**Department of Educational Leadership & Policy Studies**

**Online Educational Leadership & Administration (EDA) Master’s and Specialist**

**GRE Waiver Request**

The Department of Educational and Leadership and Policy Studies (ELPS) requests a waiver of the GRE as an admission criterion for outstanding applicants to the Online Educational Leadership and Administration (EDA) master’s and specialist programs. As an accredited program by the Florida Department of Education, the program prepares future school leaders in Florida and beyond by offering graduate courses that lead to a state certification in Educational Leadership. Course objectives are drawn from the core content identified by the Florida Principal Leadership Standards, from research and theory on educational leadership, and from collaboration between practitioners and faculty of the department.

**Criteria**

We are proposing that the GRE requirement be waived for outstanding applicants meeting BOTH of the following criteria, in addition to the other admission requirements for all applicants (e.g., performance evaluation, recommendations):

* **Professional Experience**. Applicants must have:
  + a current Florida Professional Educator’s Certificate,
  + a passing score on the Florida Teacher Certification Examination (FTCE) General Knowledge exam,
  + at least two years of full-time PK-12 classroom teaching experience, and
  + be currently employed by a school or school district.
* **Degree and GPA Requirements**
  + ***Master’s degree program applicants****:* An earned bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited U.S. institution, or a comparable degree from an international institution, with a minimum 3.2 (on a 4.0 scale) grade point average (GPA) in all coursework attempted while registered as an upper-division undergraduate student working towards a bachelor’s degree.
  + ***Specialist and modified certificate program applicants****:* An earned graduate degree from a regionally accredited U.S. institution, or a comparable degree from an international institution, with a minimum 3.2 (on a 4.0 scale) grade point average (GPA).

Applicants must provide evidence to satisfy the criteria being applied.

**Rationale**

The Florida Department of Education recognizes the Florida Teacher Certification Examination (FTCE) General Knowledge exam to be equivalent to GRE (FLDOE Rule 6A-4.002 <https://www.flrules.org/gateway/ruleno.asp?id=6A-4.002>). All of our applicants are certified teachers who have successfully passed various FTCE exams (including the General Knowledge exam), thus demonstrating academic competence for graduate coursework.

In addition, as you can see in Table 1 below, of the 18 institutions with an Educational Leadership program in Florida, FSU is the only university that requires GRE scores for both master’s and specialist admission. An overwhelming majority of applicant inquiries are concerns about the GRE; applicants know that other programs either do not require or offer waivers based on a competitive GPA. As an example, for Spring 2020 admission, 57 started the application; 11 applied to our program, with only six taking the GRE. By seeking a GRE waiver, we hope to stay competitive and increase admissions especially from a diverse pool of applicants. The College of Education has been making every effort possible to train the most diverse population of future teachers and school leaders to better serve the student population of Florida. The waiving of the GRE would assist in this effort.

Table 1: GRE Requirement in Ed Leadership Certificate Programs in Florida

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|  | **Institution** | **Degree** | **GPA**  **Requirement** | **GRE**  **Requirement** |
| 1 | Florida State University | MS  EdS | 3.0  3.0 | YES  YES |
| 2 | University of Florida (UF) | M.Ed. | 3.0 | NO |
| 3 | University of West Florida (UWF) | M.Ed. | 3.0 | NO |
| 4 | University of Central Florida (UCF) | M.Ed.  EdS | 3.0  3.0 | NO  YES |
| 5 | University of North Florida (UNF) | M.Ed. | None | NO |
| 6 | University of South Florida - Tampa (USF) | M.Ed. | 3.0 | NO |
| 7 | University of South Florida –Sarasota/Manatee | M.Ed. | 3.0 | NO |
| 8 | University of South Florida – St. Petersburg (SP) | M.Ed. | 3.0 | NO |
| 9 | Florida A&M University (FAMU) | MA | 3.0 | NO |
| 10 | Florida Atlantic Univ (FAU) | M.Ed. | 2.5 | NO |
| 11 | Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) | MA | None | NO |
| 12 | Florida International University-Miami (FIU) | MS  EdS | 3.25  3.25 | NO  YES |
| 13 | Florida Polytechnic University | M.Ed. | 3.25 | NO |
| 14 | Florida Southern | M.Ed. | None | NO |
| 15 | St. Leo University | M.Ed. | 3.0 | NO |
| 16 | St. Thomas Univ - Miami | MS/EdS | 3.0 | NO |
| 17 | Barry University | MS/EdS | None | NO |
| 18 | Nova Southeastern University | MS/EdS | None | NO |