



MEMORANDUM - REVISED

To: Julio Frenk
University President

From: Linda L. Neider 
Chair, Faculty Senate

Date: February 3, 2020

Subject: Faculty Senate Legislation #2019-47(B) – Removal of the Standardized Entrance Exam Requirement for Entry into Graduate School Programs – Graduate School

The Faculty Senate, at its January 29, 2020 meeting, approved by majority with one abstention, the Graduate School's removal of the standardized entrance exam requirement for entry into graduate school at the University of Miami. Individual programs may require these exams but it is no longer required by the Graduate School. This change is in response to national trends in graduate school entrance requirements and is comparable to practices at peer institutions. This change will be monitored after three years to see what its effects are and then monitored again after another five years after approval.

The proposal is enclosed for your reference.

This legislation is now forwarded to you for your action.

LLN/ss/rh

cc: Jeffrey Duerk, Executive Vice President and Provost
Guillermo Prado, Dean, Graduate School
All Academic Deans

CAPSULE: Faculty Senate Legislation #2019-47(B) – Removal of the Standardized Entrance Exam Requirement for Entry into Graduate School Programs – Graduate School

PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE

APPROVED:  DATE: 02/21/20
(President's Signature)

OFFICE OR INDIVIDUAL TO IMPLEMENT: Guillermo Prado, Dean, Graduate School

EFFECTIVE DATE OF LEGISLATION: IMMEDIATELY
(if other than June 1 next following)

NOT APPROVED AND REFERRED TO: _____

REMARKS (IF NOT APPROVED): _____



UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

Proposal Submission Checklist

Proposals are to be submitted to the Office of Assessment and Accreditation (OAA), the Graduate Council (for graduate programs excluding Law and Medical), OR the University Curriculum Committee (for undergraduate programs) 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.)

FORM INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Save/download the form as a pdf.
2. After completing the information below, print and scan the form.
3. Insert it with the background materials that are specified, in the order listed, and submit to facsen@miami.edu.

Please note: only scanned versions can be accepted.

Include this checklist at the beginning of each proposal.

KEY CONTACT PERSONNEL INFORMATION

First Name	Last Name	Proponent's Title
Willy	Prado	Dean
Department, if applicable	School/College	
	The Graduate School	
E-mail	Phone	
gprado@med.miami.edu	(305) 284-4154	
Title of Proposal		
Removal of the Standardized Entrance Exam Requirement for Entry to Graduate School at the University of Miami		

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:

Not applicable as this is a policy change initiated by the Graduate School that impacts all graduate programs.

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

Yes No

If no, explain why:

Not applicable as this is a policy change initiated by the Graduate School that impacts all graduate programs.

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

Yes No

If no, explain why:

Not applicable

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).

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) OR the University Curriculum Committee (for undergraduate programs only) recommendation form.

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:

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:

Not applicable. Policy change.

End form.

**Removal of the Standardized Entrance Exam Requirement for Entry to
Graduate School at the University of Miami**

Guillermo "Willy" Prado, Ph.D., Dean, Graduate School

The Graduate School proposes removing the standardized entrance exam requirement (GRE and GMAT), for master's and doctoral programs at the University of Miami effective Summer 2020. This would not apply to the M.D. program or programs in the School of Law at the University of Miami. Individual schools/colleges, departments, and programs can decide, however, to require entrance exam scores for admission to their respective degree programs. If a school/college, department, or program decides to retain the standardized entrance exam, they must apply this requirement equitably to all applicants seeking admission to that program.

This proposal follows national trends in changes to graduate school entrance requirements, a movement called GRExit. Research studies show that the GRE test fails to predict student success and degree completion and that requiring such standardized exams can limit students from underrepresented groups access to graduate education (Miller and Stassun 2014; Moneta-Koehler et al. 2017; Petersen et al. 2018; Langin 2019; Miller et al. 2019).

In recent times, many institutions have removed graduate entrance exam requirements for some of their graduate programs. Below is a representative list of such institutions.

- Boston University
- Brown University
- Emory University
- Harvard University
- New York University
- Princeton University
- University of Florida
- University of Michigan
- University of Pennsylvania
- Vanderbilt University

At the University of Miami, six graduate programs over the past three years have sought and received approval for removal of the entrance exam requirement, and several programs are currently in the process of putting together such entrance exam removal proposals. The benefits to the applicant of removing the entrance exam requirement are that it saves the applicant money and time, which are barriers to admission. The benefit to the program is that the program no longer needs to request individual exam waivers, which will save time and effort. The benefit to the Graduate School (and to graduate programs and students) is that it will streamline and speed up the degree clearance process. Finally, the benefits to the University are that there no longer would be a need for individual exam removal proposals to go through the approval process of the Graduate Council, General Welfare Committee, Faculty Senate, etc. Furthermore, we expect that our applicant pool will increase not only in number but also in diversity.

As a result of this proposed exam requirement removal, programs will be required to complete a holistic review of their applicants to ensure we continue to admit quality students. Below is a listing of some factors that we suggest admissions committees examine as part of their holistic review:

- Interviews
- Transcripts
- Institutions attended
- CV/Resume
- Personal statement
- Writing sample
- Recommendation letters
- Leadership experience
- Professional experience
- Research experience
- Examples of intellectual independence, motivation, resilience, commitment

If this proposal is approved, the Graduate School will reexamine the impact of this legislation three years and five years from approval. We will gather data on the quality of students (e.g., GPA, job placement, graduation rates, discipline-specific indicators) and diversity of students to ensure that neither have been negatively impacted by the removal of the standardized entrance exam.

References

Langin, K. (2019) Ph.D. programs drop standardized exam. *Science* 31: Vol. 364, Issue 6443, pp. 816.

Miller, C., and Stassun, K. (2014) A test that fails. *Nature* Vol. 510, pp. 303-304.

Miller, C.W., Zwickl, B.M., Posselt, J.R., Silvestrini, R.T., and Hodapp T. (2019). Typical physics Ph.D. admissions criteria limit access to underrepresented groups but fail to predict doctoral completion. *Science Advances* 5 (1).

Moneta-Koehler L., Brown A.M., Petrie K.A., Evans B.J., Chalkley R. (2017) The Limitations of the GRE in Predicting Success in Biomedical Graduate School. *PLoS ONE* 12 (1).

Petersen S.L., Erenrich E.S., Levine D.L., Vigoreaux J., Gile K. (2018) Multi-institutional study of GRE scores as predictors of STEM PhD degree completion: GRE gets a low mark. *PLoS ONE* 13 (10).

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI



Assessment and Accreditation
Gables One Tower 1320 S. Dixie Hwy
Coral Gables, Florida 33146

Phone: 305-284-5120
Fax: 305-284-4929
oaa.miami.edu

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 6, 2020

TO: Guillermo Prado, Dean of the Graduate School

FROM: Patty Murphy, Associate Provost for University Accreditation
Office of Assessment and Accreditation

RE: Removal of the Standardized Entrance Exam Requirement

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'PBM', is written over the 'FROM' field.

On December 20, 2019, the Graduate School notified my office of its intent to remove the standardized entrance exam requirement for entry into the Graduate School programs effective Summer 2020. Individual programs may choose to require these exams but it is no longer required by the Graduate School. This change is being proposed in response to national trends in graduate school entrance requirements and is comparable to practices at peer institutions.

The proposed change does not require notification to or approval from SACSCOC because it conforms to commonly accepted admission practices at peer institutions.

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

cc: Faculty Senate
Tiffany Plantan, Graduate School
Karen Beckett, University Registrar
Carrie Glass, Executive Director of Student Financial Assistance and Employment

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
GRADUATE SCHOOL



Graduate School
P.O. Box 248125
Coral Gables, FL 33124-3220

Phone: 305-284-4154
Fax: 305-284-5441
graduateschool@miami.edu

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 7, 2020

TO: Linda Neider
Chair, Faculty Senate

FROM: Guillermo (Willy) Prado *Guillermo Prado*
Dean, Graduate School

SUBJECT: Proposal – Removal of the Standardized Entrance Exam Requirement for Entry to Graduate School at the University of Miami

The Graduate School submitted a proposal to remove the standardized entrance exam requirement for entry to Graduate School (both masters and doctoral programs) at the University of Miami. The proposal was discussed at the meeting of the Graduate Council on Tuesday, November 19, 2019. The proposal was approved.

CC: Tiffany Plantani, Director of Education, Graduate School
Patty Murphy, Associate Provost for University Accreditation, Office of Assessment and Accreditation

UNIVERSITY
OF MIAMI



Jeffrey L. Duerk, Ph.D.
Executive Vice President & Provost


P.O. Box 248033
Coral Gables, Florida 33124-4628

Ph: 305-284-3356
Fax: 305-284-6758
duerk@miami.edu

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 6, 2019

TO: Linda Neider, Ph.D.
Chair, Faculty Senate

FROM: Jeffrey Duerk, Ph.D.
Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs 

SUBJECT: Graduate School's proposal to remove standardized entrance exam requirements for entry to Graduate School at the University of Miami

On November 12, 2019, the Academic Deans' Policy Committee unanimously approved the proposal for the Graduate School to remove the standardized entrance exam requirement (GRE and GMAT) for master's and doctoral programs at the University of Miami effective Summer 2020. Individual academic units can decide to require entrance exam scores for admission to their respective programs.

Please feel free to contact my office if you have any questions. Thank you.

cc: Guillermo Prado, Ph.D.
Dean, Graduate School