

ACADEMIC ALERT #2001-04

DATE: September 21, 2000

DECISION: The College of Management and Business has revised its graduate admissions standards for the following programs: Masters in Business Administration (MBA), Managerial Leadership (MSML), Human Resources Management & Development (HRM&D), and Electronic Commerce (MSEC). The revised policy is attached. It takes effect on August 1, 2000.

Three significant changes for graduate admissions have been approved:

1. The grade point average required for full admission is changing from 3.00 for the junior and senior years to 2.75 for all undergraduate course work.
2. The Critical Thinking and Writing Assessment administered by the Center for Academic Development has been replaced with the GRE Writing Assessment. This is not the same as the lengthy regular Graduate Record Exam "General Test." The Writing Assessment is a performance based (rather than a fact recall based) test which evaluates students' essay responses to two tasks: a) making an argument related to an issue, and b) analysis of a given argument. The GRE Writing Assessment is extremely fair and reliable. The 200 possible essay prompts are available for students to review on the GRE web site, as are sample essays and critiques at each of the 6 scoring levels (see www.gre.org/stuwrit.html). Each essay is scored by at least two raters and results are sent to NLU directly by GRE. Students will pay \$50 to take the assessment at GRE computer-based testing centers located in every locale in which NLU/CMB operates (see list in GRE Bulletin). The test is timed and takes 75 minutes, plus 30 minutes advance arrival time. GRE Information & Registration Bulletins-which explain the Writing Assessment test and procedures on pages 12-16-should be ordered at each NLU location to give to students as part of their application package. (Call 609 771-7243 to order.) **IMPORTANT:** Applicants will not be allowed to start classes until they have taken the Writing Assessment and the CMB faculty admissions committee has reviewed their scores. (The faculty review will be done even if their admissions files are incomplete.) Given time required for scheduling, results reporting, and admissions committee meeting, this means that applicants must plan on a minimum of four weeks for this process. The average will probably be more like six to eight weeks. **NOTE:** Applicants who take the CAD Critical Thinking & Writing Assessment by July 31" will not have to take the GRE Writing Assessment; however, if they are required to take MGT523, they will still need to complete it before they can start classes.
3. MGT523, Analytical Writing Skills for the Manager, is the course which applicants who score low on the writing assessment must take as a condition of provisional admission. The change is that students must successfully complete this course before they are allowed to attend the first class session of their program. The course is six weeks in length. This means that applicants need to plan ahead at least ten to twelve weeks before the start of their chosen program. Enrollment counselors will need to speak with prospects in new ways about these requirements and timelines so that applicants' expectations are realistic.

During the first year of implementation of these changes, the CMB faculty admissions committee will make decisions on all applicants with either a) less than a 2.75 GPA on all undergraduate course work or b) less than a score of 4.0 on the GRE Writing Assessment. Thus, registrar and admissions staff will process only full admits--all decisions for provisional admission will be made by the CMB faculty admissions committee.

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: January 1, 2001

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Provisional Admission Criteria

1. Applicants who do not meet the grade point average requirements for full admission or have a GRE Writing Skill Assessment score of less than 4.0 will be evaluated by a CMB Faculty Admission Team that may confer provisional admission status or deny admission.
2. Applicants who meet the full admission requirements, but have a baccalaureate degree from a nonregionally accredited or nonaccredited institution or from an institution outside of the United States may be admitted provisionally after being evaluated by the CMB Faculty Admission Team.

Provisional Admission

Students who are provisionally admitted must maintain at least a 3.0 ("B") cumulative grade point average (GPA), with no outstanding "I" grades for all courses taken during the first term. These courses may not be extension courses, transfer credit, workshops, independent studies, or internships/practicums, except when taken by veterans receiving benefits. If a minimum 3.0 GPA is attained at the end of the probationary period, the student will gain full academic standing; if the student's GPA is below 3.0 at the end of the probationary period, the student will be dropped from the graduate program.

Applicants who score less than 4 on the GRE Writing Assessment and are acceptable for provisional status by the CMB Faculty Admission team must enroll in MGT523: Analytical and Writing Skills for the Manager. Students must successfully complete MGT523 to gain admission to their first program class session. That is, students must pass MGT523 before they will be allowed to begin attending classes in their chosen CMB graduate program. MGT523 is a one semester hour, not for credit, pass/fail course which is designed to hone the student's writing and critical thinking skills. The course's purpose is to increase the student's potential for success in graduate studies.

Approved May 2000 by CMB Academic Issues Unit and CMB Coordinating Council