

Admission Policies and Procedures

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Admission Policies and Procedures

If an individual wishes to enroll in one or more credit courses offered by GSCC, he/she must first apply online for admission to the College. If a citizen of the United States or a permanent resident, the applicant must apply for admission through the Gadsden State Office of Admissions. If an international student, the applicant must apply for admission through the Gadsden State International Programs Office which is located in Naylor Hall. **NOTICE: All applicants must request that their high school and each college attended mail an official academic transcript to Gadsden State Admissions Office. Failure to submit official academic transcripts prior to registration will negatively affect the applicant's financial aid.**

The requirements and procedures for admission are determined by the Board of Trustees of the Alabama Community College System. Persons seeking admission must complete the online application and submit appropriate documentation as required, including one primary form of identification.

All male students between the ages of 18 and 26 must verify that they have registered with the U.S. Selective Service System in accordance with 36-26-15.1 of the Code of Alabama of 1974 (as amended).

After admission to GSCC, students will have to satisfy additional admission requirements if they wish to enter one of the following areas: any HEALTH-RELATED program or REALTIME REPORTING.

For more information about these programs, those interested should see the appropriate program director.

All college admission policies are applicable to eLearning courses and programs.

Procedures for Admission

First-time Student

An applicant who has never enrolled at GSCC must submit the following documents:

1. A completed online admission **application** (<http://ssb.gadsdenstate.edu>)
2. For admission to an Alabama Community College System institution an applicant must provide one primary form of identification (examples are an unexpired Alabama driver's license; an unexpired Alabama

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- identification card; an unexpired U.S. passport; an unexpired U.S. permanent resident card) per Alabama Community College System Policy 801.01. (<http://www.gadsdenstate.edu/admissions/proof-us-citizenship>)
3. Required transcripts (can be sent electronically to admissions@gadsdenstate.edu)
 - a. A first-time college student must have an official high school transcript with **date of graduation** or a GED transcript (and other documents required for first-time students) sent directly to the Admissions Office.
 - b. A high school student enrolled in the accelerated program must have the appropriate recommendation from the high school certifying official.
(https://www.gadsdenstate.edu/sites/default/files/u25/AcceleratedStudentForm_000.pdf)
 - c. A high school student enrolled in the dual credit program must have the appropriate recommendation form from the high school principal and the local superintendent of education.
(<http://www.gadsdenstate.edu/sites/default/files/u23/Dual%20Enrollment%20form%20June2016.pdf>)
 - d. A transfer student must have official transcripts from his/her high school and all colleges or universities previously attended mailed to the Admissions Office or sent electronically or hand delivered in an unopened, sealed envelope directly to the Admissions Office. Transcripts are mandatory even if postsecondary institutions are not regionally accredited and if none of the credits will transfer to this institution or needed for intended degree. **EXCEPTION: An applicant who has a baccalaureate degree will need to submit only a transcript from the institution awarding the degree. **Notice: GSCC will accept official electronic transcripts from high schools or colleges/universities.**
 - e. A transient student must submit a transient letter from the parent institution. No transcripts are required for transient students.
 4. Placement/Testing scores on file
 5. Completed and signed **signature page** (supporting documentation may be required)
NOTICE: Credentials for admission can be submitted in person, mailed directly to Gadsden State Community College Admissions, P.O. Box 227, Gadsden, AL 35902, or sent electronically to admissions@gadsdenstate.edu.

Returning Student

A student who has previously enrolled at GSCC but who has not been in attendance for one year must submit the following items before further enrollment.

1. A re-admit application online at <https://my.gadsdenstate.edu>
2. Official transcripts from all institutions attended since original admission to our institution. This will include a high school transcript not previously submitted.
3. One primary form of identification of U.S. Citizenship (per ACCS Policy 801.01)

Admission of U.S. Citizens

U.S. Citizens seeking admission to Gadsden State must apply online at www.gadsdenstate.edu. For admission information, applicants may also refer to the website for the current catalog and current schedules; telephone 256.549.8210 or call toll-free 1.800.226.5563.

All applicants will be placed into one of the following categories:

1. **First-time freshmen** have completed high school or the equivalent but have never attended any college. First-time students must request and ensure that their high schools mail official completed transcripts of their high school scholastic records directly to the Gadsden State Admissions Office, or the students must request that official copies of the GED scores be mailed to the Admissions Office. Official transcripts can be submitted in person as long as envelope is unopened and sealed. In addition, students must comply with all admission requirements listed elsewhere in this catalog.
2. **Transfer students** have attended one or more regionally accredited colleges or universities other than Gadsden State but wish to continue their education at Gadsden State. Transfer students must provide an official transcript from his/her high school and an official transcript from all other non-accredited or regionally accredited colleges and universities previously attended. Transcripts may also be sent by official electronic means.
3. **Transient students** are students who desire to enroll at Gadsden State, fully intending to return to their previous colleges or universities to complete their studies. Transient students must request and ensure that the Registrar of their regular (parent) college or university send directly to Gadsden State Admissions Office a letter of transience, indicating that the course(s) to be taken at Gadsden State will be acceptable at that institution. Letters of transience must be on file prior to the student's registration for courses. Transient students are not eligible for federal student aid.
4. **Re-admit students** are those former Gadsden State students who have not attended Gadsden State within the past full academic year. Re-admit students must complete the online re-admission application plus one

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Primary Form of Identification. If students have attended one or more colleges and/or universities since their original admission to Gadsden State, they must submit an official transcript from each institution to the Gadsden State Admissions Office. If the student has never submitted his/her high school transcript, this will also be required per new regulations. This documentation must be received to be cleared in Admissions and eligible to register.

5. **Accelerated students** are high school students who have completed the **tenth** grade and who have been approved to enroll for college credit in Gadsden State courses while they are still attending high school. Accelerated students must see that all documents specified in the section for “Accelerated Students” are submitted to the Gadsden State Admissions Office. Accelerated students are not eligible for federal student aid.
6. **Dual enrollment students** are high school students who have completed the **ninth** grade and who have been approved to enroll for dual credit (college and high school) in Gadsden State courses while they are still attending high school. Dual enrollment students must see that all documents specified or alluded to in the “Dual Enrollment Students” section of this catalog are submitted to the Gadsden State Admissions Office. Dual enrollment students are not eligible for federal student aid.
7. **Personal enrichment students** are students who desire to take courses but who do not intend to fulfill the requirements for a degree. Personal enrichment students must complete the same documents required of the first-time freshman and/or the transfer student. Personal enrichment students are not eligible for federal student aid.
8. **Senior adult students** are students who may qualify for tuition assistance scholarships because they are sixty (60) years of age or older. Senior adult students must complete the same documents required of the first-time freshman and/or the transfer student. Senior Adult Waivers will be limited based on available funds.

Admission Requirements to Non-Degree (Certificate) Courses

An applicant may be admitted to a course not creditable toward an associate degree and to a program comprised exclusively of courses not creditable to an associate degree provided that he/she meets the above standards or is at least 17 years of age and has not been enrolled in secondary education for at least one calendar year (or upon the recommendation of the local superintendent). In addition, a student may be allowed to enroll in such “institutional credit only” courses as developmental English, mathematics, and reading. For additional information, applicants may contact the Office of Admissions at admissions@gadsdenstate.edu.

Applicants with less than a high school diploma or GED shall be classified as non-degree-eligible and shall not be allowed to enroll in a course creditable toward an associate degree unless the applicant meets the above standards. These students are not eligible for federal student financial aid, but will be allowed to register for certain certificate programs.

Admission of First-Time College Students

For unconditional admission, applicants must have on file at the College a completed application for admission and **AT LEAST ONE** of the following:

1. An official transcript showing graduation date, the high school diploma of another state equivalent to the Alabama High School Diploma, or an equivalent diploma issued by a non-public high school or;
2. An official GED transcript.

Conditional Admission of First-Time College Students

Conditional admission may be granted to an applicant who does not have on file at the College at least one of the documents as described in the “First-Time Students” section. Conditional admission is a strictly temporary circumstance in which the student will be permitted to enroll and attend classes until such time as the necessary documents are received by the College. All admission documentation must be received prior to the completion of the first semester of enrollment.

If all required admissions records have not been received by the College prior to issuance of the first semester grades, a registration “hold” will be placed on the student’s account and the student’s transcript will be held until this requirement has been met. **Students attending under conditional admission are not eligible for federal student aid.**

Admission of Non-Native English Speakers

All non-native speakers of English must provide proof of language proficiency by meeting one of the following options:

1. TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language)—Minimum score of 500 PBT (paper-based) or 61 (Internet-based). Official score should be sent to Gadsden State, institution code 1262.

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2. IELTS (International English Language Testing System) score of 5.5.
3. STEP (Society for Testing English Proficiency) Eiken score Pre-First
4. Alabama Language Institute (ALI): Students who study in ALI may meet the language requirement by completing the advanced level classes with a grade of A or B.
5. Completion of English Composition: Students transferring from another U.S. institution may meet the language requirement through completion of at least 3 credit hours in English Composition (101) with a grade of "C" or higher.

This policy applies to all non-native English speakers entering GSCC who have not received an American high school diploma or GED or who do not have credit for English Composition (101) from a regionally accredited U.S. institution. Contact the International Office for more information.

Admission of Transfer Students

An applicant who has previously attended another regionally accredited postsecondary institution will be considered a transfer student and will be required to furnish official transcripts of all work attempted at all said institutions, including the transfer student's official high school transcript. An applicant who has a baccalaureate degree will need to submit only a transcript from the institution awarding the degree.

A transfer student who meets requirements for admission to a course creditable toward an associate degree shall be classified as a "degree-eligible student." A transfer student who does not meet these requirements shall be classified as a "non-degree-eligible student." Non-degree-eligible students are not eligible for federal student aid.

Conditional Admission of Transfer Students

A transfer student who does not have on file official transcripts from all postsecondary institutions attended and any additional documents required by the College may be granted conditional admission. No transfer student shall be allowed to enroll for a second semester unless all required admissions records have been received by the College prior to registration for the second semester. Under no circumstance will credit be granted until the student is admitted unconditionally.

If all required admissions records have not been received by the College prior to issuance of the first semester grades, a registration "hold" will be placed on the student's account and the student's transcript will be held until this requirement has been met. Students attending under conditional admission are not eligible for federal student aid.

A transfer student whose cumulative grade point average (GPA) at the transfer institution(s) is 2.0 or above on a 4.0 scale will be admitted on **clear** academic status. A transfer student whose cumulative GPA at the transfer institution(s) is less than 2.0 on a 4.0 scale will be admitted on academic probation only. The transcript will read "**Admitted on Academic Probation.**"

An applicant who has been academically suspended from another regionally accredited postsecondary institution may be admitted as a transfer student only after following the appeal process established at the College for "native" students who have been academically suspended. If the transfer student is admitted upon appeal, the student will enter the institution on academic probation. The transcript will read "**Admitted upon Appeal – Academic Probation.**"

Admission of Transient Students

Any student from another college may attend Gadsden State as a transient student during any semester. The student must submit an online application. A transient student is a student attending Gadsden State utilizing a letter of transience. The letter should contain the courses approved by the student's parent institution for transfer. A letter of transience is valid for one semester only and must be on file in the Admissions Office prior to the student's registration. Transient students are not eligible for federal student aid.

Transfer of Credit

Whether one is a U.S. citizen or an international student, the following principles relating to transfer of credit earned at one institution to another institution apply:

1. Coursework transferred or accepted for credit toward an undergraduate program must represent collegiate coursework relevant to the formal award, with course content and level of instruction resulting in student competencies at least equivalent to those of students enrolled in the institution's own undergraduate formal award programs. In assessing and documenting equivalent learning and qualified faculty, an institution may use recognized guides that aid in the evaluation for credit. Such guides include those published by the American Council on Education, the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, and the National Association of Foreign Student Affairs. **NOTICE: The student may check for transfer credit on the website by logging into the student account and viewing their unofficial transcript.**

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2. A course completed at another regionally accredited postsecondary institution with a passing grade will be accepted for transfer as potentially creditable toward graduation requirements.
3. A transfer grade of "D" will be accepted only when the transfer student's cumulative GPA is 2.0 or above. If the student has a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or above, the "D" grade will be accepted the same as it would be for "native" students. The exception to this rule is a grade of "D" in English Composition I, English Composition II, and/or any math course at the one hundred (100) level and above, none of which will be transferred.
4. College credit hours will be given based on the credit hours earned at the transferring institution.
5. Non-traditional credit may be extended based on a comprehensive evaluation of demonstrated and documented competencies and previous formal training. Evaluations are made by qualified faculty and approved by the appropriate chief instructional officer.
6. A transfer student from a collegiate institution not accredited by the appropriate regional association or Council on Occupational Education may request an evaluation of transfer credits after completing fifteen (15) semester hours with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or above.

Early Admission for Accelerated High School Students

1. A student is eligible for early admission if he/she meets ALL of the following criteria:
 - a. The student has successfully completed the tenth (10th) grade.
 - b. The student provides a certification from the local principal and/or designee certifying that the student has a minimum cumulative "B" average and recommending that the student be admitted under this policy.
 - c. The student has completed the high school prerequisite(s) for the postsecondary course in which he/she wishes to enroll. For example, a student may not take English Composition until all required high school English courses have been completed.
2. Exceptions may be granted by the Chancellor for a student documented as gifted and talented according to the standards included in the State Plan of Exceptional Children and Youth. Exceptions apply only to requirements "A" and "C" above.
3. All credit for coursework completed under these provisions is held in escrow until the student provides proof of high school graduation (final high school transcript). Transcripts issued prior to a student's high school graduation will be labeled "**Conditional Credit.**" Upon proof of high school graduation, this notation will be removed from the transcript.

ACE Institute

The Advanced College Enrollment Institute is Gadsden State's dual enrollment program. Dual Enrollment for Dual Credit permits eligible high school students to enroll in college courses concurrently with high school classes, either at one of Gadsden State's campuses or at the student's high school, earning college and high school credit simultaneously. Eligible students may enroll in the ACE Institute during the Summer, Fall or Spring semesters. ACE Institute students may enroll in any Gadsden State course deemed acceptable by the student's high school, including both general education courses and career technical courses. Certain college courses have prerequisite requirements and/or placement requirements. All credit for coursework completed under these provisions is held in escrow until the student provides proof of high school graduation (final high school transcripts).

ACE Institute students are responsible for the cost of all tuition, fees, books, materials/supplies. Students interested in certain career technical programs, identified as high-wage, high-demand, may qualify for the ACE Institute Scholarship. The ACE Institute Scholarship is funded by the Career Technical Dual Enrollment Grant through the Alabama Community College System and covers tuition. Students are responsible for fees, books, materials/supplies. See a current list of scholarship-eligible programs at www.gadsdenstate.edu/dualenrollment. For more information email dualenrollment@gadsdenstate.edu or phone 256-439-6861.

Dual Enrollment for High School Students

Eligible high school students may enroll in college classes concurrently with high school classes, either on the college campus or at the high school, and receive both high school and college credit. There must be on file at Gadsden State a formal written agreement between the student's local school board and Gadsden State before approval for dual credit/dual enrollment admission is granted. To be eligible, the student must meet the following requirements:

1. The student must be in grade 10, 11, or 12 or have an exception granted by the participating postsecondary institution upon the recommendation of the student's principal and superintendent and in accordance with Alabama Administrative Code 290-8-9.17, regarding gifted and talented students.
2. The student must have a 2.5 GPA average, as defined by local board of education policy, in completed high school courses.
3. The student must have written approval of the appropriate principal and the local superintendent of education. Student success in dual credit/dual enrollment is dependent upon both academic readiness and

social maturity. Approval from the principal and superintendent indicates that the student has demonstrated both.

4. The student must meet the entrance requirements established by the College.
5. The student is responsible for any transportation required to participate in dual enrollment.
6. All credit for coursework completed under these provisions is held in escrow until the student provides proof of high school graduation (final high school transcripts). Transcripts issued prior to a student's high school graduation will be labeled "**Conditional Credit**." Upon proof of high school graduation, this notation will be removed from the transcript.
7. Students must take a state-approved college placement test, where minimum placement is required, specifically for college-level English, math or reading courses. Students in the 10th or 11th grade registering only for career and technical courses may take a state-approved placement test but are not required to do so. Gadsden State must ensure that all students take a state-approved college placement test prior to registering for dual enrollment courses for the 12th grade year, as is required for all first-time college freshmen.
 - a. Students must meet all applicable pre-requisites prior to enrolling courses
 - b. Developmental courses (those numbered below 100) are not offered through dual enrollment.

For more information, email dualenrollment@gadsdenstate.edu or phone 256.439.6861.

Senior Citizens

Persons sixty (60) years of age or older may be eligible for a tuition waiver if they qualify for the Senior Adult Scholarship Program. The applicant must

1. Comply with the College's admission standards as noted earlier in this catalog under "First-time students," "Admission," "Transfer Student," or "Returning Student";
2. Be an Alabama resident; and
3. Enroll for credit during the drop/add period only. (Non-credit enrollment and early registration are not covered under these provisions.)

Senior Adult scholarships will be limited based on available funds. The scholarship can cover up to six (6) hours per semester. The Senior Adult scholarship will be available only after all other forms of financial assistance have been exhausted. The student is responsible for any fees or other charges applied to the general student body. Senior citizens granted a tuition waiver under the Senior Adult Scholarship Program may receive the tuition waiver only one time per course. **Any time a senior citizen repeats a course, the student is responsible for not only fees but also tuition.** NOTICE: Senior citizen course enrollment under the Senior Adult Scholarship Program is restricted to a space-available basis. A course will not be expanded beyond the optimal number to accommodate the enrollment of senior citizens attending under the Senior Adult Scholarship Program. Eligible students who choose to register for courses and receive the senior citizen tuition waiver must wait until the first day of class to register.

International Students

An international student (a first-time freshman, a transfer student, a transient student, or a re-admit student) must apply for admission to the College before the student may enroll in a course. To begin the admission procedure, the student needs to apply through the **International Programs Office** (PO Box 227, Gadsden, AL 35902). For more information, telephone 256.549.8324 or 256.549.8438, email international@gadsdenstate.edu or cgray@gadsdenstate.edu, or go to http://www.gadsdenstate.edu/international_students/admissions

NOTICE: International student applicants are not eligible for conditional admission status.

Admission Requirements

1. To be admitted to GSCC, an international student must submit to the International Programs Office each of the following: **A certified original translated and evaluated copy of the student's high school transcript**, showing that the average grade was at least "C." (Any accredited credential evaluation service may be used for evaluation.);
2. **Competence in the English language** as evidenced by a score of at least **500 (PBT) or 61 (iBT) on the Test of English as a Foreign Language**; IELTS (International English Language Testing System) score of 5.5, or STEP (Society for Testing English Proficiency) Eiken score Pre-First

Exception #1: (1) A student from a country where English is the native language or from a country exempt from an English proficiency test or **(2)** a student who has graduated from an accredited high school in the United States or from an accredited American high school overseas or **(3)** a student who is applying for admission to the Alabama Language Institute (ALI) is exempt from the Test of English as Foreign Language. For more information about the ALI program, a student should see the section on "Alabama Language Institute" <http://www.gadsdenstate.edu/ali/alabama-language-institute> in this catalog.

Exception #2: A transfer student who has successfully completed English Composition 101 or higher with a grade of C or above from a regionally accredited institution is exempt from an English proficiency test.

Exception #3: A student who **(1)** has completed one sixteen-week term in the Alabama Language Institute at the

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highest levels (Levels 5 & 6) in speaking/listening, reading, grammar, composition, and either Vocabulary 2 or TOEFL Strategies; **(2)** has passed all skill areas with at least a "B"; and **(3)** has a written recommendation from the ALI faculty to enter college may enroll in the College without an English proficiency test.

3. The ACCS Medical Record Form completed and signed by a physician attesting to the student's good health and documenting required vaccinations and a current TB test or chest x-ray showing no active tuberculosis;
4. Affidavit of Support in the form of a certified statement from a person who assumes full responsibility for the student's financial support with a signed declaration by the sponsor's bank. All forms can be downloaded from www.gadsdenstate.edu/intloff/admission.php

NOTICE #1: A transfer student (that is, a student who has attended one or more U.S. colleges and/or universities other than Gadsden State and who wishes to pursue an education at Gadsden State) must also ensure that an **official academic record transcript** is sent directly to GSCC by the Registrar of **each** college and/or university that the student attended. In addition, the student must submit to the International Programs Office a completed **Transfer Clearance Form**.

NOTICE #2: Academic credits earned at a foreign university must be evaluated by World Education Services (WES), P.O. Box 745, Old Chelsea Station, New York, NY 10113-0745; website: www.wes.org/ or any accredited credential evaluation service. The credential evaluation service should send the evaluation directly to Gadsden State Community College, Registrar, P.O. Box 227, Gadsden, AL 35902-0227.

NOTICE #3: All students holding a student (F-1) visa must have adequate health insurance coverage during all periods of enrollment and summer vacation. Repatriation and medical evacuation benefits need to be included under the health insurance policy. Health insurance policies, other than the policy recommended by Gadsden State, must have comparable benefits to be accepted. Students who do not comply with this requirement will be blocked from registration and blocked from sending a Gadsden State transcript.

NOTICE #4: A student from a country whose students have experienced difficulty in obtaining funds may be required by Gadsden State to deposit **the required educational funds** with the College when the student applies for admission. These funds, which will be held in trust for the student, will be controlled by the College and will be expended in accordance with the student's needs.

Procedure for Making Application as an International Student

To Apply for the English Program (ALI or the College):

1. Download and complete **Application for Admission Form**
<https://www.gadsdenstate.edu/sites/default/files/u36/intlapp.pdf>
2. Complete the **ACCS Medical Record Form**.
3. Have sponsor complete an **Affidavit of Support Form** with a signed declaration by the sponsor's bank.
And For Admission Directly to the College:
4. Also provide certified original translated and evaluated **transcripts of grades** sent to Gadsden State.
5. Submit **adequate English proficiency test score** (see Exceptions above).

NOTICE: A student approved for enrollment in regular Gadsden State, not ALI, courses must take the Placement Test to determine the correct placement in English and mathematic