

What Does It Mean When A College Is “Selective”?

There are four Admissions Selectivity Categories. Each four-year public college or university in the state of Missouri chooses their own category based on the qualifications they require for their admitted students. This means that there are different requirements to be admitted to each of these categories.

Although rare, there are up to ten percent of admitted students who do not meet these requirements. These students are expected to perform at levels comparable to regularly admitted students.

Highly Selective, Selective, and Moderately Selective institutions require that first-time or transfer students have 23 or fewer credit hours completed.

Highly Selective institutions require of first-time, full-degree-seeking and transfer students a combined percentile score (that is, the sum of the high school percentile rank and the percentile rank on the ACT or SAT) of 140 points or more. Students who achieve a score of 27 or better on the ACT or an equivalent score on the SAT are automatically admitted to highly selective institutions.

Missouri’s Highly Selective institution is Truman State University.

Selective institutions require of first-time, full-degree-seeking and transfer students a combined percentile score of 120 points or more. Students who achieve a score of 24 or better on the ACT or an equivalent score on the SAT are automatically admitted to selective institutions.

Missouri’s Selective institutions are Missouri State University, Missouri University of Science and Technology, University of Missouri- Columbia (“Mizzou”), University of Missouri-Kansas City, and University of Missouri-Saint Louis.

Moderately Selective institutions require of first-time, full-degree-seeking and transfer students a combined percentile score of 100 points or more. Students who achieve a score of 21 or better on the ACT or an equivalent score on the SAT are automatically admitted to moderately selective institutions.

Missouri’s Moderately Selective institutions are University of Central Missouri, Missouri Southern State University, Northwest Missouri State University, and Southeast Missouri State University.

Open Enrollment institutions may admit any Missouri resident with a high school diploma or equivalent. These include public two-year colleges. However, an open enrollment school may have further departmental requirements for students.

Missouri's Open Enrollment institutions are Crowder College, East Central College, Harris-Stowe State University, Jefferson College, Lincoln University, Linn State Technical College, Metropolitan Community Colleges, Mineral Area College, Missouri State University- West Plains extension, Missouri Western State University, Moberly Area Community College, North Central Missouri College, Ozarks Technical Community College, St. Charles Community College, St. Louis Community Colleges, State Fair Community College, and Three Rivers Community College.

Information taken from [Admissions Selectivity Categories](#) published by the Missouri Department of Higher Education