

ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR GRADUATE STUDY

Following are the criteria required for admission of an applicant to the University of California, Davis for graduate study. Meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee admission. Admission decisions are based on a holistic evaluation of the quality of the applicant's prior academic degrees and record, the personal history statement, statement of purpose, letters of recommendation from professors or others familiar with the applicant's academic work, performance in aptitude and achievement tests, relevant work experience, preparation in the proposed field of study, the appropriateness of the applicant's goals to the graduate program, and the compatibility of the applicant's research interests with those of the program faculty.

The regulations of the Academic Senate of the University of California stipulate that a bachelor's degree or the equivalent that is comparable to a degree from the University of California both in distribution of academic subject matter and in scholarship achievement, from an institution of acceptable standing is required for admission to graduate study at a campus of the University of California.¹ Graduate Studies has the authority to determine whether another institution is of comparable or acceptable standing; in general, regional accreditation for U.S. institutions and authorization by a national higher education authority for international institutions are considered acceptable. In addition to a bachelor's degree, UC Davis requires a minimum 3.0 GPA (on a 4.0 scale) or equivalent in work taken to fulfill the requirements for a bachelor's degree in order an applicant to be considered for admission. Applicants must submit official transcripts from all institutions where coursework has been completed along with a completed Graduate Studies Application that includes a personal history statement and a statement of purpose. The Graduate Studies Application must be received by the graduate program's posted application deadline to be considered; late applications will not be considered under any circumstances. An application fee is also required.

For applicants who a) did not receive their bachelor's degree from an institution where English is the sole language of instruction, and/or b) are not from a country or region where English is the language of instruction, the Academic Senate requires a passing score on an English language examination.² UC Davis requires a minimum TOEFL score of 550/80 (paper/internet-based) or a minimum IELTS score of 7 (on a 9-point scale). Other English language testing may be required for admitted students to determine their level of English language proficiency and whether they would benefit from continued English language learner coursework at UC Davis.

In addition to the above noted requirements, graduate programs may require entrance exams, such as the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), other relevant ability or achievement tests, letters of recommendation, a GPA and/or English language testing score higher than the university minimum, and/or other program-specific material as the program finds appropriate.

¹ Academic Senate of the University of California, Regulation Manual, Title II, SR.510:
<http://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/manual/regstoc.html>.

² Academic Senate of the University of California, Regulation Manual, Title II, SR.520:
<http://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/manual/regstoc.html>.

In summary, the minimum requirements for consideration for admission to a graduate program at UC Davis are:

- Applicants must hold a bachelor's degree or the equivalent that is comparable to a degree from the University of California both in distribution of academic subject matter and in scholarship achievement, from an institution of acceptable standing;
- Applicants must have earned at least a 3.0 GPA (on a 4.0 scale) or its equivalent during all work at the bachelor's degree granting institution;
- Applicants must complete a Graduate Studies application accompanied by official transcripts and the application fee;
- Applicants must meet any program-specific admission criteria (entrance exams, etc.);
- Applicants who a) did not receive their bachelor's degree from an institution where English is the sole language of instruction, and/or b) are not from a country or region where English is the language of instruction, must take the TOEFL or IELTS and receive the passing scores noted above.

EXCEPTIONS TO ADMISSION CRITERIA

Only the graduate program may request an exception to the minimum criteria for an applicant and only low GPA or low score on the English language exam may be requested for exception.

If requesting an exception to the GPA requirement, the request must articulate and demonstrate other evidence of academic ability that indicates that the student is likely to succeed in graduate work at UC Davis, such as:

- A 3.0 GPA or higher (based on a 4-point scale) for all upper division coursework taken during the last two years as an undergraduate.
- A 3.5 GPA or higher (based on a 4-point scale) for all coursework taken while enrolled in a master's program.
- Grades earned in relevant coursework from a comparable university subsequent to earning a bachelor's degree.

If requesting an exception to English language exam, the request must demonstrate that the applicant meets one of the following criteria:

1. the applicant's sponsoring agency requires completion of an intensive English program before the applicant enrolls at UC Davis;
2. the applicant is currently enrolled in the UC Davis Intensive English program or an equivalent program at another university of comparable standing; or
3. other non-subjective evidence that the applicant has the necessary English language proficiency to be successful in graduate study, research and teaching.

Should a graduate program wish to recommend a student for admission who has not met the minimum admission criteria, the Chair of the Admissions Committee for the program must submit an exception request in the Admission Memorandum in the application review system. Only the Dean of Graduate Studies has the authority to grant the exception and offer admission to a student who does not meet the minimum admission criteria.

EARLY ADMISSION

Admission to graduate study is normally for Fall Quarter each year (except for those programs which are approved to admit to other quarters). Early admission of an individual applicant may be requested for the Winter or Spring Quarter preceding the regular Fall Quarter admission date; students seeking early admission should contact their graduate program coordinator to make a request. Only the graduate program may request an early admission and the Chair of the Admission Committee for the program may do so in the Admission Memorandum in the application system. Applicants seeking early admission are subject to the same admission requirements and must submit the same application materials expected of all applicants to the University as are noted in this policy.

SUMMER ADMISSION

By special exception from the Graduate Council, some graduate programs admit students to Summer Quarter/Session. These are programs that offer regular coursework during the summer and admit all students to summer. Programs may submit a request to the Graduate Council for summer admissions, but should be aware that all admitted students will then start the program Summer Quarter/Session (not on an individual student basis).

DEFERRAL OF ADMISSION

Applicants offered admission to a graduate program may defer their admission for up to one calendar year; applicants entering the Peace Corps after being offered admission may defer their admission for up to two calendar years. The applicant should send an email to the graduate program coordinator requesting the deferral. The graduate program coordinator will then request approval from the Chair of the Admissions Committee and then forward the request and approval to Graduate Studies for review. Graduate Studies will officially notify the applicant of any approved deferral by sending a new admission letter with the revised admission date. Requests for deferral must be received by Graduate Studies prior to the first day of instruction in the quarter to which the student has been admitted.

Applicants who enroll for the quarter in which they are admitted and then withdraw may not request a deferral; they must submit an Application for Readmission to the graduate program.

APPEAL OF ADMISSION DENIAL

An applicant denied admission may submit an appeal for cause if the denial is a result of (1) due process not followed in the admission proceedings, or (2) bias in the admission process. Questions of academic judgment will not be considered as an appropriate basis for submission or consideration of a student's appeal of admission.

Applicants should submit an appeal to the graduate program within 30 days of being notified that their admission was denied. The appeal should take the form of a letter that provides a detailed discussion of the basis for the appeal along with any evidence that supports the claims of the appellant. The appeal should be sent to the graduate program coordinator; the coordinator will then forward the appeal to the Chair of the Admissions Committee for a decision. The Chair of the Admissions Committee will review the appeal and may consult with other program faculty before making a decision to uphold the denial or reverse the original admission recommendation; the Chair will communicate the decision to Graduate Studies in writing within 30 days of the date the appeal was received by the program. Graduate Studies will process the resubmitted admission decision and will notify the applicant.

UC DAVIS GRADUATE STUDIES POLICY
Policy on the Implementation of Admission Requirements and Exceptions
December 16, 2014, rev. March 21, 2017

GS2014 –04 (rev. 01)

Should the program decide to uphold the denial, applicants may make a final appeal to the Dean of Graduate Studies. Applicants must submit their appeal to the Dean of Graduate Studies within 30 days of being notified by the program that their admission denial was upheld. The appeal should take the form of a letter that provides a detailed discussion of the basis for the appeal along with any evidence that supports the claims of the appellant. Appeals must be based on procedural criteria as noted above; appeals based on academic criteria will not be considered. The Dean will forward the appeal to the Administrative Committee of the Graduate Council for its review. The Dean, on behalf of the Administrative Committee, will notify the appellant in writing of the final decision within 60 days of the date the appeal was received by Graduate Studies. The decision of the Administrative Committee is final for all appeals; once the Dean has communicated the decision to the appellant, the matter is closed to any further review.

A program may also appeal the decision of the Dean to deny an exception request from the program to admit an applicant with a low GPA or low English language test scores. The program should submit an appeal to the Dean of Graduate Studies within 30 days of notification that the Dean has denied admission to a student. The Dean may overturn the original denial (but not uphold it) or refer the matter to the Administrative Committee of the Graduate Council for review. The decision of the Administrative Committee is final and the Dean must act in accord with that decision. Decisions will be communicated to the program within 60 days of the date the appeal was received by Graduate Studies.