

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED REGULATION AMENDMENT

Date: May 25, 2023

**REGULATION TITLE:**

Admission of Graduate Students

**REGULATION NO.:**

UCF-2.003

**SUMMARY OF REGULATION AMENDMENT:**

This regulation is being amended to better align with the July 1, 2020, updates to the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) rules that make no distinction between regional and national accreditors, treating all USDOE-recognized accrediting agencies as “institutional” accreditors. Accordingly, as to the graduate admission requirement that a prior degree be from an accredited institution, section (2) is amended to accept any institutional accreditor recognized by the USDOE instead of listing particular accreditors.

**AUTHORITY:** BOG Regulations 1.001, 6.001, and 6.003

**NAME OF PERSONS WHO INITIATED PROPOSED REGULATION AMENDMENT:**

Timothy Letzring, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

**COMMENTS CONCERNING THE PROPOSED REGULATION AMENDMENT SHOULD BE SUBMITTED WITHIN 14 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE TO THE CONTACT PERSON IDENTIFIED BELOW.** The comments must identify the regulation you are commenting on.

**THE PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE PROPOSED REGULATION AMENDMENT IS:**

Regulations Administrator  
4365 Andromeda Loop N.  
Millican Hall, Suite 360  
Orlando, FL 32816-0015  
Phone: (407) 823-2482  
e-mail: [regulations@ucf.edu](mailto:regulations@ucf.edu)

**FULL TEXT OF THE PROPOSED REGULATION AMENDMENT:**

**UCF-2.003 Admission of Graduate Students.**

- (1) This regulation applies to all students who seek to be admitted to graduate programs at the University of Central Florida.
- (2) Beginning with admission for the Spring 2024 academic year, eEach admitted student to a graduate degree program or to a post-baccalaureate professional program must meet the following minimum requirements:
  - (a) Earned a bachelor's degree or equivalent from a U.S. institution of higher education accredited by an institutional accreditor recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. ~~by one of the following accrediting bodies or its equivalent from a foreign institution~~

- ~~1. Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC)~~
- ~~2. New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE)~~
- ~~3. Higher Learning Commission (HLC)~~
- ~~4. Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE)~~
- ~~5. Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU)~~
- ~~6. Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)~~
- ~~7. WASC Senior College and University Commission~~

AND

- (b) Earned a 3.0 GPA (or equivalent) or better in all work attempted while registered as an undergraduate student working for a baccalaureate degree, OR
- (c) Earned a 3.0 GPA (or equivalent) or better in all work attempted while registered as an upper division student working for a baccalaureate degree, OR
- (d) Earned a previous graduate degree or professional degree or equivalent from a U.S. institution of higher education accredited by an accrediting body listed in (2)(a) or its equivalent from a foreign institution in a field related to the discipline of the program to which the applicant is applying.

(3) Each graduate program may determine other requirements for admission, consistent with the mission and purpose of their college and program beyond those listed in (2). All program admissions requirements must be published in the Graduate Catalog and are required to be reviewed and updated annually.

- (a) Graduate programs must include at least 2 of the following materials to support the application:
  - Letter(s) of reference
  - Resume or CV
  - Writing Sample
  - Personal, Goal, or Professional Statement
  - Research Statement
  - Professional, Academic, Artistic, or Music Portfolio
  - Video answer to prompt
  - Other relevant supporting materials approved by the College of Graduate Studies
- (b) Admissions criteria must not include preferences for applicants on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, religion, or sex.

(4) The requirement to submit GRE, GMAT, or MCAT scores is at the discretion of the program to which the student is applying. Please refer to the current catalog for specific program level standardized test score requirements.

- (a) For programs that do not require a GRE or GMAT, all international applicants must submit a course-by-course evaluation of the student's official transcript by a credential evaluation service recommended by UCF that shows a GPA equivalent of 3.0 from an earned degree equivalent to a U.S. bachelor's degree obtained from an institution of higher education accredited by an accrediting body listed in (2)(a).

(5) In addition to the above requirements, international students must show proficiency in written and spoken English in accordance with the provisions of University Regulation UCF-2.009.

(6) All graduate applicants must indicate whether or not Florida residency is claimed. An application or residency affidavit submitted by or on behalf of a student which contains false, fraudulent or incomplete statements may result in denial of admission or denial of further registration and/or invalidation of UCF credit.

(7) Exceptions to the above requirements:

- (a) In any academic term, up to 20 percent of the graduate students may be admitted in a given degree program as exceptions to the minimum requirements for graduate admissions as defined in paragraph (2) (b) & (c), above.
- (b) Students who do not meet the admissions criteria and who wish to enroll in courses but not degree programs at the post-baccalaureate level may enroll under the classification of non-degree seeking students. Graduate programs wishing to admit these students to graduate degree programs after the students have satisfactorily completed up to nine hours of graduate course work may do so provided that the number so admitted is included as part of the 20 percent exception, as defined in paragraph (6)(a), above.

(8) In addition to the above requirements, all graduate applicants who are admitted must submit an immunization form. UCF Student Health Services is responsible for oversight of student immunization compliance and reserves the right to require immunizations based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) the Florida Department of Health, the Florida Board of Governors, or the UCF Board of Trustees. UCF reserves the right to refuse registration to any applicant, former student, or student whose health record indicates the existence of a condition which may be harmful to the members of the University community.

(9) Exceptions: Students may apply for an exception to the University's immunization requirements if they meet one of the following criteria and submit appropriate documentation.

- (a) Medical Basis – The student must provide a letter from a healthcare provider, signed on official medical office stationery, stating the medical reason(s) why the student is not able to receive the vaccine(s), and indicating if this is a temporary or permanent condition.
- (b) Religious Basis – The student (or the student's parent/guardian if under 18 years old) can sign a Religious Exemption waiver upon request.
- (c) Active Duty Military and Veterans – Active Duty and Veterans may complete the waiver section of the immunization form if documentation of immunizations is unavailable at the time of registration. Proof of military service is required (DD 214 or military ID card).
- (d) With approval of the UCF President, limited UCF programs may be an exception when students will not be physically present in any UCF classroom or on any UCF campus. Should such students seek to register for face to face courses, they must comply with paragraph (8).

(10) All applicants for admission or readmission to the University of Central Florida, including to any graduate or doctoral programs of study within the University and including any applicant for post-baccalaureate study, are required to disclose on the application prior criminal conduct, pending criminal charges, and prior educational misconduct. The University reviews all applications in which a student discloses prior criminal conduct, pending criminal charges, or prior educational misconduct to determine whether the admission of the applicant is in the best interest of the University. The office responsible for this review is the Office of Student Rights

and Responsibilities. Applicants who fail to disclose prior criminal misconduct, pending criminal charges, or any prior educational misconduct are in violation of the disclosure requirements of this paragraph and may be subject to appropriate action by the University, including denial of admission or readmission, revocation of admission, or other academic and/or disciplinary action prescribed by the University, up to and including dismissal. Applicants are not required to disclose minor traffic violations.

(11) Applicants may appeal an admissions decision by following the university admissions appeal procedure. Information regarding this procedure is available in the Graduate Catalog.

(12) Readmissions.

- (a) Graduate students who do not maintain continuous enrollment, must apply for readmission. Readmission is not guaranteed. The readmission decision is based on multiple factors such as previous academic performance, work taken since last attending UCF, space and fiscal limitations.
- (b) A student who was previously dismissed from his or her graduate program and would like to reapply to the same program must have an approved probation plan on file before a readmission decision can be made.

(13) Graduate applicants and graduate readmit applicants may be admitted subject to space and fiscal limitations.

*Authority: BOG Regulations 1.001, 6.001, and 6.003. History—New 10-8-75, Amended 9-27-79, 1-6-82, Formerly 6C7-2.03, Amended 10-2-08, Formerly 6C7-2.003, Amended 7-30-09, 2-29-16, 9-16-16, 4-23-20, 10-22-20, 6-17-21, 5-26-22, \_\_\_\_\_-23.*