

e-newsletter

Message From the Dean

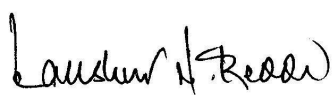
Our efforts to improve doctoral student productivity require us to periodically assess the relevance of our admission criteria and how well these criteria enable us to attract top-quality students. In making decisions on graduate admissions and/or assistantship awards, we should consider all sources of information on applicants – GPA from prior coursework, letters of recommendation, personal statements, samples of academic work, prior research/professional experience, licensing exam scores, and standardized test scores.

The GRE General Test, administered by the Educational Testing Service (ETS), remains one of the most commonly used standardized tests. With the major revisions it has recently undergone, the test is expected to gain even more acceptance. As in the previous version, the revised test consists of three sections – Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning, and Analytical Writing. The different emphases and the different scoring scales in these sections do not allow us to combine the scores into one threshold score for admission purposes.

Now is a great opportunity for individual departments to deliberate regarding how GRE scores might be used in the admission process as one of several predictors of student success in their graduate programs. Although the focus on most campuses has been on the first two sections (Verbal and Quantitative), the Analytical Writing section is gaining rapid momentum as a tool to assess applicants' potential in the area of in-depth analysis and communication of complex ideas.

UGS is developing policies to transition from a campus-wide threshold combined score criterion to unit-specific criteria by Fall 2013. In anticipation of these policy changes, I suggest that individual graduate programs begin reviewing their written policies and procedures governing graduate admissions to incorporate all sources of applicants' credentials including GRE scores. More guidance on this will be provided in subsequent communications.

Thank you



News

Graduate Faculty Status and DAS Renewal

UGS is currently revising the list of faculty with graduate and dissertation advisor status (DAS). The DAS renewal process will take place early in Spring 2012. UGS will be notifying all faculty due for DAS renewal of the deadlines and details for the application process by e-mail.

2012 FIU McNair Graduate Fellowship

The FIU McNair Graduate Fellowship was created to encourage promising undergraduate McNair Scholars to pursue their graduate education at FIU. In the Fall 2012 semester, the University Graduate School will award a limited number of FIU McNair Graduate Fellowships to McNair Scholars based on a nomination from their graduate program. To be considered for the fellowship, a student must be fully admitted to a master's or doctoral degree program at FIU for the Fall 2012 semester. Preference will be given to students who are entering a doctoral program.

The fellowship provides support with an annual stipend plus a tuition waiver and individual health insurance. The University Graduate School will provide the support for the first half of the student's time at FIU in the form of a fellowship and the academic department will continue to provide the same level of support during the second half through a (0.5 FTE) teaching or research assistantship.

The FIU McNair Graduate Fellowship Nomination Form and all supporting materials must be submitted to UGS no later than **March 1, 2012**. For more information please review the [nomination form](#) or contact Dr. Sonja Montas-Hunter (smontash@fiu.edu)

2012 McKnight Doctoral Fellowship

The Florida Education Fund's McKnight Doctoral Fellowship Program is designed to increase the pool of candidates qualified with Ph.D. degrees to teach at the college and university levels.

The McKnight Fellowship is a great funding opportunity for talented undergraduate seniors and master's degree students who plan to pursue a Ph.D. This five year fellowship includes a \$12,500 stipend plus a \$10,000 UGS enhancement per year for the first three years, followed by a graduate assistantship for years 4 and 5. Recipients also receive a tuition waiver and health insurance. Any questions regarding the application process can be directed to Dr. Sonja Montas-Hunter (smontash@fiu.edu). Students apply online at www.fefonline.org/mdfapply and all applications and materials must be submitted/postmarked no later than **January 15, 2012**. Applicants must be admitted to their academic program before the annual selection meeting in early March.

Graduate Events

Spring 2012 Graduate Orientation
January 5, 2012
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
(Room and building to be determined.
New students will receive invitation via email.)

Important Deadlines

Admissions

Deadline to admit Transfer International Students (currently in the U.S.) - December 5, 2011

Deadline to Issue I-20s for Transfer International Students (currently in the U.S.) - December 12, 2011

Deadline to admit Domestic Students - December 12, 2011

Assistantships/Fellowships

Deadline to Enter Spring 2012 GA Contracts - December 9, 2011

Deadline to submit McKnight Doctoral application materials - January 15, 2012

Deadline to submit UGS McNair Graduate Fellowship applications - March 1, 2012

Professional Development Opportunities for Graduate Students

New TA Orientation

Thursday, January 5, 2012 -
Friday, January 6, 2012
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
GL 154

(*For new Teaching Assistants or any TA that missed the Fall Semester 2011 orientation. To register or for more information please visit the [CAT website](#).)

