



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

To: Graduate Programs Committee
From: Rebecca Lautar, Interim Chair, Department of Music
Re: Proposal to Eliminate GRE admissions requirement for Master of Arts in Music
Date: November 16, 2011

The Music Department proposes the elimination of the GRE as an admission requirement into the Master of Arts with Major in Music. The Department does not consider the GRE an effective measurement of future academic success in the program and has established criteria as listed below which prove to more accurately assess applicants in the field. Currently, when music students take the GRE as required by the Graduate College and do not meet the minimum score requirements, they are offered a waiver by the department from the requirement. 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:

- Hold a baccalaureate in music
- Pass a rigorous performance audition in their applied areas. For singers and instrumentalists, specific repertoire standards must be met at the audition.
- Conducting candidates also must audition by conducting a university ensemble for an extensive period and submit conducting videos of performances.
- Music History/Literature candidates 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 dissertations.
- Composition candidates present a portfolio of composed musical works, with recordings of said works if possible, and these portfolios are reviewed by the composition faculty committee.
- Some candidates must pass a solfège exam as part of the audition process if applicable to their track.

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. Our 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 as an entrance requirement; among those are Florida International University and the University of South 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

Rebecca Lautar
Interim Chair, Department of Music

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

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

Dr. Debra Floyd
Chair, University Graduate Programs Committee

Dr. Barry Rosson
Dean, The Graduate College