

Process for Vanderbilt graduate programs to eliminate the GRE requirement

Context

There is a growing national trend for programs to eliminate the use of the GRE as a tool in graduate admissions, notably in the biomedical disciplines. The reasons for this trend are manifold, but largely revolve around concerns regarding the potential biases associated with this test, financial issues, and ease with which singular metrics can be used to speed the review process.

Proposed steps in the process

1. Programs are expected to petition the Graduate School through a formal letter to the Dean. The request should have three basic components.
 - a. The approval of the relevant school Dean, Associate Dean for Graduate Education and appropriate department chair(s)
 - b. If applicable, approval of the appropriate school/college committee responsible for issues of graduate education
 - c. The rationale for the request
 - d. A description of the rubric that will be used to insure that a holistic review process is taking place within the program
 - e. A description of the evaluative mechanisms that will be put in place to track the efficacy of the new policy
2. The request will be evaluated by the Dean of the Graduate School.
3. A recommendation will be made by the Dean of the Graduate School to the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
4. The Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs will make the final determination, which will be communicated to the Dean of the College/School, the Associate Dean for Graduate Education, the chair(s) of the relevant department, and the DGS
5. Once approved, the Graduate School will work with the program to implement changes in recruitment materials and to establish the appropriate changes in Slate that must take place to support the change