

**SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS
2001 HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE TRANSITION REPORT**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- A total of 2,660 of the South Dakota High School Graduating Class of 2001 entered Regental universities on a full-time basis in Fall 2000. These 2,660 students represent 30.0% of the 8,859 South Dakota graduates in 2001. A total of 114 South Dakota high school graduates entered Regental universities on a part-time basis.
- The average ACT Composite score of those 2001 SD high school graduates who entered on a full-time basis decreased slightly from 22.07 in 2000 to 22.0. For those who entered on a part-time basis, the average ACT Composite score was 21.2.
- Of the 2,660 South Dakota high school graduates entering Regental universities, 668 (25.1%) met the academic performance requirements for Regents Scholars.
- After five years of gradual increases, the percentage of SD high school graduates who were awarded credit for College Board Advanced Placement Examinations decreased slightly from 5.7% in 2000 to 5.1%.
- Of those SD high school graduates who entered Regental universities on a full-time basis in 2000 and completed at least one semester during the 2000-01 academic year, 62.3% had placement scores allowing enrollment in general education courses.
- Of those SD high school graduates who entered Regental universities on a full-time basis in 2001 and completed at least one semester during the 2000-01 academic year, 66.2% enrolled in general education courses and 33.8% enrolled in at least one remedial math or English course. According to the Condition of Education 2001 report, published by the National Center of Education Statistics, 40% of all students enrolled in 4-year universities enroll in at least one remedial course.
- SD high school graduates who entered on a full-time basis in 2001 and enrolled in general education courses had higher average ACT Composite scores (23.8 vs. 18.7) and first-year university GPAs (2.99 vs. 2.25) than graduates who enrolled in remedial courses.
- Out of the 160 SD high schools with 2001 HS graduates completing at least one semester at a Regental university during the 2001-02, 8 (5.0%) had no students enrolled in remedial coursework.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

1. Take the right courses in middle school and high school.

- Algebra is the *gateway*. School districts should provide and students should take Algebra I in the 8th grade and at least three years of mathematics in high school that includes Algebra II, Geometry, Trigonometry and Pre-Calculus.
- High school graduation requirements are not equivalent to college admissions requirements. High school graduation requirements are minimum expectations to earn a high school diploma. Preparation for success in college requires additional and more rigorous academic courses (see table below).
- 1999 South Dakota high school graduates completing a college preparatory curriculum earned average ACT Composite scores of 22.3 compared to 19.4 for those who took less than the college preparatory curriculum. This trend has held for the past ten years.

2. Make cost effective decisions.

- Remedial courses cost more. The tuition for a college general education course costs \$181. A remedial course costs \$397.
- Remedial courses extend the amount of time it takes to earn a degree because they do not count towards a degree.
- High School Advanced Placement courses save money. A high school advanced placement course can provide a student with college general education credit for a test fee of \$77 saving the student \$104 in tuition.