

**Proposal submitted to Faculty Senate Academic Standards and Admissions Committee by University Registration and Classification Committee and University Academic Advising Committee**

**Background:**

In 1990 Iowa State University implemented high school course requirements for admission. “Students who do not meet the high school course preparation requirements, but who are otherwise qualified, may be admitted after individual review of their applications.” (2005-07 catalog, p. 8) Students who are admitted under these conditions enter with “high school unmet” which are documented on their admissions notice. Also in Fall 1990 the Faculty Senate Academic Standards and Admissions Committee established a procedure to track students who entered with “unmet”. The specific procedures are still included in the current catalog, p. 44. Briefly, “unmet” are resolved by successfully completing college-level coursework in the appropriate discipline area. The Office of Admissions, the Registrar’s Office and Administrative Technology Services created a system to track and monitor these students, and the colleges became responsible for enforcing this policy.

**Current Situation:**

Admissions data indicate that for each of the last several years, more than 96 percent of Iowa State’s entering freshman class has met all of the high school course requirements for admission. Clearly, the high school course requirements have accomplished their intended purpose – to make sure that new freshmen enter Iowa State University with a minimal amount of college preparatory course work.

During the Spring of 2006 the University Registration and Classification Committee (URCC) and the University Academic Advising Committee (UAAC) reviewed the current practices relative to tracking students with “unmet”. The findings show that:

- Colleges, the Registrar’s Office, and the Office of Admissions are spending a significant amount of time and effort to enforce a policy that impacts a very small percentage of students (less than 4% of students entering directly from high school). This does not seem to be a wise use of limited resources.
- To meet curriculum requirements for graduation, students are forced to resolve their high school unmet before they can proceed with university-level coursework. Hence tracking and enforcement are redundant activities.
- The enforcement of the current policy among the undergraduate colleges is inconsistent at best.

## **Proposal:**

Based on these findings the URCC and UAAC recommend that the practice of tracking students with high school unmets after admission be discontinued, effective immediately.

- The admissions notices will still indicate if students enter without meeting all of the high school course requirements.
- Based on admissions notice information, academic advisers will continue to guide these students into coursework at the appropriate level and to university resources that will enable them to achieve academic success at the university.
- Removal of Unmet High School Requirements (found on pg. 44 of the current 2005-07 catalog) describes how “unmet” are resolved. This section would no longer be needed and would be removed from future catalogs.
- **This change will not affect the admissions standards of the university.**