




William & Mary  
Graduate Arts & Sciences

OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

**Date:** January 11, 2023

**To:** Faculty of Arts & Sciences

**From:** Christopher D. Carone, Vice Dean for Research and Graduate Studies 

**Re:** Motion from COGS on the GRE

**Motion:** The Arts & Science Committee on Graduate Studies (COGS) moves that the

“Requirement of Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores, for both the general and subject tests, shall be at the discretion of each program in Arts & Sciences.”

This motion was passed by COGS in its December 5, 2022 meeting by a unanimous vote (11-0). The 11 voting members represent the Departments of Anthropology, Applied Science, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, History, Physics and Psychological Sciences, as well as the Programs in American Studies, Computational Operations Research and Public Policy.

**Explanation:** The Graduate Course Catalog currently states that applicants must submit scores corresponding to all three sections of the GRE general test, while making no mention of the subject tests. According to University Counsel, the section of the Graduate Course Catalog describing our GRE requirements can only be changed with the approval of the Arts & Sciences Faculty and the Board of Visitors (BoV). W&M is an extreme outlier in imposing a uniform GRE requirement across all graduate-degree-granting Departments and Programs. For example, review of information available on-line indicates that *all 25 institutions in W&M's approved SCHEV peer group<sup>†</sup> leave their GRE requirements up to individual departments or programs*. Examples of the GRE requirements at two representative peer institutions, Wake Forest University and the University of California Irvine (universities that conveniently provide on-line summary tables of their requirements across programs), are appended to this memo.

Among Virginia institutions that might be considered W&M's local competitors, standard practices are consistent with our peer group institutions: Virginia Tech, ODU and GMU specify requirements that vary by department or program; UVA does not require the GRE in any program, with the exceptions of Economics, Politics and Statistics.

Approval of this motion by the A&S Faculty and the BoV would bring W&M into alignment with practices that are standard at the institutions with whom we compete.

**Impact:** During two past pandemic admissions cycles, COGS waived the GRE requirement on a temporary basis, without changing the course catalog text. At the October 24, 2022 COGS meeting, the Graduate Directors indicated via a unanimous vote that they would prefer not to

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<sup>†</sup> Boston College, Boston U., Brandeis U., Brown U., Clemson U., Dartmouth College, Emory U., Georgetown U., Marquette U., Rutgers U., SUNY-Binghamton, Syracuse U., Tufts U., UC Irvine, UC Santa Barbara, Univ. of Connecticut, Univ. of Delaware, Univ. of Georgia, Univ. of New Hampshire – Main Campus, UNC Chapel Hill, Univ. of Notre Dame, Vanderbilt U., Wake Forest U. Washington U. in St. Louis, Yeshiva U.

reinstate the GRE requirement. The authority granted by the proposed motion would allow COGS to make the necessary course catalog revisions, while providing the flexibility to make changes in the future.

This flexibility to act and be proactive in changing standardized testing requirements is important for a number of reasons: programs that maintain a GRE requirement when competitors have eliminated it place themselves at a competitive disadvantage in recruitment, as students can simply bypass W&M and apply instead to any number of equivalent or stronger institutions. It is also important that departments and programs be able to adjust standardized test requirements in response to evidence that such tests can have an adverse effect on diversity, equity and inclusion. Further discussion of this issue can be found in the link below, a white paper that was made public when the University of Michigan's Rackham Graduate School discontinued its GRE requirement starting in AY 2022-23:

<https://rackham.umich.edu/downloads/gre-white-paper-brammer-mapp-september-2021.pdf>



WAKE FOREST  
UNIVERSITY

GRADUATE SCHOOL of  
ARTS & SCIENCES

**GRE REQUIREMENTS** – Applicants may choose to include GRE scores when applying to GRE optional programs. If you include a GRE with your online application for the review process, official scores will be required upon acceptance to the program.

- Bioethics – GRE Optional – please view Bioethics [website](#) for details. (GRE not required for BS/BA and MA in Bioethics)
- Biology – GRE Not Required
- Chemistry – GRE Not Required
- Communication – GRE Not Required
- Computer Science – GRE Not Required
- Counseling (On-Campus) – GRE Not Required
- Counseling (On-Line) – GRE Not Required
- Documentary Film – GRE Not Required
- Education – GRE Optional
- English – GRE Not Required
- Health and Exercise Science – GRE is optional for 2022-23
- Interpreting and Translation Studies – GRE Optional (but may be requested by the department)
- Liberal Arts Studies – GRE Optional
- Mathematics – GRE Optional
- Physics – GRE Optional
- Psychology – GRE Optional
- Religious Studies – GRE Optional
- Statistics – GRE Required
- Sustainability – GRE Optional



F23 Application - GRE requirement ☆ ↗ ↻

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UCI SCHOOL CODE: 4859 (NO OTHER CODE NEEDED)

	A	B	C
33	East Asian Studies	GRE is NOT required for Fall 2023 only	
34	Ecology and Evolutionary Biology	GRE is NOT required	
35	Economics	GRE Required	
36	Economics - Monetary Policy and Central Banking	GRE Required	
37	Economics - Public Choice	GRE Required	
38	Economics - Transportation Economics	GRE Required	
39	Education	GRE is NOT required for Fall 2023 only	
40	Electrical and Computer Engineering with concentration in Computer Engineering	GRE is NOT required for Fall 2023 only	
41	Electrical and Computer Engineering with concentration in Electrical Engineering	GRE is NOT required for Fall 2023 only	
42	Engineering with concentration in Materials and Manufacturing Technology	GRE is NOT required for Fall 2023 only	
43	English	GRE is NOT required	
44	English M.F.A. (Creative Writing)	GRE is NOT required	
45	Environmental Health Sciences	GRE is NOT required for Fall 2023 only	
46	Epidemiology	GRE is NOT required	
47	European Thought and Culture	GRE is NOT required	
48	Experimental Pathology	GRE is NOT required	
49	Film and Media Studies	GRE is NOT required	
50	Genetic Counseling	GRE is NOT required	
51	German	GRE is NOT required	
52	Global Studies	GRE Required	
53	History	GRE is NOT required	
54	History and Theory of Music	GRE is NOT required	
55	Informatics	GRE is NOT required	
56	Interdepartmental Neuroscience Graduate Program	GRE is NOT required	

Note: The full listing for UC Irvine can be found at:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1fVi97K1JdGw5EMRJ54Nmj7Z\\_NCYcJxTHwNimsT1uN6s/edit#gid=18910569](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1fVi97K1JdGw5EMRJ54Nmj7Z_NCYcJxTHwNimsT1uN6s/edit#gid=18910569)