

Proposal:

Amend UofSC Columbia UG Bulletin “Transfer Admission” section to include provision to afford opportunity to conduct holistic review on Transfer applications. Also, changes simplify reference to transfer admissions requirements. The proposed change directs reader to UG Admissions website access full policy detail for Columbia Undergraduate admissions.

Submitted to FS Admissions Committee: March 13, 2021

Requested effective date: Spring 2022

Background:

Transfer admission bulletin detail in outlines policy of using all coursework attempted for calculating transfer GPA for admissions purposes. (Note: “Transfer GPA” is used for admissions purposes only. It is not recorded on UofSC academic record. Only course credit **earned** is posted to the student’s record.) As currently written, there is no provision for applying a holistic review of coursework that is older and attempted by the students within a different educational context or point in their lives. For example, course work attempted more than 20 years ago when a student was less mature and less committed to academic performance could negatively affect their transfer GPA, thus making it impossible to earn admission to some UofSC programs, even if they have attempted recent college-level work and demonstrated significant academic improvement. The policy as currently written as the unintended effect of limiting access to students with non-traditional academic paths, especially adult learners and some military students.

It is estimated that policy change will affect less than 1 % of all transfers applying for admission to the university. The vast majority of transfer applicants will be admitted via current evaluation practices because of how recently they attempted their work. Most transfer applicants do not need holistic review to ensure their admission. However, this change is aligned with the University’s strategic plan to adopt holistic review as a means of providing access to military and adult learners with unique life experiences.

Proposed bulletin changes on next page.

<p>Current Bulletin Policy https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/undergraduate/policies-regulations/admissions-policies-procedures/#text</p>	<p>Proposed Policy</p>
<p>For the purpose of admission, a transfer grade point average is calculated using all credits attempted and all grades earned on college-level courses (e.g. non-developmental, non-remedial) at other institutions. Colleges within the University have the right to consider all attempted college-level work in determining admission to particular programs and/or advancement into upper-division or professional-level courses. Transfer students should consult the section of this bulletin for the college in which the student plans to study for further information about the use of credits and grades from previous college work.</p>	<p>For the purpose of admission, a transfer grade point average is calculated using all credits attempted and all grades earned on college-level courses (e.g. non-developmental, non-remedial) at other institutions. This process may include a holistic review of the applicant with consideration given to how recent credits were attempted and earned, educational performance, evidence of student persistence and commitment to educational success, and unique life/work experience that can contribute to campus and community life. Colleges within the University have the right to consider all attempted college-level work in determining admission to particular programs and/or advancement into upper-division or professional-level courses. Transfer students should consult the section of this bulletin for the college in which the student plans to study for further information about the use of credits and grades from previous college work.</p>