



Policy Title: Interim Evaluation of High School Diplomas

Policy Oversight: Academic Policy Council; Implementation by Directors of Admissions

Policy Application: This Policy is applicable to all applicants for admission

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Policy Review and Approval: This Policy will be reviewed every other year and approved by the Academic Policy Council.

I. Policy Statement

In compliance with the Higher Education Act of 1965, Averett University will evaluate the validity of a high school diploma when the University or the Department of Education has reason to believe that the diploma is not valid or was not obtained from an entity that provides secondary school education. This Policy is applicable even when submission of a final high school transcript is not a requirement for admission. Applicants should review the University catalog for admission requirements (*see* Section VII).

II. Purpose of Policy

- To comply with the Higher Education Act of 1965 and its implementing regulations

III. Scope

This Policy applies to all applicants for admission.

IV. Evaluation of High School Diplomas

The University will take the below steps, as applicable, when the validity of a high school diploma is in question:

- A. Obtain documentation from the high school that confirms the validity of the high school diploma, including at least one of the following:
 - Transcripts, if not already received or if the transcripts were not final or official;
 - Written descriptions of course requirements; or
 - Written and signed statements by the principals or executive officers at the high school attesting to the rigor and quality of coursework at the high school

- B. If the high school is regulated or overseen by a State agency, Tribal agency, or Bureau of Indian Education, the University will confirm with or request documentation from that agency to confirm that the high school is recognized or meets the requirements established by that agency.
- C. If the Department of Education publishes a list of high schools that issue invalid high school diplomas, the University will confirm that the high school does not appear on that list.
- D. If the high school closed, verification will be requested pursuant to the policy of the applicable State, district, or oversight entity. In rare circumstances when documentation cannot be obtained and/or validity of the diploma confirmed, the University will consider the circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

V. Invalid High School Diplomas

High school diplomas are invalid in the following circumstances:

- A. If the diploma or the high school from which the diploma was awarded, did not meet the applicable requirements established by the appropriate State agency, Tribal agency, or Bureau of Indian Education in the State where the high school is located;
- B. Has been determined to be invalid by the Department of Education, the appropriate State agency in the State where the high school was located, or through a court proceeding; or
- C. Was obtained from an entity that requires little or no secondary instruction or coursework to obtain a high school diploma, including through a test that does not meet the requirements for a recognized equivalent of a high school diploma under 34 CFR 600.2.

VI. Consequences of Invalid High School Diplomas

When a high school diploma has been deemed invalid, the applicant will be removed from the applicant pool. If the applicant was admitted, the offer of admission will be rescinded. If the applicant was admitted and pre-registered for classes, the offer of admission will be rescinded and all pending/future coursework will be removed from their record.

VII. Supporting Documents and Resources

[University Catalog](#)

[Admissions Webpage](#)

VIII. Policy History

Policy created: June 29, 2024 (Approved by the President)