

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deans, Associate Deans, Chairs, Graduate Advisors

FROM: Philip Cohen, Dean, Graduate School

RE: GRE Waiver/Advanced Admission for Non-UTA Honors College Graduates

DATE: 12 January 2005

cc: Dana Dunn, Vice President and Provost; Office of Graduate Studies Staff

At its 11 November 2004 meeting, the Graduate Assembly approved the following proposal to waive GRE or GMAT requirements and facilitate the admission of non-UTA graduates of regional honors colleges and programs to UTA graduate programs. The Graduate Assembly felt that students completing honors degrees are a talented and well-trained group of students who have been carefully mentored and prepared for graduate study. Because such students are highly sought-after by graduate programs, the Graduate Assembly felt that we should encourage them to apply to our graduate programs by offering a special incentive. Graduate programs choosing to take advantage of this opportunity may use a process similar to the advanced admission option we use to fast-track applications from our own outstanding undergraduates. The following elements comprise the details of this proposal, which is effective immediately, and will go into the Graduate Catalog. Please notify your graduate faculty of this change. For more information on the application process, please contact Janet Wehner (Wehner@uta.edu) in the Office of Graduate Studies.

1. The GRE or GMAT waiver/Advanced admission option will be made available to honors graduates of institutional members of the Great Plains Honors Council (<http://www.acu.edu/sponsored/gphc.html>), which serves honors colleges and programs in Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Texas. The GPHC is a regional component of the National Collegiate Honors Council (<http://www.nchchonors.org/>), which certifies honors colleges and programs nationwide.
2. Participation in this process is at the discretion of program Graduate Studies Committees. To participate, programs must submit a proposal approved by their Graduate Studies Committee to the Dean of Graduate Studies that details their GRE or GMAT waiver and advanced admission policies and procedures. The memo should state how you will select qualified students from among applicants, document the review process, remove any contingency prior to full admission, and monitor the student's performance.
3. Minimum requirements for admission under this proposal will be those used in the GRE or GMAT waiver/advanced admission decision making processes applied to select UTA students. Participating programs may elect to raise these standards but may not lower them. The minimum requirements for GRE or GMAT waiver/advanced admission are:
 - a. Applicants must have graduated or be enrolled in their final year of study in programs culminating in a four-year bachelor's degree or its equivalent with the appropriate indication of completion of an Honors program or degree.
 - b. Applicants must have graduated no more than one academic year prior to proposed entrance to the graduate program.

- c. Senior students in their final year of studies may be granted advanced admission provisionally, with the final admission decision contingent upon successful completion of an Honors Program and bachelor's degree.
- d. The Graduate School will compute the student's admission GPA according to state law and Graduate School policy; that GPA must be at least 3.5.
- e. Applicants must complete a major and/or a specified number of advanced undergraduate hours as specified by the participating program relevant to the field of intended graduate study. Programs will also evaluate the applicant's record for evidence of potential for success in graduate level studies. Performance on criteria normally governing a program's admission decisions should be considered when applicable. Achievement in specific courses, independent studies, research or other relevant activities may be given special weight in this evaluation.
- f. The faculty member supervising the applicant's honors thesis must provide a letter of reference that addresses why the demonstrated talent and abilities of the candidate indicate potential for success and make standardized testing redundant and therefore unnecessary for an informed admission decision.

Members of the Great Plains Honors Council Granting Bachelor's or Higher Degrees

Arkansas

Harding University
John Brown University
University of Arkansas- Fort Smith

Kansas

Emporia State University
Kansas State University
Pittsburg State University
University of Kansas
Wichita State University

Missouri

Central Missouri State University
Columbia College
Maryville University- St. Louis
Missouri Southern State University
Missouri Western State College
Park University
Rockhurst College
Southeast Missouri State University
Southwest Missouri State University
University of Missouri-Kansas City
University of Missouri- St. Louis

Nebraska

University of Nebraska- Kearny
University of Nebraska- Lincoln
University of Nebraska-Omaha

Oklahoma

Oklahoma Baptist University
Oklahoma City University
Oklahoma State University
Oral Roberts University
Southeastern Oklahoma State University
University of Oklahoma

Texas

Abilene Christian University
Angelo State University
Lamar University

Lubbock Christian University
McMurry University
St. Mary's University
Stephen F. Austin State University
Tarleton State University
Texas A&M University
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Texas Christian University
Texas Lutheran University
Texas State University- San Marcos
Texas Tech University
Texas Woman's University
University of Houston
University of Texas- Arlington
University of Texas- Austin
University of Texas-El Paso
University of Texas-Pan American
University of Texas-San Antonio
West Texas A & M University

