Our efforts to improve doctoral student productivity require us to periodi-
cally assess the relevance of our admission criteria and how well these criteria
enable us to attract top-quality students. In making decisions on graduate admis-
sions 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 ma-
JOR 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 dif-
derent 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 pre-
dictors 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 appli-
cants’ potential in the area of in-depth analysis and communication of complex
ideas.

UGS is developing policies to transition from a campus-wide threshold com-
bined score criterion to unit-specific criteria by Fall 2013. In anticipation of
these policy changes, I suggest that individual graduate programs begin review-
ing their written policies and procedures governing graduate admissions to incor-
porate all sources of applicants’ credentials including GRE scores. More guid-
eance 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 in-
formation 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 under-
graduate 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 enhance-
ment 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 pro-
gram before the annual selection meeting in early March.

Important Deadlines

Admissions

Deadline to admit Transfer Intern-
national 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 Stu-
dents - December 12, 2011

Assistantships/Fellowships

Deadline to Enter Spring 2012 GA
Contracts - December 9, 2011
Deadline to submit McKnight Doc-
toral 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)