

# Admissions

## Freshman Admission

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Dordt College seeks applicants who want to attend a Christian college and who have demonstrated the desire to learn. All students exhibiting these characteristics will be considered for admission. Previous academic experience is a large, but not the only, factor in evaluating applications.

The executive director of admissions determines admission for all freshman students after the following items have been received:

1. A completed Dordt College application for admission
2. A final high school transcript
3. ACT or SAT test results

**Regular Admission** Applicants are normally granted regular admission status if their academic record demonstrates the following:

1. A minimum of 17 units of high school credit. A subject pursued for one school year of 36 weeks with five class periods per week is considered one unit. At least ten units must be from the subjects listed under the “recommended high school program” below.
2. A college-preparatory course of study with:
  - English, a minimum of 3 years
  - Mathematics (algebra and/or geometry), a minimum of 2 years
  - Foreign Language, 2 years in a single language with grades no lower than C in the second year. International and English as a Second Language (ESL) students meet this requirement if they receive a passing score on the Entrance Interview.
3. A cumulative high school GPA of 2.25
4. ACT or SAT I test score as follows:

ACT: English - 18	Math - 18	Composite - 19
SAT I: Critical Reading - 460	Math - 460	Writing - 460
		Composite - 1380

**Admission with Special Provision** Applicants with incomplete admissions records or applicants with high school records or test scores that do not meet all regular admission standards may be granted admission with special provision. In the case of incomplete records, receipt of the complete record may result in a change of admission status. Students who were unable to take the ACT or SAT I prior to enrollment will be required to take the ACT after arrival on campus. The results of this test may affect the student’s status.

All students admitted who have not had at least two years of high school foreign language will be required to study foreign language at the 100-level at Dordt. Students pursuing a bachelor’s degree must complete the foreign language requirement prior to fulfilling the cross-cultural requirement.

Students admitted who do not meet the specified score on the ACT or SAT I test will be required to take additional preparatory courses either during the summer prior to the freshman year or during freshman year. These courses give the necessary background in English and mathematics to do college-level work. (See page 143 for English 100; see page 166 for Mathematics 100.)

Students who are admitted with a high school GPA below 2.25 or a composite ACT score below 19 (SAT I combined score below 1380) will be admitted to Dordt through the Aspire Program. This program includes diagnostic testing, academic and career counseling, and other services designed to help students adjust to college life. (See page 17 for the Aspire Program.)

Applicants being considered for admission with a composite ACT score below 17 (SAT I combined score below

1215) will be required to take part in a personal admissions interview.

Other background deficiencies, not specifically listed here, will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

## Recommended High School Program

The courses and programs that students select in high school will affect how well they adjust to college work. Ideally they should take the following:

English/Language Arts ..... 4 years

Mathematics ..... 3 years

One year of algebra, one year of geometry, one year of advanced algebra or advanced mathematics; four years of mathematics is recommended for students considering majors in mathematics, computer science, engineering, physics, or other science programs.

Science ..... 2 years

Including biology, chemistry, or physics; nursing and agriculture students should take chemistry; three years of science is recommended for students considering majors or programs in science.

Social Science ..... 2 years

Foreign Language..... 2 years

Three or more years of a single foreign language, with grades no lower than C in the final year of study, may satisfy Dordt's cross-cultural requirement, provided that the student can show evidence of an appropriate cross-cultural experience. (See page 35, Cross-Cultural Studies.)

Electives ..... 4 years

College preparatory courses from areas listed above.

## Nondiscrimination Policy

Dordt College's commitment to nondiscrimination on the basis of age, color, disability, gender, national or ethnic origin, or race includes nondiscriminatory access to college programs and activities and treatment therein. Inquiries should be directed to the provost's office.

## Making Application

Application for admission should be made well in advance of the semester a student wishes to enter Dordt College. To make a formal application for admission, candidates are requested to go to [www.dordt.edu](http://www.dordt.edu) and fill out the online application or write to the executive director of admissions requesting application forms. Students will be considered for admission after they have submitted the following official forms:

1. Application for admission
2. Transcript of high school record
3. ACT or SAT results

Accepted students are to pay a \$100 enrollment deposit within 21 days of the acceptance date. The enrollment deposit serves as a declaration of intent to enroll and reserves housing. If requested in writing, it is refundable until May 1. This enrollment deposit becomes the student's security deposit when fully enrolled. This deposit will be refunded when the student terminates attendance at Dordt if no fines have been levied, such as overdue library books, room damage, and no outstanding bills, such as tuition, are due to the college.

## Entrance Test

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Applicants for admission are also required to submit the results of the ACT or SAT. Applicants who are not able to take the ACT or SAT may be considered for admission but will be required to take the ACT after enrollment.

## Notification of Admission

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As soon as the required forms have been received the office of admissions will evaluate them. Admission will be granted as follows:

**General Admission**– Students whose records indicate that they are able to pursue college work are granted general admission.

**Admission with Special Provision**– Students whose records indicate that they might have serious difficulty pursuing college work or who have not met all admission requirements are granted special admission.

## Readmission

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Former students who seek readmission must initially contact the office of admission. Students who have been away from college for more than one semester must meet the requirements stated in the current catalog.

## Transfer Admission

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Students who have attended another accredited institution of collegiate rank may be considered for admission with advanced standing. College credits presented by transfer students will be evaluated in terms of the quality of the student's work and the relationship of the subject matter to the Dordt curriculum. A minimum grade of C- is required in each course to receive credit.

Students who plan to transfer to Dordt College are encouraged to contact the registrar as soon as possible so that course planning may take place and optimal use of courses and credits will occur. A maximum of 30 semester hours of credit (two semesters) may be granted for CLEP, AP, or other college level courses earned prior to receiving a high school diploma. A maximum of 61 semester hours of academic credit (four semesters) is granted to graduates of community colleges. (See also page 58, Residence Requirement.) The registrar evaluates transfer credits. Admission to advanced standing does not exempt a student from meeting the specified requirements for graduation from Dordt College.

After the application materials have been evaluated, students will receive notification of credits accepted, student classification, and academic status. Student classification and academic status are assigned following the policies governing all students at Dordt College.

**Regular General Admission** The executive director of admissions determines regular general admission for transfer students after the following items have been received:

1. A completed Dordt College application for admission and a non-refundable \$25 (U.S. funds) application fee
2. An official high school transcript
3. An official college transcript. Transfer candidates must request that the registrar at each collegiate institution attended forward an official transcript; transcripts submitted by the candidate are not acceptable. The college transcript must show a cumulative GPA of 2.00 or above for regular general admission.
4. ACT or SAT results

**Admission with Special Provision** Students who do not meet the minimum academic requirements for admission may be granted admission with special provisions if warranted by the total academic record of the student. Special admission may require the following:

1. A contract approved by the Academic Skills Center director that may include developmental courses or workshops
2. A limit of 15 credits for the first semester of attendance

Approval for and status of admission is decided by the executive director of admissions in consultation with the academic standing committee.

## Special Students

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Students who do not plan to follow a prescribed course of study leading to a degree may register as special students for courses they wish to pursue on the basis of their qualifications.

Permission to register as a special student must be obtained from the registrar.

## Admission of International and ESL Students

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An official score of at least 550 on the paper-based TOEFL (PBT) or 79 on the internet-based TOEFL (iBT); or a 6.5 on the IELTS is required for admission for all non-native English-speaking students. Non-native English speakers who have lived and have been schooled in English speaking countries for seven years or more or who have taken either the ACT or SAT may be exempt from this requirement. With the exception of Canadians, all international and ESL students are required to take the Entrance Interview for International/ESL Students administered during International/ESL Student Orientation (ISO). This interview serves to evaluate students' previous educational experience and to ensure their successful introduction to Dordt's educational program. The results of this interview also will determine whether or not an international/ESL student will be required to take English for Academic Purposes (EAP) courses. For native speakers of a language other than English, a passing score on the Entrance Interview will meet the general admissions foreign language requirement (see page 13, Regular Admission) and the cross-cultural requirement (see page 35). Students who do not receive a passing score on the Entrance Interview for International/ESL Students must successfully complete the English for Academic Purposes courses, EAP 101 and EAP 102, during the first semester of attendance at Dordt to satisfy these requirements.

In addition to participating in the freshman orientation days at the beginning of the fall semester (see page 18), international/ESL students participate in the International/ESL Student Orientation (ISO), which takes place Thursday, August 18, through Saturday, August 20, 2011, preceding the freshman orientation days. ISO creates an opportunity for international/ESL students to experience fellowship, establish community, and gain successful entrance to the Dordt College community. International/ESL students should plan to arrive on campus Wednesday, August 17, to move into their residences and be ready to participate in ISO the next day.

## Academic Support Services

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**Aspire Program** The Aspire Program provides an opportunity for motivated students, who have the potential to be successful at Dordt but do not meet the regular admission standards, to benefit from a Dordt education. Inclusion in the program is determined by the executive director of admissions in consultation with the director of the ASK Center and is based on high school grades and courses, ACT/SAT scores, and a personal interview.

Students admitted to the Aspire Program are offered the following aids to academic success:

- a mandatory one-day Aspire Program Orientation immediately preceding the freshman orientation
- a maximum of 12-15 credits in the first semester (including credits for athletics, music ensembles and

- lessons, or involvement in theatre arts)
- assessment in reading and learning skills during orientation
  - *Campus Toolkit*, an interactive web-based resource for students
  - a contract outlining strategies for achieving academic success
  - weekly conferences with an academic coach, either an ASK Center professional or one of the Learning Community Assistants
  - available tutorial assistance for most courses
  - placement in one or more college competency courses if the ACT/SAT scores in English/Writing and/or Mathematics are below the 18/460 required for general admission.

**Students with Special Needs** Dordt College makes available academic support for students with special learning needs such as sensory impairments, physical and health problems, and learning disabilities. For more information contact the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities (CSSD).

Students who believe that they need academic support should notify the CSSD as soon as possible. Ideally, this should occur during the application process. Accepted applicants will be asked to provide relevant assessment information so that appropriate academic support can be planned. If prior assessment information is not available or is more than three years old, the applicant will be encouraged to have such an assessment done. This type of assessment can usually be obtained in the student's school district, at no cost, if the student is currently enrolled in a K-12 school.

Students enrolled at Dordt College can request academic accommodations. They will be asked to provide assessment information that confirms the existence of the special need, such as a learning disability. The student will be encouraged to have appropriate assessment performed if assessment information is not available.

## Freshman Orientation

The freshman orientation program introduces incoming freshman to the Dordt College community and informs them about everything they need to know to succeed, including information on goal-setting, self-assessment, advising, campus life, learning skills and abilities, institutional expectations, available resources, and building community. In addition to freshman orientation days at the beginning of the fall semester, this program includes peer counseling and targeted academic skills support during the first semester of college. Freshman students must plan to arrive on campus on Saturday, August 20, 2011, for the freshman orientation program.

## Registration

Registration takes place at the beginning of each semester. Students will be sent instructions and appointments several weeks prior to the registration dates.

Registration is not completed until tuition and fees have been partially paid. A late registration fee is charged if registration is not completed on the designated registration day each semester.