

Proposal for GRE Waivers from the Department of Art Education

The Department of Art Education requests permission to waive the GRE admissions requirement for the following degree programs:

MS in Art Education leading to Teacher Certification

MS in Art Education without Teacher Certification, Online and Traditional Face-to-Face Options

MA in Arts Administration and Museum Education and Visitor-Centered Curation

The rationale for the request to waive the GRE for the programs listed above are described in separate sections:

MS in Art Education leading to Teacher Certification

As required in State of Florida Rule, entry into initial teacher certification programs (which includes the existing 5 Year Combined Degree BS in Art and MS in Art Education leading to teacher certification) requires students to pass the General Knowledge Portion of the Florida Certification Teacher Examination. The State of Florida Department of Education recognizes the General Knowledge Examination to be equivalent to the GRE.

As noted in the recently approved request to waive the GRE for the School of Teacher Education at FSU (indicated by GPC minutes from 10/29/18):

The Florida Legislature has determined that the quality of a teacher's general knowledge is an important part of the overall level of teaching excellence in the State of Florida and has passed legislation for ensuring educator quality. This legislation . . . [requires that] the successful completion of an initial teacher preparation program includes passing scores on a series of three Florida Teacher Certification Examinations (FTCE):

- General Knowledge - assesses the skills and knowledge all candidates need to begin effective careers as professional educators.
- Subject Area knowledge – the focus of which varies with the discipline in which certification is sought, and
- Professional Knowledge and Skills-assesses teacher candidates' competencies and skills related to teaching (i.e., lesson design, classroom management).

The first of these three FTCE examinations, General Knowledge, . . . consists of four subtests: Essay, English Language Skills, Reading and Mathematics. In recent years, this examination has become much more difficult, resulting in an 30% failure rate for some subsections and resulting in a decline of the numbers of individuals entering the teaching profession. In reaction to this, on the ninth of June, 2018, the Florida Department of Education adopted a rule [indicating general equivalency between the FTCE General Knowledge Exam and the GRE] that states (FLDOE, 2018):

Effective for tests administered on or after July 1, 2015, achievement of passing scores, as identified in [Rule 6A-4.0021\(12\), F.A.C.](#), on test sections of the GRE® revised General Test

- *GRE Analytical Writing combined score of 4 out of 6 acceptable for GK Essay*
- *GRE Quantitative Reasoning scaled score of 147 acceptable for GK Mathematics*
- *GRE Verbal Reasoning scaled score of 151 acceptable for both GK English Language Skills and GK Reading*

The cost of taking the FCTE exams varies, with the General Knowledge examination costing \$120 for the first attempt, and \$150 for subsequent attempts, the Professional knowledge costing \$150 for the first attempt and \$170 for subsequent attempts, and the Subject Areas examinations costing \$200 for the first attempt and \$220 for subsequent attempts. In total, the Florida DOE requirements involve \$480 in testing if teacher candidates can successfully pass their examinations on the first attempt. These costs increase if retakes are required. Taking the GRE currently costs \$160.

Given the information above, the art education program (MS leading to Teacher Certification) would like to provide the option for applicants with an overall GPA of 3.0 to waive the GRE as an admission requirement, with continuation in the program conditional upon the passage of the General Knowledge Portion of the Florida Teacher Certification Exam.

MS in Art Education without Teacher Certification, Online and Traditional Face-to-Face Options

A number of our strongest competitors do not require the GRE for application in their similarly structured online programming in Art Education. Those institutions include: University of Florida, Ohio State University, Penn State University, Boston University, University of Missouri, and the University of Northern Iowa.

As such, the program would like to provide the option for applicants to waive the GRE as an admissions requirement for those who meet one or more of the following criteria:

- applicants with an overall GPA of at least 3.0 or better at the undergraduate level, OR
- applicants with an existing teacher certification license, OR
- applicants with three or more years of professional teaching experience

MA in Arts Administration and Museum Education and Visitor-Centered Curation

These programs request to waive the GRE requirement for applicants having an overall GPA of at least 3.0 or 3.0 or better in upper-division coursework.

For all programming listed above, applicants will be informed that GRE scores may be necessary for scholarships or other funding they may wish to apply for.

References

FLDOE. (2018). Rule 6A-4.0021, Florid Teacher Certification Examinations. Retreived from:
<https://www.flrules.org/gateway/ruleno.asp?id=6A-4.002>

Florida State School of Teacher Education Proposal for GRE Waiver. (2018). Graduate Policy Committee Minutes. Retrieved from <https://policy.gradschool.fsu.edu/students>