

Minimum Admissions Standards Policy and CADR's

The [Minimum Admissions Standards Policy](#) sets minimum admissions standards for applicants to the public 4-year baccalaureate institutions in Washington.

College Academic Distribution Requirements (CADRs)

First-year students and some transfer students are required to meet the College Academic Distribution Requirements which identify 17 courses (or credits) across 6 subject areas. Complete guidance on [CADRs](#) including how CADRs can be met in high school, as well as college, is provided as an additional document to the Minimum Admissions Standards policy document.

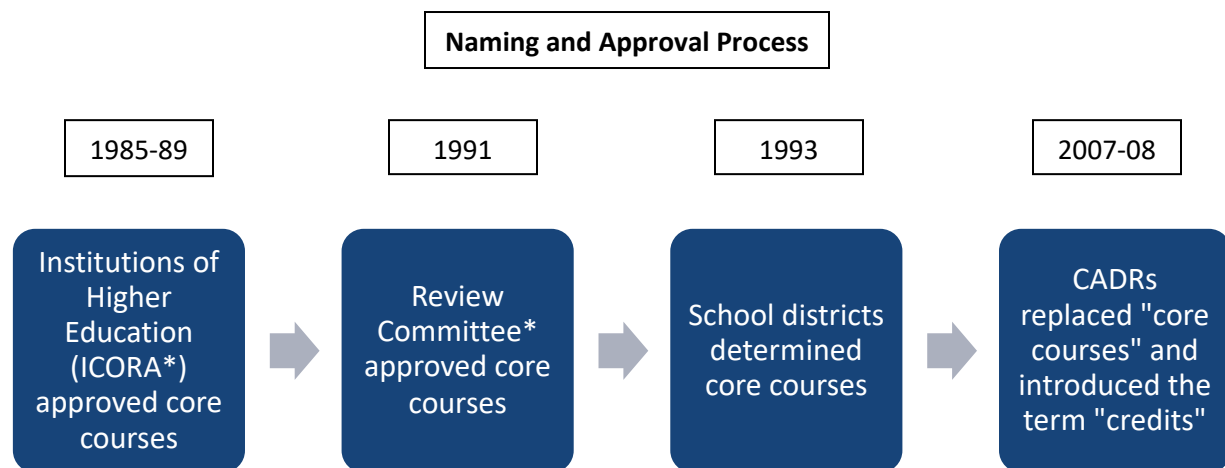
High school students in Washington can accumulate CADR credits through traditional high school coursework, dual credit courses, two-for-one courses where a single course may fulfill more than one high school graduation requirement, mastery-based courses, and, in some cases, starting as early as middle school. Final determination of whether a high school course is CADRs or not is made at the local school district level.

Additionally, students who do not meet the CADR requirement can make up coursework in the first year of college.

Alternate Admissions Standards

There are two options for admission of students who do not meet the first-year student admissions requirements. Option 1 allows a waiver of up to 3 CADR credits. Option 2, for students 25 and older, sets GPA and other requirements but does not require compliance with CADRs. Complete details can be found on page 6 and 7 of the Minimum Admissions Standards policy.

WA Minimum Admissions Policy History



Credit requirements and alignment to high school graduation

	1985-89	2009	2015	2020	2021-22
GPA	2.5	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
College Prep Courses renamed CADRs since 2009	15	15 + Senior Year Math (Q)	16-17 including Q (science increased to 3)	16-17	16-17
Standardized Tests	Yes	Yes	Yes	Test Optional	Test Optional definition broadened
Alternate Admissions	Not Sure	15% cap on first year admissions	15% cap on first year admissions	Percentage cap removed temporarily	Percentage cap removed permanently
HS graduation requirements and alignment	Not Sure	20 credits	20 credits	24 credits	24 credits
		CADR requires 1 or 2 additional credits in Math (With Q), English and World Language	CADR requires 1 or 2 additional credits in Math (With Q) and World Language	CADR requires 1 or 2 additional credits in Math (With Q and Algebra 2 or Integrated Math 3)	CADR requires 1 or 2 additional credits in Math (With Q and Algebra 2 or Integrated Math 3)
		Additional HS requirements for Health/Fitness and Electives	Additional HS requirements for Health/Fitness and Electives	Additional HS requirements for Health/Fitness, CTE and Electives	Additional HS requirements for Health/Fitness, CTE and Electives

Note: Listed years are when policy was adopted. Implementation occurred in subsequent years.

** ICORA – Interinstitutional Committee of Registrars & Admissions Officers.*

** Review Committee – consisted of higher education representatives (Interinstitutional Committee on Undergraduate Studies) and sometimes high school representatives, facilitated by HECB.*

Additional Information

Statute - [RCW 28B.77.020 \(7\)](#) summarized: *WSAC shall collaborate with appropriate state agencies and stakeholders.... to set the minimum college admissions standards for four-year institutions of higher education including:*

- (i) *A requirement that coursework in American Sign Language or an American Indian language satisfies any requirement for instruction in a language other than English; and*
- (ii) *Encouragement of the use of multiple measures to determine whether a student must enroll in a precollege course, such as placement tests, the SAT, high school transcripts, college transcripts or initial class performance.*