [3], on the International Admissions website [4], in the Undergraduate Catalog [5], and on the Policy Central website [6a][6b]. Admission requirements and procedures are provided for all application scenarios (early admission, dual enrollment, incoming freshman, incoming transfer, non-degree seeking, additional bachelor's degree, etc.) All admission policies for domestic and international graduate students are clearly outlined in the Graduate Catalog [7] and these policies and procedures are readily available on the Graduate Studies website [8], International Education website [9] and in the Policy Central website [10a][10b].

Freshman and transfer admission requirements are also published in the University's viewbook [11]. Freshman applicants are considered for admission based on high school grade point average, recent test scores, and high school coursework. Previous to Fall 2015, freshman applicants under 21 years of age were required to have a 2.00 high school GPA, a 19 ACT composite (or equivalent SAT combined critical reading and math score), and a college preparatory high school curricula OR a 2.50 high school GPA, a 17 ACT composite (or equivalent SAT combined critical reading and math score), and a college preparatory high school curricula. Students over 21 years of age could substitute COMPASS scores for ACT/SAT scores, and a GED score of 525 could be substituted for a high school transcript. After a retention study in 2014, campus committees proposed an increase in these requirements for Fall 2015 and Fall 2017. This proposal, provided here [12], was approved by the Tennessee Board of Regents in Spring 2014. Selected programs have additional requirements for direct admission:

- College of Engineering - 3.0 GPA, 20 ACT Composite, and 22 ACT Math
- Math - 21 ACT Math

- Whitson Hester School of Nursing – 3.00 GPA and 20 ACT Composite
- Health Related Pre-Professional Programs – 3.00 GPA, 21 ACT Composite, and 21 ACT Math

Transient applicants are processed through the Admissions Office and the International Education Office; applicants must prove good standing at the last institution before admission can be granted at TTU. Transfer students are considered for admission based on previous college coursework. Applicants that do not yet have 24 transferrable hours also must submit freshman application materials for review. Currently, a 2.00 last full-time semester GPA, a 2.00 cumulative GPA, and eligibility for readmission at the last institution are required for admission. Selected programs have additional requirements for direct admission:

- College of Engineering - 2.00 cumulative college GPA and a grade of "C" or higher in a pre-calculus mathematics course that includes a study of the trigonometric identities

New international applicants must also provide minimum test scores on approved language tests such as TOEFL, IELTS, MELAB, etc. or a passing grade in a college-level, transferrable English composition course. Minimum scores for approved tests are posted on the International Admissions website [13].

Additionally, the Teacher Education program [14] and the Whitson Hester School of Nursing [15] have admission requirements and procedures for upper division courses that are administered directly by these departments. Students that do not gain admission to these programs may pursue other degree programs at the University.

Admission standards for former students are identical to those for transfer students unless the student is academically suspended. If suspended, applicants must follow the procedures posted on the Undergraduate Admissions website [16] to gain readmission.

Applicants that have not yet graduated from high school may pursue admission to TTU under the Early Admission or Dual Enrollment programs detailed on the Undergraduate Admissions website [17a][17b]. These applicants must also provide a letter of recommendation from a high school guidance counselor and parent in the case of Early Admission.

Admission to the College of Graduate Studies at TTU requires an applicant meet general admission requirements as well as program specific requirements. General requirements are listed on the College of Graduate Studies website [8], International Education website [9], the Graduate Catalog [7] as well as the Policy Central website [10a][10b]. These requirements include official transcripts of undergraduate and graduate credit from an accredited institution and letters of recommendation if required by the major department from persons acquainted with the applicant's scholastic and professional accomplishments. Within the limits of academic reason, either the departmental chairperson or the College of Graduate Studies may require additional information and verification of credentials submitted in support of an application for admission.

The requirement of minimum test scores either for admission, readmission, or candidacy is determined by individual departments or divisions, subject to approval by the respective college-level committees, college dean, and the Graduate Studies Executive Committee.

Admission requirements of specific programs in the College of Graduate Studies are listed in the

Graduate Catalog under entries for each college or school and are individually defined for each level (master, specialist, and doctor level). For an example of these requirements, please see the admission requirements for graduate degrees in the College of Engineering [18].

These admission policies are aligned with those of the TBR as defined in TBR Admission Policy/Guideline 2:03:00:00 [2]. These policies are uniformly applied to all students although an appeal process exists. This appeal process is a non-competitive, holistic, and individualized process where a review committee may consider some or all of the following: academic rigor of courses, core course GPA and grade trends, as well as non-cognitive elements such as an applicant's concept of self, ability to deal with adversity, long-range goals, community involvement, special interests or abilities, leadership, and support structures. This process is outlined on the admissions webpage [3] and provides a way for undergraduate applicants to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the Admissions Review Committee in situations where extenuating circumstances exist. Eighty-four (3.2%) of the 2,604 new students enrolling in Fall 2014 were admitted after an appeals process.

The admission policies and procedures are reviewed annually to ensure alignment with peer institutions [19]. Periodic enrollment studies analyze persistence rates with respect to current admission requirements to ensure that current admission requirements are aligned with student success [20].

Conclusion

The admission requirements and procedures of TTU demonstrate the University's commitment to the life-long success of students by providing high-quality instruction and learning experiences without discrimination. The policies, procedures, evaluative measures, approval structures, and appeals processes detailed above demonstrate that the University is in compliance with Comprehensive Standard 3.4.3.

Sources

-  [01] TTU Mission and Vision
-  [02] TBR Admission Policies and Guidelines
-  [03] University Domestic Admission Requirements
-  [04] International Admission Requirements
-  [05] Undergraduate Catalog_Admissions
-  [06a] Policy 250 Undergraduate Admission Requirements
-  [06b] Policy Central Site_Undergraduate Admission
-  [07] Graduate Admissions Policies
-  [08] Graduate School Domestic Admission Requirements
-  [09] Graduate School_International Admission Requirements
-  [10a] Policy 270 General Graduate Admission Requirements
-  [10b] Policy Central Site_Graduate Admission
-  [11] TTU_AdmViewBook_14_Final_PQ
-  [12] TTU UG Admissions Change Request_Program Change ShortForm_Rev1

-  [13] International Admissions Language Score Requirements
-  [14] Teacher Ed Admission Requirements
-  [15] College of Nursing Admission
-  [16] Readmission After Suspension Procedures
-  [17a] Requirements for Early Admission and Dual Enrollment Programs
-  [17b] Procedures for Early Admission and Dual Enrollment Programs
-  [18] College of Engineering Graduate Admission Requirements
-  [19] TBR_UT Comparison_07242014
-  [20] TTU Persistence Analysis_12152013