



ACADEMIC ALERT #2003-1

DATE: January, 2003
DECISION: College of Management and Business (CMB)

CMB Graduate Admissions Changes

New Writing Test Replacing GRE-W for CMB Graduate Applicants

Change

The writing assessment required of applicants for admission to CMB Graduate Programs has been changed from the GRE-Writing Assessment (GRE-W) to the Criterion Online Writing Assessment. Scores less than five years old from the GRE-W or from the essay portions of either the GMAT or the GRE General Test are acceptable in lieu of the Criterion Writing Assessment.

Rationale

All three writing assessments use the same 6 point scoring rubric, as well as a similar structure for the essay tasks. However, the Criterion test has several important advantages for NLU and our applicants:

1. It will be offered at NLU campus locations.
2. At \$45, Criterion is less expensive and less time-consuming than either the GMAT or the GRE.
3. Scores for the test are posted in the Criterion web system as soon as the test is completed.

CMB Faculty Approval of Criterion: September 3, 2002

CMB Faculty Approval of Writing Assessment Score and GPA Guidelines: March 2002 and October 2001

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: November 13, 2002

CONTACT: Don Grady, Associate Dean CMB Ext. 4412

SIGNATURE:

Dr. John A. Brighton
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Implementation

The first applicants to take the NLU-based Criterion test did so in Wheaton on November 13th. Enrollment representatives who do CMB graduate recruiting have been trained in giving the assessment, as have Center for Academic Development staff. CAD staff will establish regular testing dates at each campus. Admissions staff at each campus have been trained in how to retrieve Criterion scores.

Reiteration of CMB Graduate Admissions Requirements Related to Writing Scores and GPA's

Applicants whose writing assessment scores are 3.5 or higher are **not** required to take MGT523, Analytical and Writing Skills for Managers. Applicants who score a 3 **are** required to successfully complete MGT523 **before** starting the first course in their graduate programs; completion of MGT523 is a prerequisite to their provisional admission. Applicants who score below a 3 will be denied admission.

The 2.75 undergraduate GPA required for graduate admissions is to be calculated on **all** of an applicant's undergraduate course work (not just their last two years). Applicants with a GPA of less than 2.75 but greater than 2.40 **and** who meet all the other CMB graduate admissions criteria will be automatically awarded a provisional admission by admissions staff (without the need for review by the CMB faculty admissions committee). Applicants with a GPA of less than 2.0 shall automatically be denied admission by admissions staff (without the need for review by the CMB faculty admissions committee).