Appendix 7.2.1_4

Changes in policies and regulations since 2008

2010
- Students of Micronesian descent be included in the New Zealand Resident Pacific Origins Sub Category.
  Rationale: To align regulations with actual practice.
  Impact: Improved transparency but no change in outcomes

2012
- Definition of New Zealand Rural Origins Subcategory to change for 2014 to use Statistics NZ Urban/Rural Profile classification entry with minor amendments.
  “In order to qualify as a New Zealand Rural Origins Sub-category student, applicants must meet at least one of the following:
  - Undertaken a minimum of 4 years of their pre-tertiary study in a rural area of New Zealand.
  - Resided in a rural area of New Zealand for a minimum of 4 consecutive years.
  Rationale: To improve transparency and accuracy in definition of eligibility
  Impact: Improved transparency and alignment with Government definitions

- Amend regulations to align the admission regulations for medicine with the university’s definition of a Domestic Student.
  Rationale: Achieve internal consistency of definitions.
  Impact: Improved clarity for applicants.

2013
- Admission category name change from “Competitive Graduate Category” to “Graduate Category”.
  Rationale: Well recognized that the category is competitive; name could imply that there might be a non-competitive cohort.
  Impact: Simplification of terms, Improved clarity for applicants.

2014
- Regulations updated to allow applicants more than one opportunity to apply in the Graduate Category.
  Rationale: Alignment with other professional programmes. Because of the strict time limit in the regulation, the ability of students to make repeat applications is limited in any case.
  Impact: Improve consistency across professional programmes in the Division.

- Admission category name change from “Other” Category to “Alternative” Category.
  Rationale: Name differed from that used by other programmes.
Impact: Improved clarity for applicants through alignment across programmes

- HSFY minimum paper requirement changed from “B” to “70%“.
  Rationale: Actual marks, not grades, are used in scoring for ranking.
  Impact: Improved clarity for applicants by consistently using actual mark for both the minimum threshold for eligibility and the scoring for ranking.

- HSFY combined score changed from Academic (GPA) 66% and UMAT 34% to Academic 67% and UMAT = 33%.
  Rationale: To correct so that % split accurately reflects a two thirds / one third split
  Impact: Improved clarity for applicants

2016

- Change in wording of regulations for Applicants in the Alternative Category who qualify as Domestic students applying with a first bachelors degree from an overseas institution, to require that they need to have completed that degree at least 3 years prior to application.
  Rationale: Previous wording relating to this sub-group did not state this time requirement, leading to asymmetry with students with a NZ degree.
  Impact: Brings requirements for Domestic applicants with overseas qualification in line with applicants with a NZ qualification.

- For 2017, Introduction of One paper exemption guideline (not regulation change) for any prescribed course required by Graduate and Alternative Category applicants.
  Rationale: To prevent mature, qualified students from having to spend an extra year at University to obtain only a single paper.
  Impacts: Three students (out of 17 that were missing HSFY papers) offered Alternative Category places in the 2017 round will not be required to undertake a prescribed course because of the exemption. An unintended consequence for potential Graduate entrants in terms of HSFY student behavior has been identified.

2017

- One paper exemption guideline refined in 2017 to apply only to Alternative Category applicants.
  Rationale: Inclusion of Graduate category triggered an unintended consequence whereby HSFY students who (after semester 1 results became available) plan to target Graduate entry could choose not to sit all 7 required HSFY papers, relying on future exemption.
  Impact: Prevention of gaming of system by Graduate entry candidates. Note, the possibility of PVC variation in exceptional circumstances still exists for Graduate category applicants.