



# OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

*Improving our future by degrees*

February 9, 2021

To: Presidents of Institutions

Dear Presidents:

Re: Use of ACT “Superscore”

In October 2019, ACT announced two major changes related to the college admission test taken by most college-bound Oklahomans. First, beginning with the September 2020 test administration, students would be allowed to re-take individual sections of the exam on national test dates after taking the full battery of tests at least once. This is in contrast to ACT’s historical practice of only allowing students to take the full battery of tests during a test administration. The second major change announced by ACT is that it would use all the highest subject area scores a student earns to formulate one composite score, commonly referred to as a “superscore.” This is also a change from ACT’s previous practice; in the past, composite scores were only derived from one test administration. The new practice will allow students to raise their composite score without taking the entire battery of subject tests.

At the time of the announcement by ACT, State Regents’ policy did not allow for the use of superscoring in college admission. ACT provided empirical research demonstrating that the superscore is often a better predictor of college success than a standalone composite score from one test administration. In order to allow State System institutions to use the new superscore in admission decisions, the State Regents approved revisions to the *Institutional Admission and Retention* and *Concurrent Enrollment* policies at their May 29, 2020 meeting. The revised *Institutional Admission and Retention* policy added a definition of “Final Composite Score,” which is as follows:

“Final composite score” is the highest composite score achieved by a student on the ACT. This score is calculated using the highest section scores from tests taken on national ACT testing dates and must be calculated and provided by ACT in order to be considered official.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, ACT has delayed the implementation of section retesting and superscoring. ACT has communicated to State Regents staff that the new target date for implementing these initiatives will be late February 2021. This poses a challenge to State System institutions and the students we serve because, as noted in the above policy definition, ACT superscores must be calculated and provided by ACT in order to be considered official.

Presidents of Institutions

Page 2

February 9, 2021

In light of ACT's delays in implementing section retesting and superscoring during the COVID-19 pandemic and in order to best serve our students, an exception to policy has been approved allowing institutions to calculate superscores for purposes of undergraduate admission until such time as ACT begins calculating and providing these scores. Please note that the policy definition of "Final Composite Score" will not be changed and that this policy exception provides temporary flexibility. As soon as ACT is able to begin calculating and providing these scores, institutions will rely on the ACT-provided score and discontinue any internal calculations of superscores.

If you have any questions regarding ACT superscoring or this temporary policy flexibility, please contact Dr. Kyle Foster, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, at (405) 225-9163 or [kfoster@osrhe.edu](mailto:kfoster@osrhe.edu)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glen D. Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Glen" being particularly prominent.

Glen D. Johnson  
Chancellor

GDJ/kf