**Proposal for International Affairs GRE Waiver**

*(Last revised 08/21/2019)*

The International Affairs program is requesting permission to waive the GRE admissions requirement for the degree. The International Affairs Master’s Degree has the option for a MA or a MS degree.

The rationale for the request to waiver the GRE includes the following:

* Full-time employed students:
  + A majority of our students are continuing their education after being in the work force. We have found these students request the waiver of the GRE for their expansive work experience in the International arena.
* International Students:
  + The inclusion of the GRE as a requirement for admissions results in a less diverse application pool.
  + Some prospective students in other countries have difficulties finding a testing center that holds the GRE. They may also be from a poor country, such as Malawi, where every dollar counts. The GRE has the tendency to be tailored to students who are English speaking and went to school in the United States.
* Military Personnel:
  + We have some great prospects with years of International experience from the Military, and we believe the GRE is adding another obstacle to personnel who have proven they will be successful in graduate school in other ways.

These changes will help the faculty of the International Affairs program to achieve the following goals:

* Increase the applicant pool applying for the degree, which gives the program a more diverse prospect pool to offer funding.
* Help eliminate unnecessary hardships for prospective students who can prove their abilities in other ways.

**Proposed Criteria**

The GRE requirement may be waived for applicants, if the applicant meets at least ONE of the following criteria:

* Five years of professional experience as a practitioner in an international space or with international context, OR
* Successful completion of 6 graduate credit hours from the approved International Affairs class list, with a graduate GPA of 3.50 or higher, OR
* Three years of experience in the Military working in an international space or with international context.

Applicants must provide evidence to satisfy the criteria being applied. Approval of a GRE waiver does not guarantee admission. Prospective students must still apply and meet all other admissions requirements.

**Criteria Rationale**

* Five years of professional experience as a practitioner in an international space or with international content can provide evidence of a student who is capable of handling the rigor of graduate courses and use of practical experience in the theoretical and educational aspect of learning about international affairs. When waiving the GRE for applicants who have experience in the workforce, we are able to create a more diverse pool. They will be able to bring real life experience into the classroom, which will elevate the classroom teaching experience.
* Successful completion of six (6) graduate credit hours from the approved International Affairs class list with a graduate GPA of 3.50 or higher. Since we will require a higher GPA than the minimum 3.0 required to be in good standing with the Graduate School, we can have a greater indication of the abilities and success of potential students, versus the results of a standardized test. Some students may have disabilities or anxiety with test taking, and cannot accurately display their ability to be successful in a graduate course. We believe if a student can receive a 3.5 or higher in 6 credits of graduate coursework, they have already demonstrated a high level of thinking and ability, and will be likely to continue that success in the full graduate program.
* Three years of experience in the Military working in an international space or with international context can provide evidence, much like a practitioner in the workforce, that a student capable of handling the rigor of a graduate program. Many military personnel and/or Veterans have traveled to different countries, speak multiple languages and have worked in Intel, or some type of international context. We believe that these applicants should not have to jump over another hurdle when applying to a graduate program. We believe their real life experiences will be gladly received in the classroom and help elevate our program – while also supporting our Veteran population.