

**SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS
2004 HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE TRANSITION REPORT**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- A total of 2,796 of the South Dakota High School Graduating Class of 2004 entered Regental universities on a full-time basis in Fall 2004. These 2,796 students represent 31.2% of the 8,958 South Dakota graduates from public high schools in 2004.
- A total of 165 South Dakota high school graduates entered Regental universities on a part-time basis, which is an increase of 41.3% from 2003.
- The average ACT Composite score of those 2004 SD high school graduates who entered on a full-time basis increased slightly to 22.5 from the 2002 and 2003 average of 22.2. For those who entered on a part-time basis, the average ACT Composite score was 20.4 (almost the same as 2003 and down slightly from 21.0 in 2002).
- Of the 2,796 South Dakota high school graduates entering Regental universities in Fall 2004, 874 (31.3%) met the academic performance requirements for Regents Scholars (an increase of 19% from those meeting the qualifications in 2003). The number of South Dakota high schools with none of their graduates enrolled as Regents Scholars decreased from 53 in 2003 to 40 in 2004.
- The first cohort of the South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship recipients entering the public universities in Fall 2004 was 655 (23.4% of the Spring 04 South Dakota graduates who entered the public universities in Fall 2004).
- The percentage of SD high school graduates who were awarded credit for College Board Advanced Placement Examinations increased for the third year in a row from 5.1% in 2001, to 6.5% in 2002, to 7.3% in 2003, to 7.9% in 2004.

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 2004 and completed at least one semester during the 2004-05 academic year, 68.2% enrolled in general education courses and 31.8% enrolled in at least one remedial math or English course, which is a decrease of 2.4% from 2003.
- SD high school graduates who entered on a full-time basis in 2004 and enrolled in general education courses had higher average ACT Composite scores (24.3 vs. 18.8)

up slightly from 2003 (24.1 and 18.8) and had higher first-year university GPAs than graduates who enrolled in remedial courses (2.97 vs. 2.25). Both of these indicators are nearly the same as in 2003.

- Out of the 163 SD high schools with 2004 graduates enrolling in at least one semester at a Regental university during the 2004-05 academic year, 14 (9%) 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.
- 2004 South Dakota high school graduates completing a college preparatory curriculum earned average ACT Composite scores of 22.3 compared to 18.8 for those who took less than the college preparatory curriculum. This trend has held for the past eleven years.

2. Make cost effective decisions.

- Remedial courses cost more. In 2004-2005 the tuition for a three-credit college general education course costs \$229. The cost of a three-credit remedial course was \$590.
- 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 \$147 in tuition.