The sixteen (16) colleges comprising the SC Technical College System (SCTCS) shall maintain open admissions policies as required by the 1976 South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended. Consistent with statutory requirements and existing policies, the SCTCS makes every effort to minimize geographic, financial, and scholastic barriers to postsecondary credit and non-credit programs and services offered by the colleges.

A. General Admissions Criteria

It is the policy of the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education (SBTCE) that applicants for admission to a technical college must be eighteen (18) years of age or older, or possess a high school diploma or a recognized equivalent, or be admitted under a procedure developed by a college for admitting students who are under the age of 18 and who are not high school graduates.

A high school diploma or a recognized equivalent is desirable but is not a prerequisite for college admission. A high school diploma or a recognized equivalent may be required for specific program admission. Each individual college shall identify its programs that do not require a high school diploma or a recognized equivalent for admission.

B. Admissions Criteria for Dually Enrolled Students

Colleges may choose to admit high school students under the age of 18 through special agreements between the college and a partnering secondary institution. Partnering secondary institutions include but are not limited to, high schools, districts, career centers, home schools, and private high schools.
Colleges shall reference SBTCE Policy 3-2-100 Dual Enrollment and SBTCE Procedure 3-2-100.1 Dual Enrollment for implementation of dual enrollment programs, eligibility criteria, and establishment of local procedures.

C. Other Admissions Criteria

Each individual college shall develop procedures for admitting students under criteria not included in this policy, to include criteria for entry into non-credit and continuing education courses and programs. Colleges may allow for provisional admission as published in their local procedures.

Colleges shall reference SBTCE Procedure 3-2-101.1 Admissions Criteria for development of local procedures.