

Title: Changing GRE/GMAT test score requirements for Graduate School admission

Rationale: GRE/GMAT test scores are required for Graduate School admissions unless a program has specifically dropped them. As of last spring, only 25% of graduate programs still required GRE/GMAT scores. This proposal removes the GRE/GMAT requirement generally while allowing individual program to maintain this as a requirement for admissions.

General Description: At the March 2022 DGS meeting, we presented data on the numbers of programs that have dropped vs still require the GRE/GMAT tests for admission, along with research results on score biases and other barriers such as test expense. We polled DGS about removing the GRE/GMAT requirement and received votes of 5:1 in favor, as long as programs that did find the test scores useful could still require them. We presented this to Senate Council in April 2022 and received endorsement to move ahead with proposed language changes.

The proposed timeline is that for Fall 2024 admissions (applications submitted starting Fall 2023), GRE requirements will not be generally required. Programs that require GRE/GMAT scores as of May 1, 2023, will maintain that requirement until they petition otherwise. Communication around this deadline will take place early 2023 to give program faculty time to consider whether to maintain or drop the GRE/GMAT requirement. This will give sufficient time for website, Bulletin and application platform updates.

Reviewing Body: Graduate Council voted unanimously to approve the proposed modified Senate Rules language about GRE/GMAT scores for admission on 11/10/22.

Senate rules changes: Senate Rules 4.2.2.1.1 Graduate School Admission Requirements.

4.2.2 GRADUATE SCHOOL (from p 122 – 125 from Senate Rules August 2022_clean.pdf)

4.2.2.1 Regular Graduate Student Admission

4.2.2.1.1 Admission requirements

Students applying for regular admission to the University of Kentucky Graduate School must meet all of the following requirements, except where otherwise provided under SR 4.2.2.2.

1. hold a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution of higher learning.
2. an undergraduate grade point standing of at least 2.75 on a 4.0 scale,
3. a graduate grade point standing (if applicable) of at least 3.0 on a ~~basis of~~ 4.0 scale, on all graduate work.
4. only if a program requires them (see SR 4.2.2.2.3 below), submission of scores on the verbal, quantitative and analytical portions of the aptitude section of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or scores from the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT). The advanced portion of the GRE may be required by individual programs.
5. has been accepted by the graduate program to which the individual has applied.

[US: 4/21/52; 10/10/74; 2/12/79; 10/12/98]

4.2.2.1.2 Transfer of course credit hours

Upon request of the DGS, a total of 9 hours (or 25% of regular course degree requirements) may be transferred into a master's degree program. [US: 04/11/83]

4.2.2.2 Exceptions to regular graduate admission requirements

4.2.2.2.1 ~~International applicants~~

International applicants are required to have (1) a completed baccalaureate degree (see SR 4.2.2.2.2) and (2) ~~the internet-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) for all applicants whose native language is not English. Applicants may also utilize the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) to satisfy the language requirement [US: 4/41/52; 11/12/18; 4/6/20] demonstrate English proficiency. One of the following methods can be used to demonstrate this proficiency:~~

~~-An awarded degree from a fully accredited US institution (bachelors, masters or doctoral degree)~~

~~-Official, valid scores from an English Language Proficiency Test approved by Graduate Council, sent directly to the University of Kentucky Graduate School.~~

~~-Statement on the official transcript or an attestation letter sent directly from the registrar of the degree-granting institution confirming that English was the language of instruction~~

4.2.2.2.2 Cooperative education arrangements

In the case of students applying for admission to the Graduate School under the auspices of an approved, in-force cooperative education agreement with a US or international partner institution, the requirement of having a completed baccalaureate degree may be temporarily waived for up to 12

Commented [PML1]: Proposed changes to this section were approved by Graduate Council and submitted separately for consideration.

Commented [PML2]: Propose oversight to Graduate Council and not to put the testing details into the Senate Rules as the testing landscape has been changing and the Graduate School has been monitoring and evaluating the testing options.

months from the date of enrollment, or the number of months stated in the cooperative agreement; no graduate degree will be awarded until a bachelor's degree from a accredited institution of higher learning has been awarded. Such cooperative education agreements shall consider the following criteria regarding the potential benefit for UK and the US or international partner institution: congruence with the academic, research, service priorities, and plans of the University of Kentucky as well as the Department and College proposing the agreement; congruence with the University of Kentucky's mission; anticipated benefits to students, faculty members, the University of Kentucky, and university stakeholders; evidence of institutional quality including, for example, reputation, international/national ranking, and accreditation status. [US: 11/12/2018]

The Provost's Office shall ensure that approval procedures for cooperative education agreements, including approval by the faculty of the affected degree program(s), are created, maintained, and published in accordance with the considerations listed above. Biennially, a representative from the Provost's Office shall prepare a report to the Senate Admissions and Academic Standards Committee (SAASC) on new cooperative education agreements and how they are in compliance with the criteria identified in this section of the Senate Rules. [US: 11/12/2018]

4.2.2.2.3 ~~Exceptions to GRE/GMAT requirement~~

~~1. For Fall 2024 admissions and beyond, GRE/GMAT scores are not required for admission to the Graduate School. However, individual programs that find these scores useful for their admission decisions may maintain GRE/GMAT scores as a requirement for their program. All programs that require GRE/GMAT scores as of May 1, 2023 will maintain this requirement. Individual Exception to GRE Requirement. The requirement for submission of GRE scores may be waived in individual cases upon recommendation of the Director of Graduate Studies in the individual department or program. However, in cases where waivers are granted, the GRE scores must be submitted before the end of the first semester of graduate study. The advanced portion of the GRE may be required by individual programs. A student with a grade point average of less than 2.75, or a graduate of a non-accredited institution, may be admitted or provisionally admitted, only after the (GRE) and other evidence acceptable to the program and the Dean of the Graduate School is submitted indicating that the student is capable of doing satisfactory graduate work. Individual programs may establish higher requirements. [US: 10/12/98]~~

~~2. Programs that do not require the GRE for admissions may petition to add this as a requirement through a petition from the graduate program faculty, that is transmitted from DGS to the Graduate Council, through the Dean of the Graduate School. For such a petition to be successful, the program must show that the GRE would be useful in its admissions process.~~

~~3. Programs that maintain the GRE as an admission requirement (as above) may remove this requirement through a petition from the graduate program faculty, that is transmitted from DGS to the Graduate Council, through the Dean of the Graduate School. For such a petition to be successful, the program must show that the GRE is not useful in its admissions process. Program Exception to GRE Requirement. A graduate program faculty may petition the Graduate Council to allow its applicants to substitute another standardized exam for the GRE. A graduate program faculty may also petition the Graduate Council to exempt all of its applicants from the requirement to submit GRE scores; for such a petition to be successful, the program must show that the GRE is not useful in its admissions process. Either type of petition must be transmitted by the Dean of the College in which the program resides to~~

~~the Graduate Council. The Graduate School will continue to require GRE scores for all Graduate School fellowship applications. [US: 2/9/04]~~

4.2.2.2.4 Conditional graduate student admissions

[US: 04/21/52; US: 02/12/79; US: 02/14/05]

A student who wishes to pursue a higher degree, but who, for one or more of the reasons listed below, is temporarily ineligible for regular admission status may be recommended by the Director of Graduate Studies as a conditional student:

A. Both domestic and international students may be admitted “conditionally” ~~for:~~

1. ~~Until R~~receipt of a final undergraduate transcript showing an awarded Bachelor’s degree.
2. ~~Until R~~receipt of official GRE/GMAT scores ~~for programs that have this as an admission requirement. (upon the recommendation of the Director of Graduate Studies).~~
3. ~~Until a student with a grade point average of less than 2.75, or a graduate of a non-accredited institution, provides evidence acceptable to the program and the Dean of the Graduate School indicating that the student is capable of doing satisfactory graduate work. Individual programs may establish higher requirements. [US: 10/12/98]~~

These requirements will be monitored by the Graduate School and must be met prior to the date set for priority registration during the first semester of enrollment. Students will not be allowed to priority register if these requirements are not met. (The specific registration dates for their semester of entry and the consequences of failure to meet these requirements will be *clearly* spelled out in their acceptance letter).

B. Programs will have the option to recommend that both domestic and international students will be admitted “conditionally” for:

1. Deficiencies determined by the programs, such as taking specific required undergraduate courses
2. Review by the program upon completion of a specified number of hours of coursework.

Approval to proceed with the doctoral qualifying examination or the master’s final examination will not be granted to students remaining in conditional status.

C. Graduating Seniors/Part-time Graduate Students

Graduating University of Kentucky seniors lacking no more than six hours for graduation, but who otherwise meet admission requirements, may be admitted into the Graduate School in “conditional status.” In this case, the consent of the college dean and the Dean of the Graduate School and the approval of the Director of Graduate Studies are necessary. Such students may take no more than 12 credit hours and must complete the undergraduate degree during the semester in which they enroll in the conditional status. (See also SR 4.2.2.2.6)

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