

Traditional Undergraduate Requirements

Office/Contact: Enrollment Management Officer and Director of Admissions

Sources/Links:

[BOR Policy 1.2.3 NSU Mission Statement](#)

[BOR Policy 2.8.1 Grades and Use of Grade Point Averages \(GPA\)](#)

NORTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY

Policies and Guidelines

SUBJECT: Traditional Undergraduate Requirements

NUMBER: 2:14

1. Purpose

The purpose of these guidelines is to protect the integrity of the admissions process. NSU is a comprehensive regional university. The requirements outlined are aligned with NSU's mission statement.

2. Policy

Admission into Northern State University will be guided by the following admission standards:

2.1 General Admission Requirements

Baccalaureate Program: Students must meet at least one of the following admissions requirements:

- Minimum course requirements with an average grade of C (2.0 on a 4.0 scale) OR,
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.6 on a 4.0 scale OR,
- Minimum ACT Composite score or superscore of 18 (SAT score of 970) or above OR,
- Rank in the top 60% of their high school class

2.2 Minimum Course Requirements

- 3.3.1. If an applicant to Northern meets any of the other admissions criteria, this section is not required of them. For those students seeking admission based on meeting the minimum course requirements with an average grade of C (2.0 on a 4.0 scale), they must complete the following high school courses or standardized exams to be admitted.

- Four (4) Years of English: Courses with a major emphasis upon grammar, composition, or literary analysis. One (1) year of debate instruction may be included to meet this requirement.
 - Alternatively, they can also meet the minimum course requirements through one of the following:
 - ACT English subtest score of 18+ or,
 - Advanced Placement Language and Composition or Literature and Composition score of 3+.
- Three (3) Years of Advanced Mathematics: Algebra, geometry, trigonometry or other advanced mathematics including accelerated or honors mathematics (algebra) provided at the 8th grade level; other math courses will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
 - Alternatively, they can also meet the minimum course requirements through one of the following:
 - ACT Math subtest score of 20+ or,
 - Advanced Placement Calculus AB or BC score of 3+.
- Three (3) Years of Laboratory Science: Courses in physical science, biology, chemistry, physics, or earth science in which at least one (1) regular laboratory period is scheduled each week. Accelerated or honors science provided in the 8th grade shall be accepted.
 - Alternatively, they can also meet the minimum course requirements through one of the following:
 - ACT Science Reasoning subtest score of 17+ or,
 - Advanced Placement Biology, Chemistry, or Physics B score of 3+.
- Three (3) Years of Social Studies: History, economics, sociology, geography, government (including United States and state government), American Problems, etc.
 - Alternatively, they can also meet the minimum course requirements through one of the following:
 - ACT Reading subtest score of 17+ or,
 - Advanced Placement Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Comparative or United States Government and Policies, European or United States History, or Psychology score of 3+.
- One (1) Year of Fine Arts: Art, theatre or music (appreciation, analysis, or performance). Documented evidence of high school level non-credit fine arts activity will be accepted for students graduating from high schools in states that do not require completion of courses in fine arts for graduation.

- Alternatively, they can also meet the minimum course requirements through:
- Advanced Placement History of Art, Studio Art Drawing or General Portfolio, or Music Theory score of 3+.

2.3. Associate Degree Program

To be admitted to an associate's degree, traditional prospective students may meet the general baccalaureate degree admission requirements, or those who have obtained a high school diploma or GED and do not meet the general admissions requirements may be admitted into an associate's degree. These students must complete 15 credit hours of the system general education requirements with a 2.0 GPA and meet the system progression standards as outlined in BOR Policy 2.8.1 to request a program change from an associate's degree to a bachelor's degree.

2.4 Exception Group

Northern State University may admit a group of high school graduates who do not meet the requirements outlined in this policy to baccalaureate programs, at the university's discretion.

3. Procedures

3.1. NSU must effectively provide admission requirements to prospective students. This should be inserted into the academic catalog and posted on the NSU website.

3.2 Application

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure the completeness of their application.

All applicants should be assured that whatever the decision on their application, each will receive full and just consideration under the prevailing admissions policy.

All written communications about an applicant must be placed in the applicant's file; a record of oral messages must also be filed in each case where such messages are taken into consideration in the admissions decision.

Communications from applicants that require a response should be acknowledged promptly.

NSU admissions office will implement processing documentation for their recruitment solution and for the Regental student information system as it relates to NSU admission. Procedures should exist for periodic evaluation and audit.

Training will be conducted for all admissions staff.

3.2 NSU Appeal Process

Applicants who do not meet the admission requirements outlined in 3.2 and/or 3.3 may submit:

- A personal statement explaining past academic difficulties and outlining their plan to succeed at Northern State University; AND
- A letter of recommendation from a teacher or high school counselor verifying their ability to succeed in college.

The Admissions committee will reevaluate your application after these materials are received.

3.3 Reporting

NSU will report to the Executive Director recommended changes which shall be approved by the Board of Regents prior to actual changes.

4. Responsible Administrator

The enrollment management officer and director of admissions is responsible for annual review of this policy and its procedures.

5. Source History

Approved by Executive Leadership Team 10/20/2025