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Regents Policy Chapter 5, Academic Affairs  
Regents Policy RP 5.211, Admissions  
Effective Date: XXXX 2024  
Prior Dates Amended: Sept. 21, 1970; Aug. 2, 1985; Apr. 26, 1996; Oct. 31, 2014  
(recodified), Oct. 18, 2002  
Review Date: XXXX XXXX

### **I. Purpose**

To set forth policy regarding admissions policies.

### **II. Definitions:**

Resident - A person who meets the requirements of Hawai'i residency for tuition purposes, as set forth in Section 304A-402 of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes and Title 20, Chapter 4 of the Hawai'i Administrative Rules.

Qualified - A person who meets the published admission requirements for a campus or program.

### **III. Policy:**

- A. The board shall provide for differential admissions policies on system campuses and clear communication of university expectations to prospective students. In pursuing this purpose, the board intends to provide for a mix of students while ensuring preference for qualified Hawai'i residents. In doing so the following principles are established:
1. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, the University of Hawai'i at Hilo and the University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu shall utilize selective admissions criteria for all colleges and programs.
  2. The University's community colleges shall be open admissions institutions to which all residents who are high school graduates or age 18 and over and can benefit from the instruction offered shall be admitted. This policy does not preclude selective admissions to specific programs of the community colleges where pre-requisite skills and knowledge are necessary for program success or where student demand exceeds the available resources of the college.

3. Each Chancellor/Provost that uses selective admissions for undergraduate admission shall develop admissions requirements in consultation with campus administrators and faculty. Graduate admissions criteria are established by program faculty with the approval of the Chancellor/Provost and/or other campus administrators, i.e. Deans or Directors.
  - a. In general, it is expected that the undergraduate admission requirements for UH Mānoa will be more stringent than for UH Hilo and UH West O‘ahu.
  - b. If programs exist to conditionally admit students who do not meet campus admissions requirements, these programs will be described and the admission criteria used to admit students to these programs will be clearly articulated.
  - c. All admission requirements shall be clearly communicated and publicly available in college catalogs, on campus websites, and in admissions materials.
- B. Differential admissions policies may be established for resident and non-resident undergraduate students. In establishing admissions criteria for non-residents, the campuses shall utilize the following principles:
  1. A public university’s first responsibility is to provide higher education opportunities for students from the community that supports it, typically categorized as resident students.
  2. Non-resident students from across the United States and other countries are valued members of UH campus communities. They provide a diversity of backgrounds and perspectives that enrich the UH experience for residents, many of whom may not have had the opportunity for domestic or international travel. They also generally pay differential tuition, which helps support the cost of providing residents with high quality educational opportunities.
  3. No qualified resident applicant should be denied admission to a university campus. Should demand for undergraduate admissions by residents exceed capacity, the President is responsible for developing solutions to ensure that a public university education is available for all qualified residents of Hawai‘i.
  4. At all campuses, including at the community colleges, both undergraduate and graduate programs established for the explicit purpose of educating and training students to meet state workforce needs have a special

obligation to admit residents or others, e.g., former residents seeking to return home, who can reasonably be expected to remain in the state upon graduation assuming these students meet the applicable admissions criteria.

5. Graduate and professional programs in areas of strategic excellence have a special responsibility to admit the most qualified students while ensuring that every effort is made to enroll resident applicants who compete favorably in the admissions process.
6. In general, the admission of nonresidents should give priority to those who can derive special benefit from foci of the university.

**IV. Delegation of Authority:**

There is no policy specific delegation of authority.

**V. Contact Information:**

Office of the Board of Regents, 956-8213, bor@hawaii.edu

**VI. References:**

- <http://www.hawaii.edu/offices/bor/>

**Approved as to Form:**

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Yvonne Lau  
Executive Administrator and  
Secretary of the Board of Regents

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Date