

Proposal:

Amend COL UG Admissions policy to accommodate veterans under age 25 with no postsecondary work.

The Office of Military Engagement and Veterans Initiatives (MEVI) requests that UofSC amend its adult learner admission policy to include a pathway for South Carolina resident applicants with two years of military service. The resulting policy would not require students to reach the age of 25 to qualify for freshman admission without having to submit test scores.

Requested effective date:

Spring 2021

Background:

Current admission policy for adult learners states that any HS grad or GED recipient 25 years or older can be admitted without standardized test scores, assuming there is no post-secondary work. Current policy does not afford flexibility to consider military students who demonstrate high levels of maturity as evidenced by prior enlistment in the U.S. military.

| Current Policy | Proposed Policy |
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| Applicants over the age of 25 may not be required to submit entrance examination results; however, they must submit other credentials which give evidence of reasonable academic potential. <i>(Note: no mention of exceptions for veterans)</i> | Applicants over the age of 25 may not be required to submit entrance examination results; however, they must submit other credentials which give evidence of reasonable academic potential. SC resident applicants with at least two years of active duty military service may be admitted as freshmen provided that they graduated high school with a 3.0 HS GPA, completed minimum college preparatory course requirements outlined by the SC Commission on Higher Education, and have not attempted any postsecondary work since graduation. |

Justification:

Changing the policy will provide the following benefits to students and the university

1. Emphasize UofSC commitment and investment to SC residents, resulting in positive PR with statehouse delegation and other stakeholders
2. Provide new strategy to attract and incentive enrollment of Federally-Funded students, utilizing VA or DoD benefits
3. Acknowledge value-add and academic success veteran and military students bring to higher education, supported by national and internal data
4. These students would not be admitted as admissions exceptions, thus impacting our CHE reporting requirements.