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MEMORANDUM

To: Julio Frenk
University President

From: Tomás A. Salerno
Chair, Faculty Senate

Date: May 4, 2018

Subject: Faculty Senate Legislation #2017-39 (B) – GRE Waiver Option for the Master of Science in Clinical and Translational Investigation Program (MSCTI), Miller School of Medicine

The Faculty Senate, at its April 18, 2018 meeting, had *no objections* to the proposal from the Miller School of Medicine to establish an option for applicants to the Master of Science (MS) in Clinical and Translational Investigation program to waive the GRE requirement if the applicant has earned a master's or higher degree from a regionally accredited domestic or international college or university and or has demonstrated evidence of readiness for the degree by having a bachelor's degree (or international equivalent) and has at least 5 years of work experience related to research in the sciences prior to applying to the program.

The Faculty Senate does not approve budget concepts; there were none noted in this proposal.

This legislation is sent to you for your action.


TAS/rh

Enclosure

cc: Jeffrey Duerk, Executive Vice President and Provost
Edward Abraham, Dean and Chief Academic Officer, Miller School of Medicine
Daru Ransford, Director, Business Operation, Miller School of Medicine

CAPSULE: Faculty Senate Legislation #2017-39 (B) – GRE Waiver Option for the Master of Science in Clinical and Translational Investigation Program (MSCTI), Miller School of Medicine

PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE

APPROVED:  DATE: 5/14/18
(President's Signature)

OFFICE OR INDIVIDUAL TO IMPLEMENT: Dean Edward Abraham

EFFECTIVE DATE OF LEGISLATION: IMMEDIATELY (Pending any additional required Board of Trustees approval)

NOT APPROVED AND REFERRED TO: _____

REMARKS (IF NOT APPROVED): _____



Proposal Submission Checklist

Proposals are to be submitted to the Office of Assessment and Accreditation (OAA), if applicable, the Graduate Council (for graduate programs excluding Law and Medical), if applicable, and the Faculty Senate. Refer to the Procedures for Program Changes document for information on the approvals and notifications needed for program changes and the Proposal Submissions Specifications document for an explanation of the process and a list of the materials required.

(Please note that change approvals can take 2 semesters to complete.)

Include this checklist at the beginning of each proposal.
(Complete the information below, save the form as a pdf, and insert it with the background materials that are specified, in the order listed, and send the package electronically as noted above.)

KEY CONTACT PERSONNEL INFORMATION

First Name

Daru

Last Name

Ransford

Proponent's Title

Director, Business Operations

Department, if applicable

CTSI

School/College

Miller School of Medicine

E-mail

dransford@med.miami.edu

Phone

305-243-3733

Title of Proposal

GRE Waiver Option for the Master of Science in Clinical and Translational Investigation (MSCTI) Program

(-continue to next page-)

MANDATORY MEMORANDA AND FORMAT

Please check that each item listed below is included in the proposal package of materials, in the ORDER as listed. The applicable title (i.e. Letter of Explanation, Memo from the Dean, etc.) is to precede each section in the materials.

Only proposals conforming to this format will be accepted.

1. This completed checklist.

2. Letter of explanation. (2-3 pages only, double spaced, 12 pt font)

Yes No

If no, explain why.

3. A memo from the dean(s) signifying approval of the faculty of the relevant School(s) / Colleges(s).

Yes No

If no, explain why.

4. A memo that all affected or relevant School / College Council(s) have approved.

Yes No

If no, explain why.

5. A memo from the department chair(s) signifying approval of the faculty of the relevant department(s).

Yes No

If no, explain why.

6. A memo from the Office of Accreditation and Assessment (OAA) if the proposal involves academic programs (degrees, certificates, majors, minors, concentrations, specializations, tracks, etc.) such as new programs, closing programs, or program changes (such as changes in requirements, program length, modality, name, location).

(To be submitted by OAA to the Graduate Council or the Faculty Senate, as appropriate.)

Applicable Not applicable.

If not, explain why.

7. A memo from the Graduate School Dean signifying approval of the Graduate Council (for graduate programs only).

(To be submitted to the Faculty Senate by the Graduate Council.)

Applicable Not applicable.

If not, explain why.

8. Academic Deans Policy Council (ADPC) approval, for interdisciplinary issues and as appropriate. Please consult with the Dean of the Graduate School or the Secretary of the Faculty Senate to check if this is needed.

Yes No

If no, explain why.

This is a GRE waiver modification request.

9. Additional required documents as listed on the "Proposal Submissions Specifications," i.e. market analysis, budget information, assessment of library collections, etc. as specified.

List additional documents included.

End form.

Senate Notification:

GRE Waiver Option for the Master of Science in Clinical and Translational Investigation (MSCTI) Program

MSCTI Contact: Daru Ransford
 Director, Business Operations
 Clinical and Translational Science Institute
 dransford@med.miami.edu

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Date: February 12, 2018

To: Faculty Senate
From: Daru Ransford

RE: GRE Waiver Option for the Master of Science in Clinical and Translational Investigation (MSCTI) Program

The MSCTI Faculty have approved the implementation of a GRE waiver for qualified applicants to the MSCTI degree program. The waiver may be allowed if an applicant has earned a master's degree or higher from a regionally accredited domestic or international college or university or has demonstrated evidence of readiness for the degree by having a bachelor's degree (or international equivalent) and have at 5+ years of work experience related to research in the sciences prior to applying for the program.

Applicants to the MSCTI program represent a niche of individuals who often have earned advanced degrees or gained significant (5+) years of experience with biomedical sciences and who wish to obtain formalized training in the skills of clinical and translational investigation. Because many of our prospective students each term demonstrate previous experience and/or training in the sciences related to research, we believe the GRE requirement has not been a suitable tool for the evaluation of our applicants' admission into and success throughout our program. Additionally, the GRE requirement for applicants who have already obtained an advanced degree in health sciences, medical degree, or foreign equivalent has been a barrier to application.

Proposed Changes:

Applicants for the MSCTI Degree program must meet criteria 1 or 2 below. In addition all applicants must meet criteria 3 below:

1. Applicants may submit one of the following standardized test scores: GRE or MCAT

OR

2. Applicants who have not taken the GRE or other U.S. standardized test will need to submit one or more of the following as evidence of academic experience and training:

- An earned master's degree or higher from a regionally accredited domestic or international college or university.
- Demonstrated evidence of readiness for the degree by having a Bachelor's degree (or international equivalent) and having at least five years of clinical research work experience.

AND

3. International students whose native language is not English must provide official results of the Test of English as a Second Language (TOEFL). If an international applicant's native language is English, or he/she has completed a college/university degree where English was the language of

instruction, an applicant may request a waiver of the TOEFL. Additionally, the following will be considered as evidence of English proficiency and would support a waiver of the TOEFL:

- Have studied in an English-speaking country for at least one year or the equivalent of 30 consecutive credits.
- Passed any of the United States Medical Licensing Exams (USMLE)
- Satisfactorily completed an interview with MSCTI program staff to assess English proficiency.

The implementation of a GRE waiver is not unique to the MSCTI program. Graduate admissions test waivers are currently provided for programs within the following schools: School of Business Administration, School of Nursing and Health Studies, Frost School of Music, Department of Public Health Sciences, as well as the Department of Teaching and Learning and the Department of Educational and Psychological Studies in the School of Education and Human Development.


MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 1, 2018

TO: Tomas Salerno, MD
Chair, Faculty Senate

FROM: Edward Abraham, MD
Executive Vice President for Health Affairs
CEO, UHealth System
Dean and Chief Academic Officer, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

SUBJECT: GRE Waiver for MS in Clinical and Translational Investigation (MSCTI)



The Master of Science in Clinical and Translational Investigation (MSCTI) directors are seeking approval for a GRE waiver of qualified applicants to the MSCTI program. The MSCTI program trains individuals in the fundamentals of clinical and translational research and engages students in research. Graduates of this program are better equipped to conduct research and publish more independently, thereby enhancing the research being conducted at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine.

The mission of the Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine is to lead life-changing discoveries to transform patient care through innovative research and educate the next generation of medical leaders. As Dean and Chief Academic Officer of the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, I support the MSCTI program's request for a GRE waiver as a way to facilitate recruitment of high-caliber individuals looking to pursue or further their careers in clinical and translational research and thereby help advance the MSOM's mission.

Edward Abraham, M.D.
Executive Vice President for Health Affairs
Chief Executive Officer, UHealth
Dean and Chief Academic Officer
University of Miami, Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine
Don Soffer Clinical Research Center (DSCRC) | 1120 NW 14th Street | Suite 360R (R95)
Miami, FL 33136 | Tel: (305) 243-5677 | Fax: (305) 243-1698



UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
**MILLER SCHOOL
of MEDICINE**

February 28, 2018

Tomas Salerno, M.D.
Chair, Faculty Senate
University of Miami
Ashe Building, Suite #325
252 Memorial Drive
Coral Gables, FL 33146

Re: Council Approved a Proposal to Waive the Entrance Exam for the Masters In Clinical & Translational Investigation Program (MSCTI).

Dear Dr. Tomas Salerno,

This is to inform the Faculty Senate that the Medical School Faculty Council met on February 27th, 2018 to review the Proposal to waive the entrance exam for the Master in Clinical & Translational Investigation Program (MSCTI).

The council members voted to *approve* the proposal.

Respectfully submitted,


Sanjoy K. Bhattacharya, M. Tech, Ph.D.
Speaker, Medical Faculty Council



MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 20, 2018

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Ralph L. Sacco, MD, MS, FAHA, FAAN 
Professor and Olemberg Chair of Neurology
Senior Associate Dean for Clinical & Translational Science
Executive Director McKnight Brain Institute
Director & Principal Investigator, Miami Clinical and Translational Science Institute
Chief of Neurology Jackson Memorial Hospital
University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine
President, American Academy of Neurology 2017-19

SUBJECT: GRE Waiver for MS in Clinical and Translational Investigation (MSCTI)

This memo serves as official approval that I support the proposal to waive the GRE admission requirement for applicants to the MS in Clinical and Translational Investigation (MSCTI). The University of Miami Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) oversees and manages the MSCTI. As Director and Principal Investigator of the CTSI, I am responsible for encouraging the specific aims of the CTSI, one of which is to provide education, training, career development, and mentoring to enhance research excellence in our clinical and translational (C/T) research workforce.

I strongly support this request because the MSCTI Program provides formalized clinical and translational research training and contributes to the career development and enhancement of UM's C/T research workforce. The program provides the foundation for the development of future clinician scientists and leaders in translational science who are prepared to navigate bottlenecks that inhibit translational research. The GRE waiver would better facilitate recruitment of talented individuals with a background and/or interest in the health/biomedical sciences to help advance the CTSI's mission and aims.

This memo is a formal documentation of my approval of the MSCTI's GRE waiver request.



March 6, 2018

Tomas Salerno, M.D.
Chair, Faculty Senate
University of Miami
Ashe Building, Suite #325
252 Memorial Drive
Coral Gables, FL 33146

Dear Dr. Salerno,

As the Director of the MS in Clinical and Translational Investigation (MSCTI) Program, I am requesting the implementation of a GRE waiver for applicants of this program who meet the newly-proposed required criteria (**bolded below**), as well as the use of the USMLE exam as a waiver for the TOEFL requirement.

The GRE entrance exam has become a barrier for recruitment of applicants who could otherwise be a great fit for our program. The MSCTI traditionally receives applications from individuals who are not conventional master's students and the GRE entrance exam is not a suitable indicator to assess a candidate's success in our program. The approval of the GRE waiver will allow the MSCTI program to facilitate recruitment and allow qualified individuals to enhance their clinical and translational research careers.

Our applicants are looking to obtain a more formalized training to begin or sharpen their clinical and translational research skills. Prior applicants generally include those who 1) have already completed a master's or terminal degree, 2) are current MD students, and/or 3) professionals who are looking to further advance their clinical and translational research careers. Applicants who would benefit from the GRE waiver are those who have already entered the health/biomedical sciences and have terminal degrees, working on their MD, or possess enough clinical research experience to satisfy the requirements.

The USMLE is a medical exam administered in English that rigorously tests students' clinical knowledge and capability to conduct examinations on patients. Passing this exam indicates that a student has the ability to communicate in English with clarity as well as empathy. Because many of our applicants are foreign medical graduates, the USMLE is a suitable tool in determining a student's English proficiency for the clinical and translational applications in the MSCTI Program.



Proposed Changes:

Applicants for the MSCTI Degree program must meet criteria 1 or 2 below. In addition all applicants must meet criteria 3 below:

1. Applicants may submit one of the following standardized test scores: **GRE or MCAT**

OR

2. Applicants who have not taken the GRE or other U.S. standardized test will need to submit one or more of the following as evidence of academic experience and training:

- An earned master's degree or higher from a regionally accredited domestic or international college or university.
- **Demonstrated evidence of readiness for the degree by having a Bachelor's degree (or international equivalent) and having at least five years of clinical research work experience.**

AND

3. International students whose native language is not English must provide official results of the Test of English as a Second Language (TOEFL). If an international applicant's native language is English, or he/she has completed a college/university degree where English was the language of instruction, an applicant may request a waiver of the TOEFL. Additionally, the following will be considered as evidence of English proficiency and would support a waiver of the TOEFL:

- Have studied in an English-speaking country for at least one year or the equivalent of 30 consecutive credits.
- **Passed any of the United States Medical Licensing Exams (USMLE)**
- Satisfactorily completed an interview with MSCTI program staff to assess English proficiency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tatjana Rundek'.


Tatjana Rundek, MD, PhD
Professor of Neurology and Public Health Sciences
Vice Chair, Clinical Translational Research in Neurology
Director, Clinical Translational Research Division, Department of Neurology
Director, Master of Science in Clinical and Translational Investigation
Scientific Director, McKnight Brain Institute



MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 20, 2018

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Barry Hudson, PhD 
Assistant Professor of Cell Biology and Medicine
Co-Director, Master of Science in Clinical and Translational Investigation

SUBJECT: GRE Waiver for MS in Clinical and Translational Investigation (MSCTI)

This memo serves as my official approval to waive the GRE admission requirement for applicants to the MS in Clinical and Translational Investigation (MSCTI) that meet the proposed required criteria. Additionally, I am providing my official approval for the use of the USMLE exam as means to waive the TOEFL requirement.

Students who apply to this program are highly-qualified, seasoned professionals and many of them have already obtained postgraduate and/or terminal degrees before applying to this MS. Because of the high aptitude of the individuals applying to the MSCTI, I support the request for a GRE blanket waiver for those students who meet the requirements mentioned in the proposal that was approved by the Graduate Council. The GRE waiver would allow us to more easily recruit applicants and ultimately admit higher-caliber students who already possess relevant work experience and/or who have advanced degrees.


Utilizing the USMLE as a waiver for the TOEFL requirement will allow our program to consider many of our applicants who are foreign medical graduates. The exam tests individuals' capability to conduct physical exams on and converse with patients in English. Individuals who pass the USMLE must possess English skills to successfully communicate complex concepts with patients as well as communicate with compassion and understanding. The exam will be a useful benchmark to determining a student's English proficiency for training and mastery of the clinical and translational research skills the MSCTI program will provide.



MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 16, 2018

TO: Daru Ransford, Director of Business Operations
Clinical and Translational Science Institute
Miller School of Medicine

FROM: Patty Murphy, Executive Director
Office of Assessment and Accreditation 

RE: GRE Waiver Option for MS in Clinical and Translational Investigation Program

On February 14, 2018, the Miller School of Medicine notified my office of its intent to establish an option for applicants to the Master of Science (MS) in Clinical and Translational Investigation program to waive the GRE requirement if the applicant has earned a master's or higher degree from a regionally accredited domestic or international university and five or more years of work experience related to research in the sciences.

The proposed change is being made because the GRE is not a good predictor of student success in the program for students who already have a degree and professional research experience in the biomedical sciences prior to entering the program and can serve as a barrier to recruitment. No other changes are being made to the program. Consequently, this proposed change does not "represent a significant departure, either in content or in method of delivery" from what we are currently approved by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to offer. SACSCOC only requires notification of program changes that represent a significant departure from our current programs. Therefore, no notification or approval is required for this change.

Please contact me if you have any questions at pattymurphy@miami.edu or (305) 284-3276.

CC: Faculty Senate
Guillermo Prado, Dean of the Graduate School
Edward Abraham, Dean of the Miller School of Medicine
Nikhita Allam, Research Analyst, Clinical and Translational Science Institute
Karen Beckett, University Registrar
Ray Nault, Executive Director of Student Financial Assistance and Employment

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI


GRADUATE SCHOOL



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graduateschool@miami.edu

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 30, 2017
TO: Tomas Salerno
Chair, Faculty Senate
FROM: Guillermo Prado 
Dean, The Graduate School
SUBJECT: GRE Waiver for the MSCTI

The Clinical and Translational Investigation program in the Miller School of Medicine submitted a request to waive the GRE scores for students applying to the Master of Science in Clinical and Translational Investigation (MSCTI). The request was discussed at the meeting of the Graduate Council on Tuesday, October 17, 2017, and none of the Graduate Council members expressed any concerns.

cc: Edward Abraham, Dean, Miller School of Medicine
Zafar Nawaz, Senior Associate Dean, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
Tatjana Rundek, Vice-Chair, Clinical and Translational Research
Office of Planning, Institutional Research and Assessment