Admission to Carl Sandburg College District 518 is open to all in-district, out of district, out of state, and international residents who:

- are high school graduates or have achieved a High School Equivalency
- non-graduates, who are at least 16 years of age and who have severed connection with the secondary school,
- who are enrolled in a dual credit or dual enrollment program through their secondary school or home school.

Applicants under the age of 16 may be admitted with special permission of the Vice President of Student Services or designee.

All applicants must demonstrate an eighth-grade reading level as validated by a standardized test approved by the College or by completing a freshman level English class with a grade of C or higher from an accredited high school. This requirement does not apply to Corporate and Leisure classes.

Admission to the college does not ensure admission to a particular course or program of study. Should it be necessary to limit enrollment, priority will be given to residents of Carl Sandburg College District 518 or to residents of a community college district involved in a cooperative agreement with Carl Sandburg College. The college reserves the right to establish selective admission requirements for any or all programs. All programs and their respective admission requirements will be identified in the college catalog.

Carl Sandburg College will not discriminate in the admission of applicants on the basis of race, color, religious affiliation, gender (sex), sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, ancestry, genetic information, age, disability, arrest record status, marital or family status, citizenship status, military status, unfavorable military discharge, sexual harassment, order of protection status and status in any group protected by applicable federal, state and/or local laws.