



THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
THE COLLEGE OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS
Office of the Dean

*noted David Johnson 2/8
replied to Braddock 2/8 acknowledging
receipt.
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Office of the Dean
JAN 2011
Graduate/Studies

January 25, 2011

MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Nancy Marcus, Dean
The Graduate School

From: Reb Braddock, Associate Dean

Re: Request for exception from GRE requirement for admission to FSU's College of Motion Picture Arts

The faculty of the College of Motion Picture Arts (aka The Film School) unanimously agreed to request a modification to the college's graduate admissions process by waiving the GRE requirement. We are asking that submission of GRE scores be *optional* and no longer required for admission to the University for our graduate programs.

The Film School offers a master of fine arts degree in film production with the goal of graduating educated and creative filmmakers, who become responsible members of the entertainment profession. Students in this program learn in a conservatory setting, where faculty provide the conceptual framework, the professional training, and the creative environment to prepare young filmmakers for a profession that is one of the most powerful influences in modern culture. Students work intensely and closely with highly accomplished professionals, one-on-one, or in small-group settings, learning the art of filmmaking through hands-on experience. The major coursework is derived from the common goal of teaching the art, craft and business of storytelling, including producing, directing, screenwriting, editing, cinematography, sound, film history and aesthetics.

The Film School also offers a master of fine arts in writing for the stage and screen. It is an intensive, hands-on professional program offered in conjunction with the School of Theatre where students work one-on-one and in small groups with experienced writers for film, television, and theatre. Students are required to write, direct and screen a short film, write and stage a short play, take courses in screenplay craft, story conceptualization, and adaptation of a novel for both stage and screen, pitch more than 20 original ideas for screenplays, and complete a full-length play and a feature-length screenplay that are adaptations of a novel. Additionally, they take coursework that prepares them for business practices associated with professional writing, including areas of intellectual property, agents and managers, development, distribution and exhibition.

January 25, 2011

Page 2

Both programs are limited access, enrolling twenty-four production students and six writing students each fall semester. Over 200 applications are reviewed each year by an admissions committee made up of graduate faculty, and 120 applicants are invited to campus for a one-on-committee face-to-face interview. Additionally, applicants to the production program are invited to submit a portfolio of their written and visual work, and writing applicants are required to submit three samples of their writing.

Applicants for each program are required to submit a resumé, a personal statement of purpose, three letters of recommendation, transcripts of all college work, and GRE scores.

Our proposal is to *recommend* GRE scores be submitted for those who have a college grade point average of less than 3.0, but not require it. Applicants who wish to be considered for university fellowships and scholarships which require GRE scores will be reminded to submit GRE scores with their applications to the Film School, for compliance with fellowship and scholarship requirements.

Members of our college's admissions committee carefully review each application and portfolio and then meet to select those applicants invited for an on-campus interview. Approximately 120 applicants are interviewed; 30 are invited to enroll.

We ask your approval for an exception to the requirement of the GRE for admission to the graduate Film School.