

**HB 3826, 80<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Regular Session**  
**Frequently Asked Questions**  
**Requirements for admission to public institutions of higher education**  
**(Curriculum/Admissions Tests)**

House Bill 3826, 80<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature, adds the requirement that students meet **one or more** of the following thresholds in order to be considered for admissions to any general academic teaching institution, including those with open enrollment policies:

- Successfully complete the recommended or advanced high school program, or complete the portion of the program that was available to them
- Successfully complete a curriculum that is equivalent in content and rigor to the recommended or advanced high school program at a high school that is exempt from offering such programs
- Satisfy the College Readiness Benchmarks on the ACT assessment
- Earn a score of at least 1,500 out of 2,400 on the SAT assessment

Since passage of this legislation, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) has adopted emergency rules to permit general academic institutions to continue admitting students who would not qualify for admissions under the new requirements until August 31, 2009.

**1) What is a general academic teaching institution?**

The Texas Education Code (TEC) §61.003 defines "general academic teaching institution" as a four-year institution of higher education and includes the following schools and universities: The University of Texas at Austin; The University of Texas at El Paso; The University of Texas of the Permian Basin; The University of Texas at Dallas; The University of Texas at San Antonio; Texas A&M University, Main University; The University of Texas at Arlington; Tarleton State University; Prairie View A&M University; Texas Maritime Academy; Texas Tech University; University of North Texas; Lamar University; Lamar State College--Orange; Lamar State College--Port Arthur; Texas A&M University--Kingsville; Texas A&M University--Corpus Christi; Texas Woman's University; Texas Southern University; Midwestern State University; University of Houston; University of Texas--Pan American; The University of Texas at Brownsville; Texas A&M University--Commerce; Sam Houston State University; Texas State University--San Marcos; West Texas A&M University; Stephen F. Austin State University; Sul Ross State University; Angelo State University; The University of Texas at Tyler; and any other college, university, or institution so classified as provided in this chapter or created and so classified, expressly or impliedly, by law.

**2) What are open enrollment general academic teaching institutions?**

Currently, open enrollment general academic teaching institutions include Texas Southern University, the University of Texas-Brownsville, Lamar State College-Orange, Lamar State College-Port Arthur, and The University of Houston-Downtown Campus. However, this list may not be comprehensive and is subject to change based on each institution's admissions policy.

**3) Does this new statute apply to students entering public junior and community colleges?**

No.

**4) If a student attends a junior college directly out of high school, is that student able to transfer to a four year university?**

This legislation does not prevent students who attend public junior and community colleges from applying to and transferring to a general academic teaching institution.

**5) If a student graduates in the spring of 2008 and has not taken the recommended curriculum or the advanced diploma program and does not meet the SAT or ACT scores, can that student attend a general academic teaching institution (four year university)?**

Since passage of this legislation, the THECB has adopted an emergency rule to permit general academic institutions to admit incoming freshmen who do not meet statutory requirements, so long as the total number of such students does not exceed 20% of the institution's incoming class. This rule is in effect until August 31, 2009.

This is intended for current juniors and seniors in high school who have not had ample time to meet the requirements to enroll in a general academic institution.

The THECB rule can be viewed at:

<http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/Rules/Proposed/5A.pdf>.

A summary of higher education legislation from the 80<sup>th</sup> Legislature can be viewed at: <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/Board/80thSession/>.