

To: Graduate Program Directors and Deans

From: George E. Walker, Dean, Research University Graduate School (RUGS)

Date: August 1, 2008

Re: Elimination of Two-Term Conditional Admission to Doctoral Programs

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Effective immediately, two-term conditional admissions of students to doctoral programs will no longer be permitted. In the past, this practice has been allowed, although discouraged. Among other reasons to discontinue this practice, the use of two-term conditional admissions has resulted in significant problems for many international students.

**There are currently three options available for admitting doctoral students:**

**Full Admission:** Use when student meets all UGS and departmental admission requirements.

**Conditional One-Term Admission:** Use when student meets all UGS and departmental admission requirements but FIU does not have official or final documentation to verify one criterion. The student must provide the official documentation by the end of one semester or failure to fulfill condition will result on student being placed an admissions hold and not allowed to register for future terms.

**Petition for Exception to Admission Standards:** Use when otherwise outstanding applicants do not meet one admission criteria (e.g., a sufficiently high GRE score, GPA, or TOEFL score). Graduate Program Directors/Deans can request a waiver of a specific admission standard using the “Petition for Exception to Graduate Requirements” form. The petition must be accompanied by compelling rationale. If the petition is approved, the student will be fully admitted.

**Note:** UGS is no longer accepting the “Waiver of Admission Standards” form. All petitions for exception to admission standards must be submitted through the new “Petition for Exception to Graduate Requirements” form. The new **Petition for Exception to Graduate Requirements** form can be found under “forms” on the UGS website at [gradschool.fiu.edu](http://gradschool.fiu.edu). As of August 8th 2008, older versions of the Petition for Exception and Waiver of Admission Standards forms will no longer be accepted.