

## Shared Governance Proposal

I. Date: January 10, 2020

II. Sponsoring Constituents:

Graduate Council, Graduate Council Policy Group, and Office of Academic Affairs and Research

III. Statement of the Issue:

Modify University graduate admissions language in the Graduate Bulletin (pg. 22). The modification will accomplish the following:

- 1) Grant applicants unconditional admission who have earned a previous graduate or post-baccalaureate professional degree from a regionally-accredited (U.S.) institution; and,
- 2) Base graduate admissions decisions on the last sixty (60) hours of completed coursework (undergraduate, graduate, or combination) for applicants without a previously earned graduate post-baccalaureate professional degree.

IV. Rationale for Proposal: (Please include if this is a new or a modification of an existing policy or procedure)

In September 2017, the Graduate Council formed a subcommittee, the Graduate Policy Group (GPG), to discuss policies regarding University graduate programs. For 2019-20, members of the GPG include Joan Henley (College of Education and Behavioral Science), Elizabeth Hood (College of Agriculture), Karen Wheeler (Academic Affairs and Research), Shawn Drake (College of Nursing and Health Professions), Gil Fowler (College of Liberal Arts and Communication), John Mello (College of Business), Amanda Wheeler (College of Education and Behavioral Science), Thomas Risch (College of Sciences and Mathematics) and Tanja McKay (College of Sciences and Mathematics).

Graduate Admissions criteria were raised as an issue to be addressed by the GPG for the following reasons:

- 1) The current graduate admissions criteria does not allow admissions decisions to be made utilizing the most relevant criteria for all applicants. For applicants who have previously completed a graduate or post-baccalaureate professional degree, their ability to complete graduate level coursework is reflected in that accomplishment; however, under current admissions standards their undergraduate GPA must be considered. This is true even in cases where their undergraduate performance is decades old. (See language change on attached Graduate Bulletin, pg. 22, Unconditional Admission Status #3)

2) The 3.00 GPA minimum requirement for completed graduate coursework does not capture a complete picture of the applicant's abilities. The calculation could be based on three hours or dozens of hours of graduate coursework. Considering the last sixty hours of coursework (undergraduate, graduate, or combination) will allow a more complete assessment of the applicant's abilities where no graduate degree has been earned. (See language change on attached Graduate Bulletin, pg. 22, Unconditional Admission Status #3 and 4, and Conditional Admission Status #3)

In September 2019, Graduate Council voted to send the attached modifications to SGOC for review.

After extensive discussion and deliberation, the GPG settled on the proposed modifications summarized above and reflected in the attached language.

V. Type of review (i.e., expedited, full, or extended): Full

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### UNCONDITIONAL ADMISSION STATUS

The following University admission requirements are minimum standards which identify the pool of applicants from which departments select students to be admitted to a certificate or degree program. To be granted unconditional admission status, applicants must have met the following criteria:

1. Submitted a completed application for admission to the Office of Admissions, Records and Registration and the designated nonrefundable application fee, at least 30 days in advance of registration.
2. Earned a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution (or its equivalent as determined by the Registrar).
3. A. Earned a graduate or post-baccalaureate professional degree from a regionally-accredited (U.S.) institution; OR, B. Achieved a minimum cumulative undergraduate grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.00 scale; OR, C. ~~or~~ Achieved a 3.00 GPA on the last 60 hours of coursework (undergraduate, graduate, or a combination).
- ~~4. Achieved a minimum 3.00 GPA on any previous graduate courses completed at either Arkansas State University or another accredited university.~~
4. 5. Submitted official transcripts from each previously attended college or university to Graduate Admissions. Official transcripts must be submitted directly from the Registrar of other institutions to the Office of Admissions, Records and Registration.

### CONDITIONAL ADMISSION STATUS

An applicant who fails to meet the GPA requirements for unconditional admission status, who lacks the appropriate undergraduate background for a particular certificate or degree program, or whose baccalaureate degree is from an unaccredited institution, may be granted conditional admission status. Consideration will be given to applicants who have met the following requirements:

1. Submitted a completed application for admission to the Office of Admissions, Records and Registration and the designated nonrefundable application fee, at least 30 days in advance of registration.
2. Submitted official transcripts from each previously attended college or university to the Office of Admissions, Records and Registration. Official transcripts must be submitted directly from the Registrar of other institutions to the Office of Admissions, Records and Registration.
3. A. Achieved a minimum cumulative undergraduate grade point average of 2.50 on a 4.00 scale; OR, ~~or~~ B. Achieved a 2.75 GPA on the last 60 hours for admission into a graduate program of coursework (undergraduate, graduate, or a combination).

Specific graduate programs may have defined conditional admission criteria that supplement the requirements listed above.

A student will be removed from University conditional admission status upon completion of 9 hours in the program of study with a grade of "B" or better for each course. Specific graduate programs may have additional criteria for being removed from conditional admission status. While under conditional admission status, a student cannot earn a grade of "C" or lower in any graduate-level course. Students who do not meet this standard will be suspended from the graduate program.

### TYPES OF ADMISSION

Applicants may be admitted to the University as either certificate/degree-seeking or non-certificate/ degree seeking. The graduate degree-seeking student classification is for those who wish to pursue a specific graduate certificate/degree program. The graduate non-degree student classification is for those who wish to enroll in graduate courses, but who do not wish to pursue a graduate certificate/ degree at the university.

### ADMISSION TO A CERTIFICATE OR DEGREE PROGRAM

In addition to meeting the minimum requirements of the University, an applicant for admission to a certificate, master's, specialist, or doctoral degree program also must meet departmental and/or program requirements. Applicants to a degree program must hold a baccalaureate or higher degree from an accredited four-year institution with the appropriate undergraduate background in the field of the proposed 23