

**SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS
2003 HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE TRANSITION REPORT**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- A total of 2,884 of the South Dakota High School Graduating Class of 2003 entered Regental universities on a full-time basis in Fall 2003. These 2,884 students represent 33.5% of the 8,872 South Dakota graduates in 2003. This is an increase from 30.7% of South Dakota graduates attending Regental universities in 2002. In addition, a total of 116 South Dakota high school graduates entered Regental universities on a part-time basis.
- The average ACT Composite score of those 2003 SD high school graduates who entered on a full-time basis remained the same as in 2002 (22.2), which had been a slight increase from 22.0 in 2001. For those who entered on a part-time basis, the average ACT Composite score was 20.3 down slightly from 21.0 in 2002.
- Of the 2,884 South Dakota high school graduates entering Regental universities in Fall 2003, 734 (25.5%) met the academic performance requirements for Regents Scholars (an increase of 1% from those meeting the qualifications in 2002). The number of South Dakota high schools with none of their graduates enrolled as Regents Scholars decreased from 60 in 2002 to 53 in 2003.
- The percentage of SD high school graduates who were awarded credit for College Board Advanced Placement Examinations increased for a second year in a row from 5.1% in 2001 to 6.5% in 2002 to 7.3% in 2003.

Students are placed into remedial English and mathematics courses based on their ACT English and ACT Mathematics scores. Students with ACT English scores below 18 and/or ACT Mathematics scores below 20 are placed into remedial courses. Students may challenge their placement by sitting for the ACT COMPASS placement examinations. As a result, the number of students placed in remedial courses is usually higher than the number of students who enroll in remedial courses.

- Of those SD high school graduates who entered Regental universities on a full-time basis in 2003 and completed at least one semester during the 2003-04 academic year, 65.8% enrolled in general education courses and 34.2% enrolled in at least one remedial math or English course remaining the same as for 2002. 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 2003 and enrolled in general education courses had higher average ACT Composite scores (24.1 vs. 18.8) up slightly from 2002 (24.0 and 18.7) and first-year university GPAs than graduates

who enrolled in remedial courses (2.92 vs. 2.23) down slightly from 2002 (2.95 vs. 2.29).

- Out of the 159 SD high schools with 2003 graduates enrolling in at least one semester at a Regental university during the 2003-04 academic year, 19 (12%) 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 four years of mathematics in high school that includes Algebra II, Geometry, Trigonometry and Pre-Calculus.
- Preparation for success in college requires completion of rigorous academic courses in high school.
- 2003 South Dakota high school graduates completing a college preparatory curriculum earned average ACT Composite scores of 22.4 compared to 19.9 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. In 2004-2005 the tuition for a three-credit college general education course costs \$222. The cost of a three-credit remedial course \$562.
- 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 \$82, saving the student \$140 in tuition.