



College of Education
*Office of the Associate Dean for
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MEMORANDUM

To: Graduate Council
From: Deborah Slaton, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies
Date: October 9, 2008
Subject: Proposal to temporarily suspend use of GRE for admissions to
Rehabilitation Counseling master's program

The pdf file that accompanies this memo describes the purpose and rationale for the College of Education's proposal to temporarily suspend requiring GRE scores for applicants to the college's master's degree program in Rehabilitation Counseling. Please note that we are requesting that the GRE requirement be suspended for at least three academic years so that we may assess the impact of this change.

The College of Education faculty voted to approve this proposal in the March 2008 faculty meeting. Prior to this, the proposal was approved by the college's Committee on Courses and Curricula and the Department of Special Education and Rehabilitation Counseling.

The delay between March 2008 and now is entirely mine. I asked Dr. Feist-Price for some small edits in her memo to the Graduate School. When she returned it to me, I inadvertently placed the folder among materials I was preparing for a conference meeting in Boston. It was only when she inquired yesterday about the progress of the proposal, that I was able to retrace my steps and locate her memo. Please accept my sincere apologies to all involved.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Copies: Debra Harley, EDSRC Chair
Sonja Feist-Price, RC Director of Graduate Studies
File



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

February 1, 2008

College of Education

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To: Graduate School
University of Kentucky

From: Sonja Feist-Price, Ph.D., Rh.D. *Sonja Feist-Price*
Director of Graduate Studies
Graduate Rehabilitation Counseling Program

RE: Request to temporarily suspend the use of the GRE for admissions into the Graduate Rehabilitation Counseling Program

The Rehabilitation Counseling Program is requesting that the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) be suspended as a requirement for admission for at least three academic years, beginning Fall of 2008. This request *only* pertains to the Master's Program in Rehabilitation Counseling.

According to research conducted by Fair Test Examiner in Fall 1995, the GRE has biases that prevent many students from gaining admission to graduate schools and programs, as well as qualifying for scholarship funds, despite their abilities as proven in college. Research by the National Science Foundation, the University of Florida, and Texas A & M University show that the GRE under predicts the success of minority students. Furthermore, a study by the Educational Testing Service concluded the GRE particularly under-predicts for women over 25, who represent more than half of female test-takers. Although there is research to refute the claims of these researchers, the GRE score is not a useful tool that aids in the selection process of students in the Graduate Program in Rehabilitation Counseling.

The National Council on Rehabilitation Education (NCRE) is the national organization representing rehabilitation education and research, and represents over 90 institutions of higher education. A cursory review of NCRE graduate programs indicates that several institutions do not require the GRE as an entrance tool. Included are University of Arkansas, University of Arizona, Michigan State University and University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The Graduate Program in Rehabilitation Counseling does not use the GRE score to assist in the admission process, and there is no correlation between students' GRE scores and their success in matriculating through the program. In fact, over 98% of students admitted into the Graduate Program in Rehabilitation Counseling successfully graduate. Among this group, over 90% successfully pass the national certification examination. Thus, we are requesting that you strongly consider temporarily suspending the GRE for admission into the Rehabilitation Counseling Program.

University of Kentucky Senate Admissions and Academic Standards Committee

From: Senate Admissions and Academic Standards Committee (Joe Sottile (Chair), Janice Almasi, Todd Cheever, Christopher Feddock, Carl Lee, Alan Nadel, Glenn Telling, Zachary Fuqua)

To: Sheila Brothers, Office of the Senate Council

Date: February 2, 2010

The following proposal has been reviewed by the University Senate Admissions and Academic Standards Committee and was unanimously approved.

Proposal to temporarily suspend (for three years) the use of the GRE for admission into the Rehabilitation Counseling master's program

The following language has been provided by Sonja Feist-Price to (1) clarify the admission requirements during the three-year period and to (2) assess the impact of the GRE suspension on the program and students.

In lieu of the GRE requirement for admission into the Graduate Program in Rehabilitation Counseling, holistic admission standards are used to arrive at admissions decisions. Included are the following:

- Grade point average, with a minimum of 2.75
- Letters of recommendation from qualified professionals
- Writing abilities as per a writing sample completed during the interview
- Work history
- Career goals and objectives
- Personal interview

At the end of the 3-year GRE suspension period, we will make a comparative assessment of students' admission and matriculation prior to and subsequent to the GRE suspension to determine any adverse impact. Based on this review, we will decide to either remove or reinstate the GRE requirement.