Ready for College English

The English Sub-Committee of the Alliance for College Readiness establishes the following English Standard for a minimum competency outcome expectation for a high school graduate/incoming college freshman student as evidenced by a writing sample:

1. There should be an emphasis on persuasion as the writing mode.
2. The thesis should be directly and appropriately stated within the introduction.
3. The essay should have a minimum of 3 paragraphs.
4. A body paragraph should be well-developed, consisting of 5-7 detailed, informative sentences.
5. A body paragraph should begin with a directly stated topic sentence.
6. A body paragraph should be logically developed, use transitions appropriately, supported with specific examples, and end with a final/concluding sentence which directly connects to the topic sentence.
7. Sentence variety should occur through the use of simple, compound, and some complex sentences.
8. The conclusion should re-address the thesis, summarize the main points, and end with a general closing statement.
9. Style should be established through the use of concrete adjectives, appropriate adverbs, prepositional phrases, and purposeful and appropriate vocabulary.
10. There should be no more than 4 major errors. Major errors are run-ons, comma splices, fragments, subject-verb agreement, and verb tense agreement. (Note: Some accommodation for ELL students regarding subject-verb agreement and verb tense agreement can occur.)
11. Basic conventions provide readability and clarity; therefore, writing with more than 10 errors in basic conventions (each time an error occurs it counts as one error) becomes unacceptable writing. Basic conventions include the use of a comma with an introductory phrase or clause, the use of a comma with a coordinating conjunction, the use of a comma with a subordinating conjunction, the use of a comma with a non-restrictive clause, the use of comma in a list, correct spelling, correct homonym use, proper use of an apostrophe, correct pronoun-antecedent agreement, correct use of a semicolon, proper punctuation, and proper capitalization. (Note: Some accommodation for ELL students regarding basic convention errors can occur.)

While a student should be able to meet all of these standards upon completing his/her high school English curriculum, instructor discretion can occur if deemed appropriate.