
Office of University Relations

30th January 2019

UB Moves to Accept New Students Earlier Than BGCSE Results

University of The Bahamas (UB) has added another pathway for prospective students to be eligible for admission into the institution earlier in the admission cycle, in fulfilment of the University's mandate to expand access to tertiary education.

The anticipated impact is an increased efficiency in advising applicants about their admission applications in Spring, rather than in the Summer, as was traditionally the case following the release of Bahamas General Certificate of Secondary Education (BGCSE) results.

UB's Academic Senate has adopted a new [Policy on Admissions](#) which permits applicants to be eligible for admission into a baccalaureate or associate degree programme based on a cumulative GPA of at least 2.50 for a minimum of two years in high school and one term of the 12th grade or senior year, and the results of a UB placement exam for English and Mathematics.

President Dr. Rodney D. Smith explained that by offering this additional option for admission eligibility, the University is improving its competitive edge.

"Many of the students who aspire to become university students, and who are submitting applications to institutions, tend to do this in the Spring and receive responses to their applications around the months of March and April. Since UB has been awaiting BGCSE results largely as a determinant for many of our applicants, we have been notifying prospective students of their admission applications in Summer, principally in August. By this time, students, including high achievers, have already heard back from colleges and universities abroad and have already made their choices," noted President Smith.

"With this new policy, we are being more proactive, competitive and student-focused. We anticipate that being able to accept students this early will also increase our appeal to high achieving students who would typically apply to and select their colleges and universities from earlier in the year," he added.

Applicants are advised, however, that BGCSE results are still relevant as they will be used to determine placement in specific subject areas and for acceptance to programmes that have specific requirements.

This new eligibility pathway is in addition to several others which include the standard five BGCSE passes with a minimum "C" grade including Math, English, a Social Science and a Natural Science as well as other programme specific requirements e.g. for Nursing, Education, Music or Culinary Studies. Applicants are also eligible for admission if they possess: -

- Four BGCSE or equivalent passes with a deficiency in either English or Mathematics, along with a Social Science and a Natural Science subject with "C" grades or higher.
- A combined SAT score of at least 1000 if taken during and prior to 2005 or a combined score of at least 1000 on the Mathematics and Verbal components of the SAT if taken after 2005 plus a high school transcript with a cumulative grade point average of 3.00 or higher, inclusive of at least one term of the twelfth grade or senior year.

- A combined score of at least 21 on the Mathematics and Verbal components of the ACT with a cumulative high school grade point average of 3.00 or higher.
- International Baccalaureate (IB) grade level 4 or higher in English and Mathematics and Advanced Placement (AP) grade level 3 or higher in English and Mathematics with a cumulative high school grade point average of 3.00 or higher.
- Successful completion of an Academic Enhancement programme at UB or an institution recognised by UB.
- Mature Student Status with placement at Basic College Mathematics and Writing and Rhetoric I on UB's placement examination or BGCSE or equivalent passes in English and Mathematics with "C" grades or higher.
- Transfer Student Status, which is an applicant who must have completed at least fifteen (15) credit hours of college-level coursework, with a "C" grade or higher at an institution recognised by UB and who have a cumulative GPA of 2.00 or higher.

President Smith added that this policy adoption will have a positive effect on both the University and students who are preparing for their enrolment.

"For the University, having this early admissions process will enhance our ability to plan and execute more efficiently, ensuring that the various academic affairs support and services are projected and put in place for the forthcoming year," he noted.

"I imagine that this will also be good news for students from the Family Islands who are submitting applications. With this new eligibility mechanism that permits early acceptance, this will give students who apply, sit the placement exam and are admitted into the University more time to make the required travel and transition arrangements in order to begin their matriculation as UB students if they so desire."

The new Admissions Policy takes effect in Spring 2019.

Office of University Relations

University of The Bahamas
 1st Floor, Michael H. Eldon Complex
 Oakes Field Campus
 P.O. Box N-4912
 Nassau, The Bahamas
 Tel: (242) 302-4355/4354/4366

Chartered on 10th November 2016, University of The Bahamas (UB) is a beacon for national transformation. Approximately 5,000 students are enrolled in the University of The Bahamas system which includes campuses and centres on New Providence, Grand Bahama, San Salvador and Abaco, as well as UB online education. UB's diverse academic programmes, research engagements, athletics and leadership development experiences equip our students to become global citizens in a dynamic world. For more information, visit www.ub.edu.bs.