**College of Social Work**

**GRE Waiver Policy applying to the MSW program**

**Discussion**: Many CSWE accredited social work programs in the United States no longer require the GRE. The top five ranked (US News and World Report) programs (University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, Washington University at St. Louis, University of California at Berkeley, University of Chicago and Columbia University) stopped requiring the GRE and many other public and private programs have joined them. This has resulted in FSU becoming less attractive to qualified students. In the last two years we have had at least 225 prospective students inquire about our program that did not complete the application process because of the GRE requirement.

Several studies support the idea that the GRE does not have predictive value in determining student’s academic success. A student’s undergraduate degree appears to have more value in predicting the successful completion of a master’s program.

[**http://www.fairtest.org/examining-gre-myths-misuses-and-alternatives**](http://www.fairtest.org/examining-gre-myths-misuses-and-alternatives)

[**https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2016/03/the-problem-with-the-gre/471633/**](https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2016/03/the-problem-with-the-gre/471633/)

**https://graduate.ucsf.edu/news/gre-good-riddance**

The College of Social Work uses other factors when reviewing admission files to predict a student’s success in our program. We require an extensive statement of purpose, three professional or academic letters of reference, a resume and a discussion of pertinent work and volunteer experience. Our overall average GPA for the last four semesters (2017-2018) is 3.6 for advanced standing from our BSW program and a 3.4 for our traditional students from a variety of baccalaureate degrees. Our graduation rate for the past three years was 83%.

**The GRE would be retained for potential candidates with a GPA lower than 3.0.**

**The GRE requirement may be waived for outstanding applicants meeting at least ONE of the following criteria:**

Five years or more of social work experience in a traditional social work agency providing direct service delivery or macro services and a 3.0 undergraduate upper division GPA (advanced standing or traditional students) from a regionally accredited institution.

A completed Master's, J.D., M.D. or Ph.D. degree with a 3.0 (or better) GPA from a regionally accredited institution.

A 3.5 or higher undergraduate GPA from a regionally accredited institution.

Any earned or anticipated baccalaureate degree from Florida State University, with a 3.25 upper division GPA at time of application.