TECHNICAL COLLEGE OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

STATEMENT OF POLICY

POLICY NUMBER: 3-1-301 REF. STATE BOARD POLICY: 3-2-101

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POLICY TITLE: OPEN ADMISSIONS

LEGAL AUTHORITY: SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS (ACT 654)

DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITY: ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

May 10, 2002

Date Approved by Commission

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Revision Number

Chairman Date 5/10/2002 President Date 5/10/2002

The Technical College of the Lowcountry is an open admission college as required by Act 654 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina. Consistent with the statutory requirement, the College makes every effort to minimize geographic, financial and scholastic barriers to the kinds of postsecondary programs and services offered through the Technical College of the Lowcountry.

The College accepts the responsibility to produce graduates who are competent to meet the assessed needs of Lowcountry business and industry, and to assist individuals in achieving educational and occupational objectives consistent with their potential.

In order to fulfill the College’s educational mission and to promote the achievement of individuals with varied potential, open admissions is defined as a practice which (1) admits to the College all citizens who can benefit from available learning opportunities, and (2) places into specific programs of study those students whose potential for success is commensurate with expected standards of performance.
The College requires that all applicants for admission be eighteen (18) years of age or older, or possess a high school diploma or its equivalent.
Under certain circumstances, an applicant under the age of eighteen (18) who has not graduated from high school may be considered for enrollment through special agreement between the College and the principal of the school where the applicant has been, or is, attending.

Except for associate degree programs or courses in programs that have specific licensing or minimum performance level requirements, the College does not require a high school diploma, its equivalent, or attainment of specific levels of education prior to being admitted.

This definition of open admissions implies the College's commitment to provide a program to assess student potential and to provide appropriate developmental and remedial programs of study to meet those needs. It is recognized that funding developmental and remedial programs to support the College’s definition of open admission must be commensurate with the commitment made to this educational activity. The scope of remediation activity is restricted by the statutory condition of economic feasibility and ability to benefit determinations.

In support of this definition, it is the policy of the college to follow the Technical College System’s recommendations related to developmental and remedial programs.

1. Develop appropriate intake procedures concentrating on career guidance and line assessment of competency in basic skills.

2. Determine and establish a minimum feasible performance level for admission into Developmental Studies. The level should reflect an analysis of the capabilities and limitations of the Developmental Studies program.

3. Establish articulation between Developmental Studies and each curriculum program. Minimum competencies in math, reading, and language are defined for placement into courses. The measurement methods should be reliable and valid.
4. Establish minimum academic standards and procedures for academic probation and suspension for those students who do not maintain satisfactory progress.

5. Identify the specific skills taught in each program and identify reliable techniques for determining student performance of those skills.