



## Massachusetts Department of Higher Education

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Carlos E. Santiago  
*Commissioner*  
Chris Gabrieli  
*Board Chairman*

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Community College Presidents  
State University Presidents  
Martin Meehan, President, University of Massachusetts System

**FROM:** Carlos E. Santiago, Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Higher Education

**DATE:** January 28, 2019

**SUBJECT:** **Admission Standards Reference Guide – 2019 Update**

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The Department of Higher Education (DHE) has updated its Admission Standards Reference Guide. For your convenience, a summary of the major revisions made to the document is provided below:

- Added a Table of Contents
- Combined the Admissions Standards Reference Guide and Admissions Standards FAQ into one document
- Updated test (SAT/ACT) optional pilot list of institutions
- Added a FAQ section for test optional pilot questions
- Added language to reflect policy change regarding MassCore computer science course substitution option
- Eliminated SAT prior to March 2016 concordance table information

More specifically, we have consolidated our Admissions Standards Reference Guide and Admissions Standards FAQ in order to centralize the location of information, provide greater clarity, streamline access, and increase readability for constituents. We have also revised the listing of test optional public higher education institutions and added a section for questions frequently answered by the Department regarding this policy area.

In addition, as discussed by the Board of Higher Education in June 2018, computer science courses may be substituted for a required math or science course if the course qualifies for an approved substitution as determined by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Furthermore, SAT scores prior to March 2016 were eliminated from the document, but remain available online on our website. Details related to these changes are included on pages three to four of the new document.

#### Next Steps

We ask that you please share these changes and documents with your Chief Enrollment Officers. If you have any feedback regarding these updates, please submit them by February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 to Ignacio Chaparro, Project Specialist for the DHE at [ichaparro@dhe.mass.edu](mailto:ichaparro@dhe.mass.edu). As always, if you have any questions regarding the content of this memorandum, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly.

Enclosed: DHE Admissions Standards Reference Guide (DRAFT) – January 2019.pdf