

NOTICE OF PROPOSED REGULATION AMENDMENT

Date: March 10, 2020

REGULATION TITLE:

Admission of Graduate Students

REGULATION NO.:

UCF-2.003

SUMMARY OF REGULATION AMENDMENT: The U.S. Department of Education no longer recognizes a distinction between regional and national accreditors, as of July 1, 2020. All “institutional accreditors” approved by the Secretary of Education will be considered recognized accreditors for federal eligibility purposes. This regulation is amended to conform to this new requirement by updating language to remove “regionally accredited” and adding the appropriate accrediting bodies.

AUTHORITY: BOG Regulations 1.001, 6.001, and 6.003

NAME OF PERSONS WHO INITIATED PROPOSED REGULATION AMENDMENT:

Heidi Watt, Director, Academic Program Quality

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

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) Each 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 ~~regionally accredited~~ U.S. institution of higher education accredited 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 regionally accredited U.S. institution or its equivalent from a foreign institution in a field related to the discipline of the program to which the applicant is applying.
- (3) Additionally, all applicants to doctoral programs must meet the following specific requirements:
- (a) Each applicant to a doctoral degree program shall present scores that are acceptable for the program to which the student is applying on the Graduate Record Examination (verbal, quantitative, and writing), or an equivalent measure on the GMAT, whichever is deemed most appropriate to the program. Students, including international students, who already have a graduate degree obtained from a regionally-accredited U.S. institution of higher education accredited by an accrediting body listed in (2)(a) or equivalent foreign institution in the same or in a related area are not required to take the Graduate Record Examination or GMAT unless it is required by the program.
 - (b) Submit three letters of recommendation, a resume or a curriculum vita, and a written essay.
 - (c) The submitted materials must be used in the context of a holistic credential review process.

- (d) Each doctoral program may determine other requirements for admission, consistent with their mission and purpose. Any additional admissions requirements so imposed by doctoral programs must be published annually in the Graduate Catalog and on the website of the doctoral program; further, such requirements shall be reviewed and updated annually.
 - (e) These requirements shall not include preferences in the admissions process for applicants on the basis of any category protected by law.
- (4) Additionally, all applicants to master's programs must meet the following specific requirements:
- (a) A score on standardized exams such as the GRE or GMAT is not required by the university for admission to a masters degree program, although individual programs may still require the exams for admissions purposes.
 - (b) Each master's program may determine other requirements for admission, consistent with their mission and purpose. Any additional admissions requirements so imposed by masters programs must be published annually in the Graduate Catalog and on the website of the masters program; further, such requirements shall be reviewed and updated annually.
 - (c) These requirements shall not include preferences in the admissions process for applicants on the basis of any category protected by law.
 - (d) For international students in master's programs that do not require a GRE or GMAT, a course-by-course evaluation of the student's official transcript must be submitted by a credential evaluation service recommended by UCF that shows a GPA equivalent 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 conditional retention 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, _____-20.