

## REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO THE UNIVERSITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The following proposal below was approved by Graduate Council at the 03/08/2012 meeting:

### PROPOSAL:

Applicants to the University Scholars program are EXEMPTED from the requirement to submit GRE (GMAT) scores. Each scholars program will have the option to opt out of this policy.

### RATIONALE:

The University Scholars Program offers undergraduate students with superior academic credentials the opportunity and the challenge of integrating their undergraduate and graduate courses of study in a single continuous program, culminating in both a baccalaureate degree and a master's or doctoral degree. The primary advantage of this track is that the total number of credit hours completed for the combined program may be 12 less than the total required for both the bachelor's and master's or doctoral degrees (the requirements for the bachelor's degree are unchanged).

Currently, applicants to the University Scholars Program must meet the following criteria:

- An application to the program should be submitted at the end of the student's junior year.
- Applicants must have completed at least 90 credit hours of work toward the bachelor's degree, or be eligible for senior standing in the semester they are admitted to the program.
- The master's/doctoral program should be in the field of the undergraduate major (there are select program pairings where this is not a requirement; such pairings require Graduate Council approval).
- The undergraduate grade point average must be at least **3.50** in the applicant's major field and **3.20** overall.
- Applicants must submit official GRE scores.

We contend that the GRE requirement is unnecessary and likely deters otherwise well-qualified University Scholar candidates from applying to the program, since 1) the high GPA required for scholars eligibility (3.5 in the major) is a better indicator of the students academic ability 2) faculty members within the program have had an extended first-hand opportunity to assess student's preparedness for graduate work and 3) on many occasions, students are admitted to the University Scholars program *conditional for* GRE scores (indicating that these scores are not a factor in the admission decision).

Graduate Council      3/8/12      Brian Jackson

## Brothers, Sheila C

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**From:** Jackson, Brian A  
**Sent:** Friday, December 28, 2012 10:24 AM  
**To:** Jones, Davy; Brothers, Sheila C  
**Cc:** Ellis, Janie; Blackwell, Jeannine  
**Subject:** RE: Proposed Change to University Scholars Pgm Admissions Requirements

### **4.2.5.4 Combined Bachelor's/Master's or Doctoral Degree Program--University Scholars** [US: 12/8/08]

#### **A. Admissions**

Applications to the University Scholars' Program will follow current procedures and rules for admission to the Graduate School with the following additions: [US: 4/14/97]

1. The program is open to undergraduates with senior standing who have completed at least 90 hours of course work and should have satisfied all university studies requirements. Application to the program should be at the end of the student's junior year.
2. The master's or doctoral program should be in the field of the undergraduate major.
3. The undergraduate grade point average (UGPA) should be greater than or equal to 3.5 in the student's major and 3.2 overall.
4. Application to the program will follow the current procedures for application to the Graduate School, subject to the above conditions. Admission decisions will be made by the Graduate Dean or his/her appointee. (See Section 5.4.1.6 and 5.4.1.7.) [US: 9/13/82; US: 4/14/97]
5. Applicants are not required to submit GRE (GMAT) scores unless the departmental scholars program to which they are applying has received approval from the Graduate Council to retain the GRE (GMAT) requirement.