THE DOROTHY F. SCHMIDT COLLEGE OF ARTS & LETTERS
SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC
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Boca Raton, FL 33431
tel: 561.297.3820
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Memorandum

To: Graduate Programs Committee
From: Rebecca Lautar, Interim Chair, Department of Music
Re: Revised Proposal to Eliminate GRE admissions requirement for Master of Arts in Music
Date: January 13, 2012

The Music Department proposes the elimination of the GRE as an admission requirement for the Master of Arts with Major in Music. The Department has established the criteria listed below which prove to assess the future academic success of applicants more accurately than GRE scores. Currently, when music students take the GRE and do not meet the minimum GRE score requirement, if other aspects of the application do meet the appropriate levels, they are offered a waiver from the requirement by the department. This has been an in-house policy for a number of years and from which we have experienced no negative repercussions in terms of student performance in our program.

Master of Arts candidates in music must meet the following criteria in order to gain admittance into the department:

- All candidates: Hold a baccalaureate in music (No minimum GPA is listed in admissions requirements, although transcripts are assessed in the department for level of achievement in music courses.)
- Performance track applicants (includes Vocal and Instrumental Performance and Choral and Instrumental Conducting): Candidates are interviewed by the applied area faculty and must pass a rigorous performance audition. In addition, Choral or Instrumental Conducting track applicants must perform an audition segment consisting of conducting a university ensemble for an extensive period and submitting conducting videos of live performances.
- Music History/Literature track applicants: Candidates are interviewed by the music history and literature faculty and must present a substantial writing sample, usually a music history term paper or other major research project from the baccalaureate degree, which is evaluated by the graduate faculty committee which oversees graduate writing projects and theses.
- Composition and Commercial Music track applicants: Candidates are interviewed by the composition or commercial music faculty and must present a portfolio of composed or arranged musical works, as appropriate, with recordings of said works if possible, which are reviewed by the composition or commercial music faculty committee.

Upon acceptance into the program, candidates must take music theory and music history placement exams. The results of our music history and music theory placement exams over the past ten years show that a majority of students have the requisite knowledge to function successfully in our graduate research and history classes. History and theory review seminars create opportunities for those with deficiencies in those areas to bring themselves to standards.

Music's timely completion and graduation rates are ranked among the most successful in the College by the most recent Graduate College data. Several music programs in the SUS currently do not use the GRE or a minimum undergraduate gpa as an entrance requirement; among those are Florida International University and the University of Central Florida.

SIGNATURE APPROVAL ROUTING FOR MEMOS – GRADUATE PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

DATE: December 2, 2011

SUBJECT: Proposal to Eliminate GRE from Graduate Music Admissions Requirements

FROM: Rebecca Lautar, Interim Chair
Department of Music

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Rebecca Lautar
Interim Chair, Department of Music

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Dr. Nancy Kason Poulson
Chair, Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters Graduate Programs Committee

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Dr. Heather Coltman
Interim Dean, Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters

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Dr. Debra Floyd
Chair, University Graduate Programs Committee

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Dr. Barry Rosson
Dean, The Graduate College