



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

MEMORANDUM

To: Graduate Council

March 24, 2004

From: School of Public Health

Kentucky School  
of Public Health

121 Washington Avenue, Rm. 102  
Lexington, KY 40536-0003  
(859) 323-6010  
Fax: (859) 257-6644  
<http://www.mc.uky.edu/Kysph/>

Subject: Petition to Revise GRE Policy

The University of Kentucky School of Public Health asks that the Graduate Council consider the following proposed revisions to the Graduate Record Examination policy for admission to the Master of Public Health degree.

1. **That the GRE requirement be waived for MPH applicants who have completed an advanced degree program, e.g., Ph.D, M.D., D.M.D, Pharm.D., etc.** The MPH is a degree that is valued by many who hold terminal degrees, particularly those that are associated with health care delivery. As a result, a significant number of students (17% of 2003-2004 enrolment) in the degree program hold terminal degrees. In the four years of the MPH program, none of the students with terminal degrees have encountered an academic problem. In fact, none have earned a grade in any graduate course lower than a "B." This track record, as well as the significant accomplishment of completing a demanding research/professional degree program, provides an admissions indicator that is as reliable as a standardized test score, thus the basis for our request.
2. **That the results of an alternate standardized test score (MCAT) be used for MPH applicants who are considered for the existing MD/MPH combined degree program and for potential future combined degree programs that include professional degrees, e.g., DAT, PCAT, LSAT, etc.** Combined degree applicants not only have already been through a rigorous academic screening process, but are required to submit scores from a standardized test that assesses approximately the same skills (verbal, quantitative, analytical reasoning) that are emphasized by the GRE. Several other schools of public health permit the substitution of alternative test results. Included among those who permit substitution scores for combined degree applicants are the University of California at Los Angeles, University of South Carolina, University of Michigan, and Ohio State University. These alternate test scores will be utilized for combined degree candidates only.

We believe these revisions will strengthen our competitive position with other schools of public health and will contribute to an increased interest from health and research professionals and in our combined degree program. We appreciate the Graduate Council's consideration of these revisions to admissions requirements for the Master of Public Health program.

T. Scott Prince, M.D., M.S.P.H.  
Director of Graduate Studies

Thomas W. Samuel, J.D., M.B.A.  
Interim Director, School of Public Health

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