

TO: Lee Blonder, Chair of Senate Council

FROM: Jeannine Blackwell, Chair of Graduate Council

RE: Proposed change in policy for GRE admissions requirement

DATE: March 7, 2014

The Graduate Council has approved a proposed change to the university-wide requirement of GRE/GMAT scores for admission to the Graduate School. This proposal was introduced as a discussion item at Graduate Council in late fall, and circulated in draft form to all Directors of Graduate Schools and College Associate Deans of Research/Graduate Studies for comment. After incorporating suggestions and amendments from these stakeholders, the proposal was brought for discussion and final vote at Graduate Council on March 6, 2014.

We ask that University senate approve this change in admissions requirements for the Graduate School.

POLICY PROPOSAL: Change in the GRE/GMAT requirement for all programs under the Graduate School:

PROPOSAL

Currently, the Graduate School requires submission of GRE (or GMAT) scores for admission to all graduate programs. Programs wishing to waive this requirement must currently submit a detailed rationale to Graduate Council and if approved, the waiver must apply to all applicants to the program. We propose to modify this existing policy as follows:

The default policy will be that official GRE/GMAT scores are required for admission to the Graduate School. During each spring semester, the Graduate School will ask each program whether they wish to maintain this policy or whether they wish to eliminate the GRE or GMAT requirement either for ALL applicants OR only for specific cohorts, concentrations or specializations within the program.

RATIONALE

While the GRE remains a critical tool for admissions assessment for many graduate programs, there are others for which the GRE has not proven useful. Given the current Graduate School mandate, these programs ask consistently to postpone the GRE requirement until after the student is on campus, thus rendering it ineffective as an admission criterion. In some fields, competitors have already eliminated the GRE requirement, which puts our programs at a disadvantage in recruitment. Similarly, UK programs which attract working professionals or mature returning students with significant field experience, find the GRE to be a hindrance in recruitment and scores often do not predict student success.

The Graduate School would retain the GRE/GMAT requirement as a criterion for certain competitive scholarships and fellowships. Programs not requiring the GRE/GMAT may still submit individual nominations to these competitions if the student in question has taken the GRE/GMAT.