

MEMORANDUM

October 13, 2015

TO: See Distribution List

FROM: Clare Norton, University Director of Admissions

RE: Opportunity for Student Success Pilot Program

In an effort to remain competitive in admitting and enrolling new freshman, we have created a pilot program – Opportunity for Student Success (OSS), formerly known as Students of Promise. This is a flexible admission initiative that allows CUNY four-year colleges to admit a small number of freshman students who do not meet the university-wide proficiency standards in mathematics and English or the college's stated admissions criteria, but whom the colleges deem to be likely to succeed. (These are generally applicants who fell just short of the academic indicators or proficiency exemption standards in one subject but who have exhibited proficiency in the other subject and have strong high school records). OSS can be utilized in both the spring and fall term.

The program was first piloted at Hunter College and Brooklyn College in Fall 2011 and has now been extended to Baruch College, City College, John Jay College, Lehman College and Queens College. In the first three years, the SAT scores of OSS-admitted students were included in the PMP calculations of average freshman SAT scores. However, after further review, we have determined that OSS students' SAT scores should be excluded from PMP beginning in Fall 2014.

OSS Program Requirements:

Central Office Enrollment Management believes that OSS allows colleges to professionalize the admissions decision process. Colleges should only select students for admission whom they believe will be successful in their intended area of study at the college. A student's admission should not be contingent upon the results of the CUNY Assessment tests. Students admitted through the OSS program should constitute no more than 10% of the admitted freshman class. While many students admitted via OSS will demonstrate proficiency at the time of high school graduation or upon completing the CUNY Assessment Test, those who do not will simply need to remain in good academic standing at the college and successfully complete an English and

mathematics course as required by their curriculum. The college is not required to provide interventions different than those offered to other new freshman students. OSS students may choose to participate in additional supports or interventions (free of charge) but their continued enrollment does not require them to meet a special condition.

All students admitted through the OSS program should be coded in CUNYfirst in the “SOP” student group. Colleges should also maintain a roster of all students admitted through OSS to be shared with OIRA each semester. With the support of OIRA, Central Office Enrollment Management will continue to evaluate the success of OSS based on students’ GPA, retention, and graduation rates. The goal of the pilot is to demonstrate the need for flexibility in the admissions review process for individual colleges.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have additional questions and need more information.

Distribution List:

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